

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

THIRTEENTH DAY

March 01, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Thirteenth Day, First Regular Session, on Wednesday, March 01, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), all eighteen members were present.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Thirteenth Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the Eleventh and Twelfth Days, First Regular Session journals.

The motion was seconded.

Eleventh and Twelfth Days, First Regular Session (2/28-29/00)

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the Eleventh and Twelfth Days, First Regular Session journals was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-112: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00) from the CNMI Covenant Section 702 CIP Projects for the installation of traffic lights in Kagman II; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-113: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 11-110, and make minor technical corrections; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Diego T. Benavente
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-114: A Bill for an Act to establish a Mortgage Credit Certificate Program for qualified applicants and first-time homebuyers; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and four others
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-115: A Bill for an Act to establish a Lease-To-Own Housing Program for qualified applicants and first-time homebuyers; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and five others
Referred to: Committees on Health and Welfare and Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-116: A Bill for an Act to repeal and reenact Section 6 (c) (4) of Public Law 11-79; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Dino M. Jones
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-117: A Bill for an Act to repeal Title 4 CMC Division 5 Chapter 5 in its entirety, Vacate EO 94-3, 302 (c) and replace with a new Division 5 Chapter 5 entitled the Alcohol Beverage Control Act of 1999.

Offered by: Rep. Dino M. Jones
Referred to: Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-118: A Bill for an Act to authorize the appropriation of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 or 702 funding for the construction of overpass walkway between Mary's Bakery and Hopwood Jr., High School; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan and four others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-21: A House Resolution to support and promote the Governor's proclamation of March 2000 as the "National Women's History Month."

Offered by: Rep. Maria "Malua" T. Peter and one other
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. R. NO. 12-22: A House Resolution requesting the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to study the feasibility of establishing an aqua culture program to raise giant clams, groupers, sea snails and other potential marine life in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada and one other
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection, I would like to include Standing Committee Report No. 12-25.

S. C. R. NO. 12-25: Reporting on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, entitled, “A House Joint Resolution to consider Rota for the Unkai Distillery Company to establish a Shochu plant.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends adoption of the resolution.*

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: We are down to the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: I would like to move for their adoption.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. .R. NO. 12-24: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-13, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to provide for the issuance of certificates as certified public accountants; to regulate the practice of accountancy in the public interest; and to best establish a Board of Accountancy and prescribe its powers and duties; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends passage of the bill in the form of H.B. NO. 12-13, C.S.1.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-25: Reporting on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5, entitled, “A House Joint Resolution to consider Rota for the Unkai Distillery Company to establish a Shochu plant.” *Your Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends adoption of the resolution.*

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-24 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Item 16.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, clarification, I would like to include Standing Committee Report No. 12-25, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 12-5.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered. We are down to the Bill Calendar.

Floor Leader Babauta: Clarification, Mr. Speaker, Item 15, under Resolution Calendar – attached Resolution to Standing Committee Report No. 12-25.

Speaker Fitial: Okay. So, we are down to Item 15, under Resolution Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 12-5.

The motion was seconded.

H. J. R. NO. 12-5: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER ROTA FOR THE UNKAI DISTILLERY COMPANY TO ESTABLISH A SHOCHU PLANT.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 12-5 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Joint Resolution No. 12-5 is hereby adopted.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the passage of House Bill No. 12-13, C. S. 1, on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage of House Bill No. 12-13, Committee Substitute 1, on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-13, C.S.1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES AS CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS; TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTANCY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST; AND TO BEST ESTABLISH A BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY AND PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: If there is no objection from the author, I would like also to be a co-sponsor on House Bill No. 12-13, C. S. 1, and also, Mr. Speaker, on House Joint Resolution No. 12-5. I would like to be a co-sponsor of both the Resolution and the House Bill.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered. We are voting on the passage motion. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-13, C.S.1, as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Rep. Brigade DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	yes
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-13, Committee Substitute 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Jones.

Chairman Jones: The Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has rescheduled its meeting -- supposed to be after this session -- and it will take place next week Wednesday to accommodate the Ways and Means Committee’s urgent matters. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Further Announcements? Representative Tony Camacho?

Chairman A. Camacho: To inform the Ways and Means Committee to meet right after the session. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Further Announcement? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until 11:00 tomorrow morning.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives