

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

EIGHTEENTH DAY

September 7, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Eighteenth Day, Second Regular Session, on Thursday, September 7, 2000, at 11:05 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), thirteen members were present. Representatives Martin B. Ada, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Brigida DLG. Ichihara, Norman S. Palacios and Thomas B. Pangelinan were excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Eighteenth Day of our Second Regular Session. All five members absent are excused. I believe Representative Tony Camacho is around.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-271: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 12-13, Section 2(1); and for other purposes.

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-80: A House Resolution recognizing the month of September 2000 as Cultural Heritage Month in recognition of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island's unique cultural heritage.

Offered by: Rep. Maria "Malua" T. Peter and seventeen others

Speaker Fitial: Anymore Resolutions for introduction?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Not for introduction, Mr. Speaker, but Chairwoman Peter requested the indulgence of the members if the Resolution can be adopted today?

There was no objection raised.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Do we have copies? Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you. I circulated Standing Committee Report No. 12-163, please insert it in your Calendar. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 12-163.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 12-163: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-194, entitled, “To provide for the appointment of individual members of the Youth Congress as non-voting honorary members of each Commonwealth Board and Commission and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill.*

There was no discussion raised.

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-163 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, can we request for one minute or two minutes recess?

Speaker Fitial: One minute recess.

The House recessed at 11:09 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: Resolution Calendar.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Earlier the members agreed to Calendar House Resolution No. 12-80. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9 so that we may adopt House Resolution No. 12-80.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Adoption?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-80.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-80: A HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2000 AS CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND'S UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Earlier the author requested the members to sign on. However, if the author wishes to have this Resolution introduced by the Committee of the Whole?

Rep. Peter: No objection.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: That was what I was going to request for, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-80 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-80 is adopted. Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: I move for the suspension of Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the placement and passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-194 under Standing Committee Report No. 12-163.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Passage motion?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-194.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-194: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH CONGRESS AS NON-VOTING HONORARY MEMBERS OF EACH COMMONWEALTH BOARD AND COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There was no discussion raised.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-194 on First and Final Reading as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
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	excused
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	excused
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	excused
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	excused
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. 12-194 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Rep. Benavente.

Rep. Benavente: Thank you. I’ve brought this issue up before, Mr. Speaker, and I still think that even if it is in the Constitution and even if it is in our House Rules that there was never the intent to place peoples lives in danger. I am talking about calling sessions during tropical storms, I’m talking about calling sessions when there is really no pressing or urgent matter to be discussed. I think that if we wish to call a session then I have no problem. I am not afraid to come out here, but we have to give consideration to the staff who have to be here and attend this session. It is presently Tropical Storm Condition I, and even government agencies are closed because of that and also schools are closed because of that. There is power fluctuation at this time. Some of our children are at home. I can understand if there are pressing and urgent matters to be discussed that we need to make the sacrifices, but I really don’t believe that there was reason to make such sacrificing in today’s session or even yesterday’s session. If it is in our House Rules that requires to meet everyday or minimum amount of days, then I hope that the leadership will consider amending that House Rules, so that we don’t have a situation where we have to call a House session just because it says so in our House Rules and put peoples lives in danger. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Further Miscellaneous? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, just to request the assistance of the Sergeant-At-Arms to assist Chairwoman Peter in looking after the information that we earlier discussed during our

breaks about the deceased Mr. Albert Camacho, so we can have it considered -- efforts to expedite the processing. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Further Miscellaneous? Representative Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, the present of those government agencies directors, secretaries, were there Tuesday afternoon at 1:30, the Public Hearing on House Bill No. 12-250. They were fully informed in writing so as in verbal that they are supposed to be here yesterday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and only one government agency was present for the Public Hearing. The Committee so decides that next week, I will call them in for final information, clarification on the issue of House Bill No. 12-250. It is a little disappointment from the Committee, but as we all know, maybe due to the directive of the Governor, they so see that that request from the House supercede that directive from the Governor, so, I accept that particular proceedings from their behalf. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Did the Committee receive any notice from those concern government agencies who where supposed to appear before the Committee yesterday? Did you receive any notice?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: None other than MVA. MVA called in and I said the scheduled Public Hearing is still on going. But the others didn't give the courtesy to inform the Committee. Just a little disappointment, but I understand.

Speaker Fitial: Further Miscellaneous? If none, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Jones.

Chairman Jones: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the weather permits tomorrow the Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Natural Resources Committees will be conducting Public Hearing at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: On Monday the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications will be having a Public Hearing at 1:30 p.m. in reference to House Bill No. 12-226 (Electronic Signature). I think it is timely that that particular Bill will be scheduled by Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Further Announcements? I just want to remind everybody that tomorrow is the Joint Session for the purpose of considering the extension of Laulau Bay lease. I believe the Joint Session will convene tomorrow at nine o'clock in the morning, rain or shine. I will

ask the Chairman on Natural Resources Committee to ensure that all members receive the Joint Session Resolution together with all the necessary information concerning the subject lease.

Chairman Jones: Well taken.

Speaker Fitial: Okay. No further Announcements? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, until tomorrow at the Joint Session at 9:00 a.m.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. The House adjourns until tomorrow at the Joint Session at 9:00 a.m.

The House recessed at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives