

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

ELEVENTH DAY

August 24, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Eleventh Day, Second Regular Session, on Thursday, August 24, 2000, at 10:30 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), fourteen members were present. Representatives Martin B. Ada, David M. Apatang, Jesus T. Attao and Dino M. Jones were excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Eleventh Day of our Second Regular Session. All members absent are excused.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: If there is no objection, Mr. Speaker, from the members, I move to resolve into the Committee of the Whole so that Representative Pangelinan and the members present a resolution to a recipient who is in the gallery this morning.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:35

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The House reconvened to plenary session at 10:39

Speaker Fitial: We are back to the regular session.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

H. B. NO. 12-257: A Bill for an Act to further amend Public Law 10-57, to place the Board of Public Lands and the Division of Public Lands as a single independent agency within the Executive Branch; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr. and eight others  
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

None

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

None

### **BILL CALENDAR**

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: I so move, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on Second and Final Reading House Legislative Initiative No. 12-1, under Standing Committee Report No. 12-154.

The motion was seconded.

**H. L. I. NO. 12-1:** TO AMEND ARTICLE XV, SECTION 1(e) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Rep. Ichihara: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Ichihara?

Rep. Ichihara: I would like to offer an amendment to House Legislative Initiative No. 12-1, to become House Substitute 1. I believe every member has received copy of this House Substitute 1.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion on the proposed Substitute amendment?

Rep. Peter: Ready.

Rep. Ichihara: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Any –

Floor Leader Babauta: Very clarified, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Pardon?

Floor Leader Babauta: We are ready to vote on the amendment.

Speaker Fitial: On the amendment? – Okay, roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-238, House Substitute 1, on Second and Final Reading as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. David M. Apatang	excused
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	excused
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. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	excused
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 Legislative Initiative No. 12-1, House Substitute 1, passes the House on Second and Final Reading.

Rep. Benavente: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your clarification.

Rep. Benavente: Just so that we stay in order on the problem with our action right now. The motion on the Floor was for House amendment in the form of Substitute and I know we roll call for a vote on the Substitute, which is amending the original Bill. Just as long as it is clear that our vote... and I am not sure if we need to ask the counsel if we need to go back in and vote on the main motion offered by the Floor Leader because we only acted on the Substitute amendment offered by Representative Ichihara.

Speaker Fitial: Voting on a substitute that substitutes the Bill so that becomes the final version of the Bill.

Rep. Benavente: There is still the main motion offered by the Floor Leader to pass the original House Bill, I don't argue with you. Can we just go on a short recess and ask the legal counsel on this?

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:44 a.m.

### **RECESS**

The House reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. I think the clarification has been very clear that the action that we just took by voting affirmatively on the Substitute motion, which we passed by unanimous vote, stands. That is it, no more Bills. We go down to our favorite item.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Speaker Fitial: Any good words this morning? Representative Ichihara?

Chairwoman Ichihara: Mr. Speaker, can I just thank the whole colleagues for approving House Legislative Initiative No. 12-2? It is for our children. Thank you very much.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Pangelinan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to echo the same message as Chairwoman Ichihara. I guess in our hearts there is always a special chamber for education, and today, you directly show that you stood on that ground the true whole heart for the students and many others that will come around in place, in our school system. So, today, there is major story equivalent for all of us. Let it be known that the Twelfth Legislature, as echoed by our Speaker in January 10, the four “E’s”, the four elements, one of the major elements of the four “E’s” is EDUCATION and today it proves that. I thank everyone.

Speaker Fitial: For information, if this Legislative Initiative is passed by the Senate, it does not requires action by the Governor -- it will go to the Attorney General for certification -- the technical language that will be obtained in the ballot -- this will require only simple majority by the voters. Unlike other constitutional amendments where it requires three-fourth, this one only requires simple majority, 50% plus one, in order to pass. Further good words? Representative Lee Torres?

Rep. W. Torres: The intent of the Initiative that it is in fact and indeed for the children. It will go to classroom instructions and materials, primarily substantial percent of it. The amendment that talks about education related purposes, I would like to assume that that means just that, to go directly to the classroom for instructional and material purpose needs. Marianas High School came out again with lack of materials. So, I hope that raising the percentage will cure this remedial problem that means we can have it for the longest time. It should be understood that it is in fact go directly to the children in the classroom for materials and other instructional related purposes. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Peter?

Chairwoman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This action of the House this morning should be brought clearly to the community and the parents that we are doing our part, and they should understand that this 25% will not take care of the education of our children without contributing their role. They should prepare their children going to school ready to learn and not continue to count on the government to educate their children as their a part as parents. So, this 25% will not be successful without the part of parents laying foundation before their kids go to school and start getting to learn when they step in that classroom. I would like to ask the Senate to act on it as soon as it gets to them so that we can include this in the next election. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I thanked God... I went to church again, early this morning... thanking the Lord for having these responsible group people here in the House and we will continue to act on behalf of our people. The actions that will benefit the people we serve, and that is always my prayer every morning when I go church. Of course I also have some type of prayers. So with that -- Announcements.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Chairwoman Peter: Just to reiterate the invitation from the family that we presented the Resolution to this morning – the road leading to the House is across from the road leading down to Santa Lourdes. I was asking Rep. Camacho – turning right instead of turning down left to Santa Lourdes – it is the road going up to your right and you will see a sign – it is at 6:30 tonight and everyone is invited. Again, thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Tony Camacho?

Chairman A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned yesterday, the Committee on Ways and Means will meet this afternoon at one o'clock and the legal counsel assigned to the Ways and Means Committee will be there also.

Speaker Fitial: I believe everybody received an invitation to the Grand Opening of Kagman Elementary School, on September 1, at 10:00 a.m. So, I just want to inform you that I may have to reschedule our morning session to attend this ceremony Grand Opening of Kagman Elementary School, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. If no further announcements – Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. The House stands until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House recessed at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives