

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

FOURTEENTH DAY

March 02, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Fourteenth Day, First Regular Session, on Thursday, March 02, 2000, at 11:20 a.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 Fourteenth Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I move for the adoption of the Thirteenth Day, First Regular Session journal.

The motion was seconded.

Thirteenth Day, First Regular Session (03/01//00)

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the Thirteenth Day, First Regular Session journal was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The Thirteen Day journal is hereby adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-119: A Bill for an Act to establish a Division of Finance within the Legislative Bureau; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria "Malua" T. Peter and one other
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-120: A Bill for an Act to amend certain provisions of the CNMI Lottery Rules and Regulations; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-121: A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC § 3156(a), 1 CMC § 1402(a) and to add a new subsection 1 CMC § 5107(h) for purposes of transferring regulation of the game Jueteng to the Office of the Mayor for each Senatorial District.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-23: A House Resolution to request the Governor to create a permanent “Beautification Group” with the task of planting flowers and trees on points of entry and exit in the Commonwealth, and maintaining such areas.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada and one other
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. R. NO. 12-24: A House Resolution urgently requesting, the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Mr. Timothy P. Villagomez, CUC Executive Director and the Board of Directors of CUC to take immediate action on the offer made by Rep. Stanley T. Torres in 1990 for CUC to construct water catchment on his land in Kanat Tabla.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and three others
Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

H. R. NO. 12-25: A House Resolution expressing its heartfelt appreciation for the dedication, hard work, and tremendous accomplishments of the employees of the Mayor of Saipan and the Honorable Jose C. Sablan, Mayor of Saipan.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and three others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. R. NO. 12-26: A House Resolution urgently requesting the Commonwealth Development Authority to cause the publication, production, marketing and promotion, and widespread distribution of business and investment prospectus about investment opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, including the installation of an investment website; and for other purposes.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY 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 from the members, I would like to include Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-27, and 12-28.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I now move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-26, 12-27, and 12-28.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 12-26: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-73, entitled, "A Bill for an Act to make technical amendments in sections 1, 2, and 3, of P.L. 1088, and 1 CMC 8341 (d) and 1

CMC 8344(f); and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends passage of the Bill without amendment.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-27: Reporting on House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, entitled, “A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a task force with the responsibility to assess the circumstances surrounding the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) issue in the village of Tanapag.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends adoption of the resolution.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-28: Reporting on House Resolution No. 12-18, entitled, “A House Resolution urging proponents of a federal takeover of the NMI of the Glass House Syndrome of indentured slavery and child prostitution in the U. S. Mainland; urgently requesting the father of NMI’s federal takeover, Congressman George Miller, et al., to include federalization of all major cities, states and territories where the millennium’s form of slavery exits.” *Your Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations recommends adoption in the form of H. R. NO. 12-18, H. D.1.*

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-26, 12-27, and 12-28 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-26, 12-27, and 12-28 are hereby adopted.

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 Resolution No. 12-18, H. D. 1, and House Joint Resolution No. 12-01.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-18, H. D. 1: A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING PROPONENTS OF A FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF THE NMI OF THE GLASS HOUSE SYNDROME OF INDENTURED SLAVERY AND CHILD PROSTITUTION IN THE U. S. MAINLAND; URGENTLY REQUESTING THE FATHER OF NMI’S FEDERAL TAKEOVER, CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER, ET AL., TO INCLUDE FEDERALIZATION OF ALL MAJOR CITIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES WHERE THE MILLENNIUM’S FORM OF SLAVERY EXISTS.

H. J. R. NO. 12-1: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE HONORABLE PEDRO P. TENORIO, GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, TO CREATE A TASK FORCE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY

TO ASSESS THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL (PCB) ISSUE IN THE VILLAGE OF TANAPAG.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the indulgence of the colleagues that we suspend pertinent Rules because I would like to amend the House Joint Resolution. Am I in order?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader, do you want to effectuate the Rule suspension motion to accommodate Representative Peter's concern?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, Rule IX, Section 11.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Peter recognized.

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add on to the Task Force members, on page 2, line 26, to add a representative from DEQ and CHC so with that, there will be another amendment on line 19 to make that "10", Mr. Speaker, that is the oral amendment. Line 19, "...comprised of "10" members as follows:" and after the "Association" on line 26, will be "1 representative from CHC and DEQ."

Rep. Hofschneider: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your point of clarification.

Rep. Hofschneider: Perhaps the mover of the motion, Mr. Speaker, would more appropriately states, "1 representative from the Department of Public Health" not "CHC".

Rep. Peter: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree with that.

Speaker Fitial: Any second to the propose amendment offered by Representative Peter?

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: Any discussion? Discussion on the propose amendment?

Rep. Hofschneider: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Hofschneider: On page 2, perhaps also include a timetable to report such a study. This could in fact be in perpetuity and doesn't fit any real purpose. We need to put a time indication to issue a report.

Speaker Fitial: Do you have any timetable in mind?

Rep. Hofschneider: Twelve (12) months.

Speaker Fitial: Do you want to effectuate a propose amendment for that?

Rep. Hofschneider: Let us dispose of the amendment.

Speaker Fitial: So, let us dispose of the amendment offered by Representative Peter first, then we can consider your amendment.

The motion to adopt the oral Floor Amendment offered by Representative Peter was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Hofschneider, do you want to have another separate “WHEREAS” to --?

Rep. Hofschneider: I am looking at page 2, line 17 if it is appropriate or line 18.

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Hofschneider: “...and such report or study shall be completed and submitted within twelve (12) months of the adoption of this resolution”, line 18.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: Is it understood that, the report will be prepared by the Task Force and submitted to whom?

Rep. Hofschneider: To the above mentioned -- to the Governor of the Commonwealth, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Defense and so forth. Line 10 is preamble to the intension of that clause the in-depth study be conducted by –

Speaker Fitial: So, why can’t you just incorporate your amendment on line 15, to submit their findings within the duration that you are proposing?

Rep. Hofschneider: Short recess, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 11:32 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:32 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Hofschneider, recognized.

Rep. Hofschneider: Yes. Instead of line 18, my oral amendment shall be inserted on line 16 after the word “findings”.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitiaf: The motion carries. Further discussion on the main motion? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: On House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, I wish to offer an oral Floor Amendment on page 2 of the resolution – correction, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution No. 12-18, House Draft 1. Page 2 –

Speaker Fitiaf: 12-18?

Floor Leader Babauta: House Resolution No. 12-18, House Draft 1.

Speaker Fitiaf: We are still discussing the passage motion on House Joint Resolution No. 12-1.

Rep. Benavente: Point of clarification.

Speaker Fitiaf: State your point.

Rep. Benavente: Mr. Speaker, the Floor Leader's motion was for the adoption of both 12-1 and 12-18. The discussion at this time is on both resolutions.

Floor Leader Babauta: So clarified, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitiaf: So, proceed.

Floor Leader Babauta: On House Resolution No. 12-18, House Draft 1, Mr. Speaker, I move to delete on page 2, from line 3 to line 6 ending at the word "and".

Speaker Fitiaf: Page 2?

Floor Leader Babauta: I'm sorry, correction, it's on page 3, the first resolving clause. Page 3, line 3 to line 6, ending at the word "and".

Rep. Hofschneider: Is that a motion?

Floor Leader Babauta: So moved, it is a motion.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitiaf: Discussion?

Rep. S. Torres: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Speaker Fitiaf: Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Did we dispose of House Joint Resolution No. 12-1?

Speaker Fitial: There is a – we call it, collective sandwich motion – motion to adopt both Resolutions, House Joint Resolution No. 12-1 and House Resolution No. 12-18. So, the amendment offered by Floor Leader Babauta is still in order. So, we are discussing the propose amendment.

The motion to adopt the oral Floor Amendment offered by the Floor Leader was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. So, we are now discussing the main motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, House Draft 2, because we have two amendments, and House Resolution No. 12-18, House Draft 2. Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because we are entertaining both Resolutions, I would like first to say that, I am in full support of House Joint Resolution 12-1, although at this time, I would like to oppose on House Resolution No. 12-18, House Draft 2. Mr. Speaker, this kind of Resolution is contrary to the recent position by the Administration and other elected officials who have taken the attitude in fighting for our rights to continue to control immigration and minimum wage here in the Commonwealth, of staying away confrontational methods and going through a more peaceful and cooperative methods in our communication with Washington. This Resolution, Mr. Speaker and members, is very confrontational and this kind of Resolution does not help the Commonwealth at all. It would hurt us though, because it would strengthen the attacks on the Commonwealth by these individuals that we are attacking. This again, is something that I don't think that we here, the elected officials, should be doing. I think that while we can go out as individual members of this community and other members from the community has show their frustrations by attacking elected officials in the United States, this is not something that we as elected officials, as representatives of our people should be entertaining. We have been through many years of previous administration in dealing with the federal relation and we have seen the attitude taken by previous leaders in confrontational methods with our relationship with the Federal Government and we have seen what that has brought to us with this relationship. I urge the members to reconsider. I realize the frustration and I think that every one of us feels that frustration. But again, let us be careful about what we do here as elected officials, as representatives of our people. Let us not do something that would later on embarrass not just ourselves, but the community here that we represent. If this resolution, even suggest that it would help our attempt to convince the U. S. Congress that we should control our immigration, we should all jump in support of that. But this just puts in more to light up the fire that we have against certain individuals from the United States Congress and it is not necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Ton Camacho?

Rep. A. Camacho: I think, Mr. Speaker, that if we remain mute in this issue, it will be our adversaries in the U. S. Congress would say that we are really harboring abuses and it is part of an education for the members of Congress who are trying to really find issues to take our immigration and labor by telling them that they have to clean their backyard also. Get rid of those incidents of labor abuses in their backyard so that they can pin point fingers at us once they clean their backyard. I think this is an educational message for them not to point to the little rock in the middle of the Pacific while the continental U. S. A. has all these kind of misfortunes also. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both of the previous Representatives have valid points to make and that would become mute or silent about our position and it is in fact silence is an action in itself and it can be viewed to be permissive in nature. Nevertheless, I think the conation and the content of what you intent to sent out as a message is very important on how you language it towards an individual that has equally same power as those proponents of the Commonwealth. Be does it made, it is a fact that indentured servitude is not part of this culture that we call ourselves, “Chamorros and Carolinians of the Commonwealth”, it has never been, we all grew up and being born into this Commonwealth on equal footings with the exception of several families in the Commonwealth. We usually hold fiestas for one purpose and that is to open your heart out to visitors and neighbors. We never had the customary nature of affording ourselves, domestic helpers for instance, to appoint of being and indentured services. The point is, there are venues that you can sent your messages very clearly and this particular Resolution is targeted towards one gentleman in the U. S. Congress and that is Congressman George Miller and it is also going to Senator Daniel Akaka. However, they are vocal about the problems of the Commonwealth, these two gentlemen never singled out a singled individual in the Commonwealth, but in general, the policy that we have promulgated or perpetuated over the years. Prostitution is in the Bible that it is the oldest profession. So, it is ridiculous for anyone, any member of the two aisles to argue on the basis of reading prostitution. It is an effort by society in the community to rid of it because it is a moral issue. Our job is to articulate our concerns the way we govern ourselves. I think we’ve gotten overly concerned about federal takeover. We should not be true concern about federal takeover, but be oddly concern about how we govern ourselves internally. It is the imbalance or endeavor of the Commonwealth, Mr. Speaker and members, to balance out the needs of the people here in the Commonwealth having practice free market enterprise. On the other hand, we have neglected for a fact our social responsibility as to the quality of life in the Commonwealth. Over 50,000 nonresidents in the Commonwealth and yet, we hear that over a 1,000 of our local people are still looking for jobs. That, two facts, you can never balance out the equation. Why do we have nonresidents in the Commonwealth contributing to the economy and the expansion of the economy, at the same time, depravation of our local people in the economic opportunity? That is more important, to look within ourselves than to be all oddly concern about the federal takeover. It is a matter of approach, it is a matter of exhaustively articulating our cost to be silent like Representative Camacho has pointed out, is not the key, nor can we subscribe to that. On the other hand, to duplicate a mistake in articulation on issue about the Commonwealth, but those advocates of federal takeover, is in itself repeating the same mistake, two mistakes doesn’t make it right. We have passed a resolution earlier asking the Executive Branch to reconsider a lobbyist and we’ve talked about that, we argued about insisting on lobbyist that would include the vary founders of the Covenant to articulate our cause. But, I think we are all missing the point that it is in fact that we have come a long way in our reforms here in the Commonwealth. Whether we like it or not, the Covenant is an aberration in the federal system. Nowhere in the U. S. jurisdiction do the other members of the U. S. jurisdiction enjoy local control or local governments of immigration. This is the key. The people that have been informed have long gone, left the U. S. Congress and we need to create new channels of communications, new friendships, establishing new friendships with the federal system if we envision in keeping local control of immigration, that is our responsibility. But to duke it out on the premise that fire for fire and air for an air, we will never go anywhere. It is of substance because it is a report produce by a respectable institution,

the Hoover Institute, and clearly delineating those maladies that are being used against the Commonwealth, but, it is not the appropriate means, it is not appropriate venue. If you want to raise this issue, write a letter on a personal level but to commit the essence of the representation of the people and this body, when you vote, you are committing the essence of the people, they elected us into this body. The general rule of contention out there is by chance, they welcome federal takeover. It is our responsibility to articulate. It is an acknowledgement that instead of being proactively working towards more reforms so that whenever they come in and try to turn an unturned stone and be able not to find, allow these people to find similar maladies or similar problems being attributed to the local control of the immigration, we are chastising. We are being sucked into the very gain of critical attacks that would not get anywhere in changes on fundamental policies, but rather, using it as a political advantage. Mr. Speaker, there are some contention of the Resolution that I feel should be reiterated. But the overall context and intension is to be little on each other is not the appropriate means and it is not representative of the will of the people. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial Any member wanting to deliberate before I recognize Representative Benavente for the second time on this motion? Representative Apatang?

Rep. Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that Congressman Miller and Senator Akaka have received this information already since it is available on the internet. I am glad that this Resolution is pending before us now. It is about time that we show these people that this very issues are happening in their own backyards, it is not only the CNMI. When Senator Akaka starts chastising the CNMI about prostitution and all these issues – slavery – these very issues are happening also in the State of Hawaii. How can he be so blind? Congressman Miller also, these very issues are happening in the City of San Francisco, in the State of California. They should clean up their own backyards before they start going abroad, we don't need that. Therefore, I will support this Resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Ichihara?

Rep. Ichihara: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that negativism is not the proper way to do things, but I feel that it is time that we stand back and tell these people – we are not even creating these words. These are some of the words that are being noted from their own place and I support the idea of this Resolution going to them. I know the words used their are not ours, we just copied it from the paper that we received and it simply just stating that we are also aware of what's happening there and that we should not be singled out continuously by people from other country – I mean just from the 20/20 when we were called “the shame of Saipan”. Who are they to always chastise the people of the CNMI when there are lots of good people here? And, like I said, we did not write the words in here, these are done through some kind of a research by their own people and that, I don't feel that it is a shame for me to vote “yes” on this, claiming that it just come from them. Thank you very much.

Speaker Fitial: Further deliberation? Representative Jones?

Rep. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether we name the two elected gentlemen in this Resolution or not the fact remain that they continue to be opponent based on reports and they continue to present arguments that they believe and they feel are facts. If we are that terrible people of the CNMI then elected officials, companies, will not even be coming to our place even

workers. We have tried for so many years the pacific way, the cooperative way. Even now, the 902, is down, misrepresenting the real situation of the CNMI. These information's contained in the Resolution is not by the Carolinians or Chamorros of the CNMI nor the media of the CNMI. These information's derived from their own very soil, from their own very companies in the United States. When they accused, when they attacked us before the members of the U. S. congress these gentlemen – and appear on national television – did they feel that this is the right way to do? Did they feel how we feel as a human being? I don't think so. Then, why do we have to be concern of how they feel or how they will react when they have been taking the same stand? Not necessarily federal takeover, but the facts already stored of information received based on one prospective and such prospective have been an opponent to the CNMI. What lies in the process is the politics and we are cut between the two parties. I for one will not permit to oppose this Resolution. If we are going to look at what is the real problem of the CNMI, it is the PCB that has been in the CNMI since after the World War II. That is what the Federal Government, the Interior Department, and appropriate department should be looking at and be recommending it to the United States Congress and to the President, that over 50 years the Military dump sites have been a health hazard that over 50 years the PCB contamination still unresolved, that is what the problem of the CNMI is. Not what one thinks of how the workers conditions here based on somebody's agenda. Maybe this is the time that by naming these two strong opponents to the CNMI future destiny will learn that we are no longer sleeping under the tree, and just let things passed by. We are educated, we are elected people to represent our people, and defend our island, our government, and protect and ensure that the future of the CNMI image and living condition will be a prosperity. So again, it is not necessarily a federal takeover issue that I want to see, it is the kind of people that they are looking at us, looking at us as slave owners, looking at us as uneducated, looking at us as uncivilized by showing all those pictures, making all those comments nationally. Sometimes, perhaps some of us feel very uncomfortable to go abroad particularly if they see that we are from the CNMI, and I for one sometimes feel that way. Why? Because all the negative publicity has tainted me, especially going to the Immigration. Again, I ask the understanding of our colleagues here that let us keep what we preached yesterday, or day before yesterday, that our culture does not permit us, not even our continuous to treat people and to see people, and to describe people as what has been described nationally in the United States, both from television and newspapers. I am sure that with this, with the endorsement of this body on this Resolution, it will bring enlightenment to those who are not yet believing that what they have seen and heard are just a mere perceptions of somebody's agenda. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that, I disagree with the reporter of this Resolution for two reasons the title is, entitled, “Congressman George, Miller, et. Al.,...”, we are addressing the entire nation, the Federal Government. This is not only Miller and Akaka, we are awakening the giant and the silent supporters, the majority in U. S. Congress. We are pointing fingers at all fifty States in the Nation. I would like to ask the colleague to reconsider their support. I ask that we reject this Resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend the Resolution – if we could suspend the Rules – it is just a copy of where this Resolution is going to, may we ask this --?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: We are still discussing the main motion, Mr. Speaker. We have already suspended the pertinent Rules for amendments. Therefore, she is in proper motion.

Rep. Peter: So, we did. May I then offer an amendment, if I am in order?

Speaker Fitial: You are in order, Representative Peter.

Rep. Peter: I would like to include major newspapers in the United States to receive a copy of this Resolution, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the names of the newspapers are, and if our legal counsel can look into that and include them in the Resolution clause, for distribution of a copy of this Resolution to include those major newspapers. Thank you. That is an amendment, but I need to know if we can go on a short recess to get the names of the – Washington Post and couple of others that are major lists circulated in the states to get a copy of this Resolution.

Speaker Fitial: If I may help – Washington Post, Washington Time, NBC, 20/20 -- Anyway, I think your propose amendment is understood. So, if there is no objection from the members, we will have the legal counsel research the major newspapers in the United States to include amending the last resolving clause.

Rep. Peter: No objection.

Speaker Fitial: Further discussion? Representative Palacios?

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say something – it is not about the confrontation, it is not about waking up the giants, but it is the people towards prostitutes, the people that they're bringing in for slave and child prostitution, is what important here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Benavente, for the second time.

Rep. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only valid argument by members who spoke in support of the Resolution is to remind or to provide the education, or to inform Congressman Miller and Senator Akaka and other members of the U. S. Congress that before they do something like this, they look at their backyard. Mr. Speaker, I know, you personally know for a fact and if others does not – that these issues, these things that we saw in the recent article on San Francisco actually happened for many, many years in California, New York, Texas, Florida, and it goes on all the time, and believe me, someone, a member of the United States Congress knows exactly about all of these matters that is happening in their States and other States. Because let us remember one thing, Congressman Miller maybe a representative from California, but he is a member of the United States Congress which represents the United States, the Federal Government, not the State of California and so as Senator Akaka. And, so their responsibility is not necessarily with California alone. Their responsibilities, the members of the United States Congress are responsible for the welfare of the Federal Government, the United States Government, which includes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. So, we have members who are just as concerned, if you want to ask Congressman Miller if he is concern about the prostitution that goes on with San Francisco, he is going to tell you, “yes”, but he is also

going to tell you that he is concern about the prostitution that goes on in Hawaii, and the concerns that are being raised in the Commonwealth and the illegal factories that goes on in New York City. They know, let us not get ourselves above that. They know exactly what is going on. But, you know one thing that we fail to understand is that fact that these members of the U. S. Congress are responsible for the entire United States of America, which includes all the fifty States and all of the Territories including us here. I think that one of the maybe proactive ways in taking this article was coming up with a Resolution reminding the members of U. S. Congress, that it might not be necessarily true that by implementing the INA, the immigration system here in the Commonwealth is going to resolve all these matters. That is the complaint by the members of U. S. Congress as well. That even with the present Immigration in the United States cannot seems to manage the Boarder States and I am sure that we would be considered one of those. And take it more reasonable approach to the reminder that look, we are not perfect here, but don't say that by implementing the INA that is going to be perfect then because it is not. Just look at all these that are happening. Again, that is a more reasonable way rather than insult members of the United States Congress that they don't know what is going on in their backyard. This is insulting to them, and I don't care about that. I am not really concern about whether we insult them or not, but I am concern about what this body does, and how we do our work, and how we represent our people. This is something that I already feel that is going to embarrass us. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Anymore – Representative Ada?

Rep. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I partly agree with Representative Benavente that we should implement positive steps instead of going to the negative approach. A couple of weeks ago, we passed a Resolution to fund a lobbying firm to lobby for us in Washington. And, another thing is, we have this annual trips to Washington by our leaders to repeatedly tell the U. S. Congress, that these things do not exist here in the Commonwealth. I believe we should take the positive approach and keep on telling them that this does not exist. Perhaps, video presentation of what is happening around here, from the garment industry, to the tourism industry, hotel streets and everything else would be realistic and very visual to them. That is all. Thank you very much.

Speaker Fitial: Anymore? I just want to recognize, Representative Pangelinan.

Rep. Pangelinan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of the presentations that were done previously were done with emotions. At this point in time, the feelings, the sentiments of our colleagues, some are with strong emotions that we have tolerated enough of those. But this Resolution is fighting fire with fire itself. I'm here sitting down, confused and mystified, mystified in a way that foreseeing the unknown consequences that we are somewhat provoking. The unknown consequences are possibly – will it help us while the Governor is there lobbying diplomatically against the takeover, and I am against the takeover. The principal part of that takeover is that it infringes on our right for self-government, and that we don't appreciate. But I guess, I have been an educator for long years, in a veteran educator and I see the content of the Resolution. To me, if we can redesign it, so that our kids in everywhere, mothers and fathers, on this island can read it and fully understand the content that it is not insulting, it doesn't need censorship, so do speak, and it is a good thing to read. Another possible consequences of what we are doing now – you know, forgive me but -- these are movement that leads towards separation for whatever that is. The question is, can we afford it and live with it? My major concern is, when we were in Rota, and that Resolution that Representative Norman Palacios authorized, I asked the members,

whether we can insert the word “demand” or “urge” to put the language in a stronger sense so hopefully it can be read in that sense. But, I guess he disagreed. My colleagues, I want you to consider the content of this Resolution. It is so strong and like someone’s self, it is so offensive. I know my level of tolerance also is almost down to the zero in terms of the harassment that put downs of the people of the Commonwealth for things that we’re partially responsible or things that, one or two people are responsible. But it does not reflect the holistic picture of the incidents in the Northern Marianas it reflects only a portion of what is happening. A feature mind once says that, in order for us to purely make judgment, you judge it according to the whole, be holistic about. Look at the whole part before you judge one single scar on it. I urge my colleagues to reconsider reorganizing the content of the Resolution. It is so strong that when you read it you can send your own blood boiling. And where does this leading us? The question in mind is, did we exhaust all the diplomatic process in an effort to convince, and the last resort, the U. S. not to come in and take charge of our own affairs? Did we exhaust everything that we know about diplomatic process? Please, reconsider this Resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: If I may just share some observation here and also information. Indentured servitude is a very strong language and it is not our language, it is their language. Only two days ago, our Governor who is suppose to be diplomatically negotiating with our Federal Government on our CNMI issues was insulted when the Governor’s met in a room and OIA gave a presentation of the poor living and working conditions in the Commonwealth, showing the Bangladeshi barracks in front of the Governor’s in the room. So, I don’t think our Governor was very pleased with such presentation. So, he was, I believe offended, and I used the word “insulted” because it was in front of all Governors. The Governor of American Samoa was not very happy of the Interior’s program, this inter-governmental conference that they are having now. He personally said that, I think Governor Pedro Tenorio will not be so enthusiastic to participate in the Danny Aranza’s economic program. So, language is the key concern in this Resolution, well, these are only words, but the thirteen original colonist, they took up arms, not really words, I am not saying that we should eminent or follow their footsteps. But, you know, Representative Pangelinan, in Rota, used my word and that was to demand for our rights and we have rightfully demanded for long, long time. But the key issue here is really not the language or how we should govern ourselves as people here. They key issue here is money, money is the driving porch behind this political issue in Washington. The labor unions are going after George Miller and Akaka will happen to be residing in dense population where labor unions are densely residing. This is the key issue because if George Miller stops to be unfriendly and become friendly to us, he will loose the support of money coming from the labor unions. This is the issue. So, it is really up to each individual member of this August body how you want to look at George Miller and our opponents who are proposing us, not because they don’t like us, but because they have to satisfy their bankers or their or their financial backers. This is the real issue, the political issue. Nothing we can do. Because, if we go to Washington, the first thing they say is, “do they vote?” The next thing, they look in the log how much did they contribute to our campaign last election? So, when both answers are “zero” they say, “let them see the Legislative Assistants.” That is the way Washington politics is being played. This is all I have to share with you this morning. We are now voting on the motion to adopt two Resolutions, House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, H. D.2, and House Resolution No. 12-18, H. D. 2.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, H. D. 2, and House Resolution No. 12-18, H. D. 2, as follows:

	<u>H.J.R. 12-1,HD2</u>	<u>H.R. 12-18, HD2</u>
Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes	yes
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes	no
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes	no
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes	no
Rep. Brigade DLG. Ichihara	yes	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	yes	no
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes	no
Rep. William S. Torres	yes	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes	yes

Speaker Fitial: The motion passed. Both Resolutions are hereby adopted.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move for the passage of House Bill No. 12-3, on First Reading only.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Before you entertain the Miscellaneous, I would like to cast my vote on the two Resolutions that we just adopted. My vote on House Joint Resolution No. 12-1, H. D. 2, is , “yes” and “no” on House Resolution No. 12-18, H. D. 2. Thank you.

Speaker Fitiaf: Clerk, please note it accordingly. I forgot to offer the last observation on that thing, but I was going to say that in the case of the thirteen original colonists, the only person that stood out to be non-confrontational was Benedict Arnold. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: I move to recess until tomorrow morning at 11:00.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives