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

THIRTY-SECOND DAY

March 27, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in Thirty-Second Day, First Regular Session, on Monday, March 27, 2000, at 2:30 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, $\ni 2(a)$, all eighteen members were present.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the 32nd Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-154: A Bill for an Act to amend the Commonwealth State Funeral Act (1 CMC \ge 453); and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan

H. L. B. NO. 12-6: A House Local Bill for an Act to amend the Master Map defined in Saipan Local Law 11-3, for revising the street names assign to the villages; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. David M. Apatang and eleven others

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. J. R. NO. 12-7: A House Joint Resolution to authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application No. B-00-ST-69-0001; the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Grant

Application No. M-00-ST-69-0203; and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Application No. S-00-DC-69-0001, to receive the funds requested therein, and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed by the U.S. Department of HUD, CDBG, HOME and the ESG Programs.

Offered by: Rep. Antonio M. Camacho and seventeen others

<u>Rep. A. Camacho</u>: Mr. Speaker, because due the urgency of this Resolution, I would like to request the members to have it calendared for adoption.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered.

H. J. R. NO. 12-8: A House Joint Resolution to respectfully request Mr. Jesus T. Deleon Guerrero, Chairman of CUC Board of Directors, all members of the Board, and the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Mr. Timothy P. Villagomez, to reconsider the reconnection fee for residential consumers.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and nine others

<u>Rep. Attao</u>: Likewise, Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection from the members, I would for this House Joint Resolution 12-8 be placed on today's Calendar for adoption.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Fitial: So ordered.

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

None

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader, suspension motion to dispense with the committee report.

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 for the adoption of House Joint Resolution Nos. 12-7 and 12-8.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. We are down to Resolution Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution Nos. 12-7 and 12-8.

The motion was seconded.

H. J. R. NO. 12-7: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THROUGH ITS GOVERNOR, TO SUBMIT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION NO. B-00-ST-69-0001; THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) GRANT APPLICATION NO. M-00-ST-69-0203; AND THE EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) APPLICATION NO. S-00-DC-69-0001, TO RECEIVE THE FUNDS REQUESTED THEREIN, AND TO ASSUME ALL

RESPONSIBILITIES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD, CDBG, HOME AND THE ESG PROGRAMS.

H. J. R. NO. 12-8: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST MR. JESUS T. DELEON GUERRERO, CHAIRMAN OF CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC), MR. TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ, TO RECONSIDER THE RECONNECTION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Hofschneider?

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Just requesting, Mr. Speaker, the author if I could co-sponsor also the CDBG Application?

<u>Rep. A. Camacho</u>: There is no objection, Mr. Speaker. If everybody can sign the Joint Resolution for its support, I appreciate it.

Rep. Hofschneider: Thank you.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I don't think there will be any member objecting to signing or co-sponsoring the Resolution. So, can we have the Clerk to make sure that all the members –

<u>Rep. Attao</u>: Be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

Speaker Fitial: That is another alternative.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: Ready? We are voting on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution Nos. 12-7 and 12-8.

The motion to adopt House Joint Resolution Nos. 12-7 and 12-8 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Joint Resolution Nos. 12-7 and 12-8 are adopted.

BILL CALENDAR

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: Okay, Floor Leader, how about a suspension motion to allow House Bill No. 12-154 to be considered on today's calendar?

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I so move for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9 and for the placement of House Bill No. 12-154 on today's Calendar.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Suspension motion for First and Final Reading, Floor Leader.

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the passage of House Bill No. 12-54 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Passage motion, Floor Leader.

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage of House Bill No. 12-154 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-154: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMMONWEALTH STATE FUNERAL ACT (1 CMC \Rightarrow 453); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Hofschneider?

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Just a note, Mr. Speaker, to the legal counsel that he has to sign the Bill... I'm sorry, so corrected.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Jones?

<u>Rep. Jones</u>: Just an observation, what if the said positions or the said officers, police, justices and judges –

Rep. Hofschneider: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead state your point of clarification.

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: The only language being added on is the "(h)". The sentence underlined is the only additional. All the rest are just the existing statute.

<u>Rep. Jones</u>: It will cover the existing statute and the amendment. The observation here is, what if the said occupations or the said people find to uphold the law, it is in line of duty, would that exclude them to be still entitled?

Rep. Hofschneider: To a state funeral. Mr. Speaker, may I?

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead.

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: That is why the additional language, the "(h) Others deemed appropriate by the Governor." So, the onuses on the Governor to make sure that any request coming to his office for a state funeral that the work has to be done to ensure that the proper designation or calling for a state funeral is appropriate. In the case of an individual, as you've raised, that

individual got hurt in his life and does not merit the state funeral then the onuses in the Governor according to this language to appropriately address the circumstances for the individual whether that person or the request itself is merit to the state funeral.

Rep. Benavente: Point of information, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your point of information.

<u>Rep. Benavente</u>: Once again, as pointed out by Representative Hofschneider, the actual provisions or subsection "(j)" is the existing statute and we are not changing that. Maybe to try to respond to his concern, I believe that if he is worried about officers who died during the service who is not killed in the line of duty, I understand that that has to be declared by the department. But if an officer, for example, dies during the service and he maybe declared as being killed in the line of duty and then pursuant to this statute, he will receive a state of funeral.

Rep. Hofschneider: Are we out of order?

Floor Leader Babauta: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your point of clarification.

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Yes. Chairman Jones was alluding to whether or not the individual -- and I understand that Representative Hofschneider was trying to put a punctuation on his answer -- but there was a question, whether or not an individual could qualify if he or she is in bad terms with the law prior to being offered the state service? That was the concern of Chairman Jones. I believe Representative Hofschneider was trying to answer his question.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: This statute is very specific, "(a) to (g)". In other words, if you are not a Governor, if you are not a Lieutenant Governor, if you are not a Washington Representative, if you are not a Representative, if you are not a Senator, if you are not a Judge, then you are not qualified for state funeral. Now, and if you are not a police officer – you got to be killed first. Those police officers who haven't died are not eligible. So, like I said, the statute is very specific as to who is eligible for a state funeral. Now, this amendment places the Governor in a position where he has to exercise good judgment and decision. Because this amendment, if the Governor wants a criminal to have a state funeral, this amendment will allow that criminal to have a state funeral. But, we have to depend on the good judgment of the Governor.

<u>Rep. Jones</u>: Mr. Speaker, that is the concern I raised. If such death is caused by such person, which is in violation of the law, will the Governor still have that discretion to entitle such person?

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: Right now there is nothing in the statute that would prevent criminals from becoming eligible for state funeral if this amendment passes.

<u>Rep. Jones</u>: So, I believe that if that is the situation or the reading of the provision then in my opinion, it defeats the purposes of recognizing a public official who is not – who died not in good standing by virtue of death accompanied by violation of law, and I don't think that is correct or right in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Pangelinan: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan?

<u>Rep. Pangelinan</u>: We must as a humble body give this flexibility to the Governor, because as you know, as we sit down they are emerging unsung heroes in this country, that these people might one day die, and that Governor should be given that authority to decide whether that unsung hero deserve simply a state funeral -- to pay the last honor that we can bestow to this person, it's a state funeral. In terms of other mechanism that can do some recalls or in such violation of the law, there are many mechanism that tend recall what honors can be bestowed upon to this person, championship sports, in veterans, in the military, so the point here is, let us give this flexibility to the Governor says, "Ay, this is the right thing to do." As someone says, "the time is always right to do what is right" and for me this is the right thing to do at this point in time. So, please vote for this Bill.

<u>Rep. Jones</u>: I fully support the Bill, but my conscience does not permit me to join in the honor of a government official whose prior to death or in the time of his death commits a crime, be it felony or non-felony. But the fact of the matter is, when a person commits a crime, I don't think it is a good model for the upcoming generation to see us have this kind of law. The reason why I am justifying my position is, because the Speaker makes it clear that it is the discretion of the Governor to make that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I believe the current statute without this amendment also, if in the event that a member of the House died, but prior to his death he was convicted a felony, there is nothing in this statute that will prevent him having a state funeral. Representative Benavente?

<u>Rep. Benavente</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would tend to agree with Representative Jones, with this, it would be in appropriate to offer a state funeral for someone who is not very popular in the community or has criminal background, but I believe that the language and the propose Bill is proper that, while it gives the Governor all the authority, either he is still basically restrictive with the language as written with other being appropriate by the Governor. So, I was asking earlier if we could find another language that is even more restrictive, but I think at this time, we know what we are expecting, that the intent of this law is to grant those individuals a state funeral who appropriately deserves a state funeral not those that Representative Jones continues to mention. Thank you.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: It says here, "deemed by the Governor", "not others appropriate", but, "other deem appropriate." So, I suggest we put after "Governor" "approve by the Senate". Representative Hofschneider?

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many times in our lives, Mr. Speaker, one does something so extra ordinary for the community, or for the people, or for their country in general? How many times have you heard that? Very small percentage of the entire human population that wins the "Novelette", you name all those institutionalized awards that becomes a role model for upcoming kids, the new generation, the next generation, and it is the human

decency part that teaches us to value certain decorum or certain practices in our lives. Just because you and I, Mr. Speaker, gone astray in our moral obligation once and maybe some members have done it, it doesn't give the right to make judgment on other people to receive values. Moral turpitude, Mr. Speaker, rises above all lost that none of this establish institutions, like the legislative body, or the Congress, can ever come close in legislating moral turpitudes. The point that the author is trying to make is, the law is stringent, or strict in that the occasion of a person achieving on behalf of his people, not for himself, but on behalf of his people and his country, have risen to a level that it is the human decency part in us to consider recognizing that for the purposes for other generations to revered that work or that accomplishment, so that we all can subscribe to that particular practice or achievement. That is the essence of why we have the significance of spending taxpaver's money for a state funeral, or the significance of calling for a momentary silence on behalf of one individual's accomplishment, that is the essence. If ever this becomes law and the Governor does not exercise prudent judgment as to the appropriateness of individual being granted a state funeral, then the onuses is on him, not this Legislature, not the law. And, this is why every individual is elected into office is never asked about the moral turpitudes or the moral values and judgments, because it is understood that even if you gone astray in your morality, you are still given a Christian burial.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I think we need to incorporate a proviso because I agree with Representatives Benavente and Jones, that this current statute that is given, the current statute does not discriminate criminals from having a state funeral. I think we need to incorporate a provision that would not allow criminals to have state funeral.

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Or those convicted of felonies.

Speaker Fitial: Yes.

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Because traffic violation, Mr. Speaker, to take away my opportunity for a state funeral -- come on.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: So, notwithstanding the moral decency that you pointed out very elegantly, we should be very critical against criminal getting state funeral.

Rep. Hofschneider: I yield.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready? We need a condition – short recess.

The House recessed at 2:50 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: The House shall reconvene. We are still discussing the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-154 on First and Final Reading. We have a very exciting discussion during recessed that will accommodate in a very effective amendment to be offered by Representative Benavente. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 11 for oral floor amendment.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Representative Benavente, you may offer your oral floor amendment.

<u>Rep. Benavente</u>: Thank you. After subsection "(h)", add a new sentence, "No person under this section who is a convicted felon and not granted a pardon by the Governor shall be entitled to a state funeral."

Vice Speaker Mendiola: "Shall be" or "shall not be"?

<u>Rep. Benavente</u>: "Shall be", no person shall be.

Rep. Attao: Second.

Floor Leader Babauta: Discussion?

Speaker Fitial: Discussion, Floor Leader?

<u>Floor Leader Babauta</u>: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify the oral floor amendment. The authority of the Governor to pardon, for instance, a federal offense. That is my concern -- whether committed in the Commonwealth or committed elsewhere abroad. To what extend can the Governor pardon a convicted felony that is entitled for a state funeral in a case that -

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: That is a legal question so we have to resort to our legal brain. Short recess, one minute and thirty seconds. Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:03 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: The House shall reconvene. We are still deliberating on the oral floor amendment offered by Representative Benavente. Ready?

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

The motion to adopt the oral Floor Amendment offered by Representative Benavente to House Bill No. 12-154 was carried by voice vote.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: The motion carries. We are back to the main motion for the passage of House Bill No. 12-154, House Draft 1. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-154, H.D.1, on First and Final Reading 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. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Rep. Brigida 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. 12-154, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. S. Torres: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Stanley Torres?

<u>Rep. S. Torres</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, my time has come to question the recent action of the Attorney General's Office in regard to their selective prosecution and possible unethical practices of retaliation against CNMI residents who legally challenge their authority. I have personally, a reviewed document, and evidence in several cases that have shown bias, coincidental, and selective prosecutions by Attorney General's Office (AGO). The AGO apparently wants to maintain their own agenda at times, and not the Constitutional agenda of the Executive Branch, which is to enforce the CNMI laws, and not pass judgment for personal satisfaction or retaliation. Is this fair? No, it isn't. I ask my fellow colleagues to join with me to stop this action within the AG's Office. It seems the AGO can intimidate anyone who challenges them by creating any bad scenario they wish to create. The AGO has far reaching powers, powers that have been raised in simple ways and local customs. I ask the Speaker to schedule hearings into the AGO cases that the public wishes to bring forward. Cases that have been shelved and passed-over, cases that have been pushed forward due to bias and prejudice against

any of our local residents, cases that have been delayed by incompetence, mismanagement, or whatever reason. Let us help our people and help the AG to more better serves us. Thank you.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I would like to request the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, Chairman Dino Jones, to take that request from Representative Stanley Torres very seriously.

Rep. Attao: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Rosiky Camacho?

<u>Rep. Rosiky Camacho</u>: Mr. Speaker, can the good Representative provide the committee that oral testimony if it is written?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Stanley Torres?

<u>Rep. S. Torres</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be writing a formal request in a letter form to you, Mr. Speaker, to follow up on this statement I made. Thank you.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: You may do that, but the oral statement you made earlier is special. Further Miscellaneous?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I just want everybody to know that we will be adjourning the First Regular Session today, however, the committees do have a heavy load on their schedule. So, as soon as we have enough substantive issues from the committees, I will call a special session to consider them. Chairwoman Ichihara?

<u>Chairwoman Ichihara</u>: Reminder for Education Committee, we have a scheduled meeting tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: Did you contact the scientist who wants to bring our student to the Northern Islands for biology excursion?

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: Is there a request, Mr. Speaker?

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: There's a request from a teacher down at Marianas High School, requesting assistance from the Legislature to probably finance the field trip.

Chairwoman Ichihara: Mr. Speaker, I do not have a copy.

Speaker Fitial: I did.

<u>Vice Speaker Mendiola</u>: That would be a good idea, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Natural Resources Committee is planning to have a trip up to the Northern Islands, so if we can coincide with that schedule, it will be appropriate.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, may I?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Lee Torres?

<u>Rep. W. Torres</u>: Yes, Mr. Speaker. There's a scheduled field trip to the Northern Islands next month. The Mayor of the Northern Islands will be scheduling that, so perhaps that could be coordinated with the Mayor of the Northern Islands with a little financial assistance, I think.

Speaker Fitial: I think the assistance is not going to be little the way the request came in.

<u>Chairwoman Ichihara</u>: I'll look into that. Also, Mr. Speaker, there is going to be a public hearing on House Bill No. 12-92, tomorrow evening at 6:30, at the Multi-Purpose Center, in regards to the renaming of Hopwood Junior High School.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: That's interesting. Representative Peter, I think you plan to hold a public hearing on the beachfront legislation.

<u>Chairwoman Peter</u>: -- the Committee Chair, we discussed that he will call for that. The Committee Chair on Natural Resources will call for that public hearing on that.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I think there's has been a lot of public interest aroused by your Bill. I guess our people, this is traditional, they like to use beaches but they don't want to clean it. Representative Hofschneider?

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: In relation, Mr. Speaker, to the field trip, may I just lend an advise here, Mr. Speaker, in the past that we undertaken such a trip, make sure that you don't forget the liability form because it is a huge pass on to the government and the public.

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: I did indicate in the letter, just find out all the essentials. I don't know whether it is part of curriculum to bring students up to the Northern Islands for field trip. Northern Islands, he did not specify which island, he says, "Northern Islands".

<u>Rep. Hofschneider</u>: I recommend, Mr. Speaker, whoever has not seen the Northern Islands, please go on this trip. It is an eye opener what we have up here, better than those islands in Hawaii.

Speaker Fitial: I know, I've been there.

Chairwoman Peter: Do you know which boat is going?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Attao?

<u>Rep. Attao</u>: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Chairperson of Education to enlighten us on the status of the petition for Hopwood Junior High School, for the removal of the principal down there, whether she has any information?

<u>Speaker Fitial</u>: Did the House officially receive the --?

<u>Rep. Attao</u>: No. I read it in the newspaper and I am kind of concern on the removal of the principal, and it is coming from the parents and faculty.

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Ichihara?

<u>Chairwoman Ichihara</u>: That is one of the agenda items we will be discussing tomorrow. So far, all I know is, the Deputy Commissioner for Education and the legal counsel are doing some investigations on their own and they have not come up with any action. However, I have yet to make an appointment to meet with the principal, just for collection of the first side of the story as well as the ones that signed the petition.

Speaker Fitial: That is good. So, you are on top of it?

<u>Chairwoman Ichihara</u>: Yes. I wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Education and the Board, as well as the principal and the teachers.

Speaker Fitial: Just like Representative Attao, I just read in the newspaper and I did not receive any copy of the petition.

<u>Chairwoman Ichihara</u>: Right now, it is still under investigation and from the legal counsel's advice and so we want the committee to hear both sides, maybe a meeting with the Public School System.

Rep. Attao: Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Any further Announcements? Representative Jones?

<u>Chairman Jones</u>: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Natural Resources Committee and Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will be meeting as scheduled on Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m., the Natural Resources and following that will be Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee at Representative Ichihara's conference room.

Speaker Fitial: Further Announcement? If none, for the adjournment motion, Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 3:48 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk House of Representatives