

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

FIRST DAY

April 01, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its First Day, First Special Session, on Saturday, April 01, 2000, at 10:00 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), sixteen members were present; Representatives Diego T. Benavente and Heinz S. Hofschneider were excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the First Day of our First Special Session. Representatives Benavente and Hofschneider are both excused.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-155: A Bill for an Act to appropriate \$1.3 million, the unexpended/unobligated balance of appropriated funds under Public Law 6-9, 6-40, 7-1, 7-36, 8-2, 10-41 and 11-50, for the improvement and/of paving of the main roads in the As Teo, I Donni/Agag and Capitol Hill areas; and for other purposes.

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

H. B. NO. 12-156: A Bill for an Act to prohibit a person appointed by the Governor to a position requiring legislative consent from acting in that capacity before receiving legislative confirmation; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho and six others
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-157: A Bill for an Act to establish a Health Care System Review Commission; and for other purposes.

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

H. B. NO. 12-158: A Bill for an Act to amend 3 CMC, Sections 1102, 1104, 1141, 1142, 1151, 1152, 1163, 1181, 1351; 1 CMC, Sections 2268, 2271, 2272; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and one other
Referred to: Committee on Education

H. B. NO. 12-159: A Bill for an Act to allow the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) to operate as a non-profit bank in the CNMI for the purpose of providing additional resources to expand and strengthen economic activities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and to increase the financial capacity of the CNMI; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Benigno R. Fitial (**By Request**)
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. L. B. NO. 12-7: A Local Bill for an Act to repeal Chapter 4 of the Saipan Municipal Council Code; to amend Chapter 6 of 10 CMC, Division 3 regulating cockfighting; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta

H. L. B. NO. 12-8: A Local Bill for an Act for the Third Senatorial District to amend Section 3310 of Saipan Local Law No. 9-8 as codified in the Commonwealth Code at 10 CMC, § 3611; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Antonio M. Camacho

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

None

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: If there is no objection from the members to include Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-81, 12-82, 12-83, 12-84, 12-85, and 12-86 on Item No. 12 on the Order of Business.

There was no objection raised.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move for the adoption for the following Standing Committee Reports: 12-81, reference to House Bill No. 12-16; 12-82, reference to House Resolution No. 12-41; 12-83, reference to House Bill No. 12-130; 12-84, reference to House Bill No. 12-18; 12-85, reference to House Bill No. 12-115; and 12-86, reference to House Bill No. 12-72. So move, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

S .C. R. NO. 12-81: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-16, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to prohibit non-traditional fishing methods in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the Bill be passed by the House.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-82: Reporting on House Resolution No. 12-42, entitled, “A House Resolution requesting the Board of Public Lands to designate the government land directly north of the Pacific Islands Club and south of the Villanueva residence as public access for San Antonio Elementary School.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the Resolution be adopted by the House.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-83: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-130, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 11-7, Section 2(b)(1) to provide for more flexibility in the types of educational facilities that may be constructed and to provide that Tatachog shall be the site of such educational facilities; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Education recommends that the Bill be passed by the House in the form of H. B. No. 12-130, Committee Substitute 1.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-84: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-18, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to establish the funding for Youth and Man Amko program and activities; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the Bill be filed by the House.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-85: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-115, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to establish a Lease-To-Own Housing Program for qualified applicants and first-time homebuyers; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the Bill be passed by the House in the form of H. B. No. 12-115, House Draft 1.*

S. C. R. NO. 12-86: Reporting on House Bill No. 12-72, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to establish the Commonwealth Automobile Warranty Act; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Health and Welfare recommends that the Bill be filed by the House.*

There was no discussion raised.

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report Nos. 12-81, 12-82, 12-83, 12-84, 12-85, and 12-86 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries.

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. 12-42, under Standing Committee Report No. 12-82.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-42: A HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS TO DESIGNATE THE GOVERNMENT LAND DIRECTLY NORTH OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB AND SOUTH OF THE VILLANUEVA RESIDENCE AS PUBLIC ACCESS FOR SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-42 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-42 is adopted.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspension Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 for the passage on First and Final Reading the following House Bill Nos.: 12-16, 12-115, H.D.1, and 12-130, C.S.1, so move.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-16, under Standing Committee Report No. 12-81.

H. B. NO. 12-16, H.D.1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROHIBIT NON-TRADITIONAL FISHING METHODS IN THE COMMONWEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection from the members, I would like to make a small amendment on this Bill.

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader, suspension motion.

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

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. You may offer your amendment, Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On page 1, line 12, insert another “(0)” after “100”; same page, line 16, after “both.”, insert “The Division of Fish and Wildlife should enforce the provisions of this Act.” That is all, Mr. Speaker.

Floor Leader Babauta: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your clarification.

Floor Leader Babauta: Yes. Can I get the second amendment offered by the Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Yes. After “both...”

Speaker Fitial: I think you want a new sentence after “both”.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Yes.

Speaker Fitial: So, you a new sentence, you don’t need a comma (,) after both, right?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Period.

Floor Leader Babauta: And the language?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: The Division of Fish and Wildlife shall enforce the provision of this Act.

Rep. Attao: Second.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion on the proposed amendment offered by the Vice Speaker?

Several members voice “ready”.

The motion to adopt the oral Floor Amendment offered by Vice Speaker Mendiola on House Bill No. 12-16 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Further discussion on the passage motion?

Rep. Pangelinan: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Pangelinan: I want the House to clearly note, the scuba diving for family use is allowed under this Bill. Sometimes people when reading are not content wise. I just want to note that, Mr. Speaker, that I am still allowed to use scuba diving gear to fish for my family. Thank you.

Floor Leader Babauta: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Does everybody clear on that clarification? Representative Jones?

Rep. Jones: I am supporting the point you raised, colleague Pangelinan. But if we are to eliminate totally our fish, how can we safeguard if we are to make an exception. Now, I understand that we would like to see the families continue to harvest the sea resources, but I think we should come up with a regulation that will govern the fishing by family members so that we would not permit fishing that will eventually destroy our fish resources. The point here, Mr. Speaker, that I am trying to make is, how can we control this kind of exception, if we are to fulfill the intent of preserving our deteriorating fish resources in the ocean?

Speaker Fitial: Well, let me just point out right now as the Bill reads, “No person may fish in CNMI waters, from the shoreline to 1000 feet beyond any reef using scuba without exception.” So, you are debating on an exception that does not exist.

Rep. Jones: Mr. Speaker, I thought that colleague Pangelinan is making a point of permitting family fishing to be permitted.

Speaker Fitial: Family fishing is permitted without scuba.

Rep. Jones: Is that the point?

Rep. Pangelinan: No. This is a – Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead Representative Pangelinan.

Rep. Pangelinan: Thank you. I am sorry for -- This is a very serious legislation. I received my certification for diving since 1965 when I was an eighth grader and I do that, not for commercial values, but for subsistence to help my family. Right now, there is no way you can catch a large fish 100 feet beyond the reef. You have to go beyond. Well, this Bill would definitely stop locals from using that up to date, a modern state-of-the-art fishing method. It is under control when you go fishing for subsistence only. There are other legislations being proposed for conservation areas, sanctuaries to protect such marine wildlife. But this is a blanket deal, simply no exceptions. You are right, no exceptions. Can you imagine the local divers what they will think of this Bill, just try to look in to some futuristic point of view, prospective?

Speaker Fitial: That is a policy question that this body is the rightful body to decide whether to ban completely, entirely, the scuba fishing, whether it be commercial or personal, or family. So, if you wish to make an exception, you may proceed if you have any amendment to offer.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Can I deliberate on to that?

Rep. Pangelinan: Go ahead.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker, I like the intent of colleague Pangelinan, but the fact is that, in case we open exception on this Bill, I will totally see that it is going to be a major problem. Because once we open and do an exception, I will guarantee that people that scuba dive for family consumption, eventually will be bound back the same situation that we are experiencing. But, if we totally ban the scuba diving method, eventually the fish of course will come close to the reef that you can even fish in a five feet of water. But right now, we cannot even catch fish 1000 feet outside the reef. It is very critical that we need to stop this method. So, eventually at times, we can also come up with a new amendment and we can open back and say, okay, we have a lot of fish, and maybe now we can lift this and open it again. But at this moment of time, it is very critical that we need to just ban it completely. Once we open an exception in here, I believe and we know our people, even if you say, “don’t sell”, -- they will do it no matter what we are trying to put in. So, I believe at this moment of time, we need to just completely ban it. Until such time that this Bill – maybe we just open and lift it again. Because the fish will be very tamed, the fish will come into the shore and we can fish with just spear fishing. We don’t need scuba diving. We have been using that as a traditional. This is my concern, once we open this it is going to be opening it again, and just like we don’t need to pass this Bill, it is still going to be the same. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: I was just going to mention, Mr. Speaker, that for the fact that DEQ or CRM had mentioned and have been very concern about the scuba and the chemicals especially destroying our corals, I will not support amending to allow for family fishing because that very fact that it just contribute to destroying corals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Pangelinan.

Rep. Pangelinan: Mr. Speaker, I have been studying a lot of measures that will protect our own marine life. There are presently 34 diving license shops on the island of Saipan. It is so excessive that diving is the most popular water sports, or recreational diving. The study had reported that this excessive, unregulated, no quota -- for example Grotto, you can go anytime there and see a lot of excessive diving activities. This type of unregulated, excessive diving activities has much more destruction to the aquatic environment than anything else. It is unregulated that is why I have a Bill concerning that, and it is still in one of the standing committees. You know, we are not getting younger, and for this legislation to prohibit me from diving – I used to dive deep when I was younger, Mr. Speaker, now I have to use some apparatus to go deeper. I don’t know, but I’m sorry I am voting against this bill.

Speaker Fitial: We understand your predicament.

Rep. Pangelinan: We all talk about measures to protect our own unique marine resources. For example, the unregulated diving activities, 34 licensed shops on Saipan, there is no restrictions, no quota, yet, there are some kids in Tanapag who appeal to us to disallow recreational diving in Tanapag lagoon. We have not done anything about it, these are recreational diving and on any particular given day, any diver, no matter how careful he/she is, when goes out diving he/she will have an impact in the aquatic environment – one might step on the stones and corals and break it, one might intentionally pull weeds, scare the fish away, all these things. If we don't regulate those activities, if we don't put a quota on how many divers should operate in Grotto, it will become a self-destruct activity. Once again, if we don't regulate these activities then might as well kiss tourism too good-bye. This is our water, we have the right to protect it. If we don't, who will? I just cannot vote on a Bill that discriminates me from diving to catch some fish for my family. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Apatang?

Rep. Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recommend to probably inserting a language here, somewhere, where the Fish and Wildlife will promulgate rules and regulations in regards to this traditional fishing and maybe those who are fishing for the way of supporting their family can be regulated. They get a permit from Fish and Wildlife and maybe allowed to scuba dive to get number or pounds of fish, since this Bill is intended to prevent commercial fishing and that is, Representative Pangelinan's concern. I believe the best way to do this is, have a regulation and have Fish and Wildlife to regulate it. That is another way to do that.

Speaker Fitial: So, the wish of the body, Representative Apatang is suggesting that a language be incorporated into the Bill that would require the Fish and Wildlife to promulgate rules and regulations to allow for family fishing using scuba diving. That would be in conflict with the law if the Bill is not amended to allow family fishing. Representative Pangelinan?

Rep. Pangelinan: Maybe this is a legal question, on line 5, "Traditionally, the purpose of fishing was to provide food for the family, not for commercial gain." In other words, if this passes the House and the Senate, and becomes a law, and even though I fish traditionally, legal counsel, am I allow to sell my fish by this law?

Speaker Fitial: What do you mean traditionally?

Rep. Pangelinan: Lines 5 and 6.

Speaker Fitial: That is in the finding. That will not be...

Rep. Pangelinan: It will not have impact?

Speaker Fitial: No. You see, another thing is, if we allow family fishing using scuba diving that will promote subcontracting.

Rep. Pangelinan: Ready, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Ready? We are voting on the passage motion on House Bill No. 12-16, House Draft 1. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-16, House Draft 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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	excused
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	no
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	no
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Bill No. 12-16, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Next, Floor Leader?

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

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead.

Rep. Jones: I would like for the record to reflect that Representative William Torres is present.

Speaker Fitial: I did not recognized Representative William Torres as absent, because his chief of staff advised me that he is in the building and he is still making his way to the Chamber. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage on First and Final Reading House Bill No. 12-115, House Draft 1, on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-115, H.D.1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A LEASE-TO-OWN HOUSING PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There was no discussion raised.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-115, 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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofscheider	excused
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. 12-115, House Draft 1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the passage of House Bill No. 12-130, C.S.1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 12-130, C.S.1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 11-7, SECTION 2(b)(1) TO PROVIDE FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES THAT MAY BE CONSTRUCTED AND TO PROVIDE THAT TATACHOG SHALL BE THE SITE OF SUCH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Fitial: Question, Floor Leader, did you include House Bill No. 12-130, C.S.1, in the motion to pass on First and Final Reading?

Floor Leader Babauta: Yes.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion on the passage motion? Ready? Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-130, C.S.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	excused
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. DLGuerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofscheider	excused
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	no
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	no
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. 12-130, passes the House on First and Final Reading in the form of Committee Substitute 1. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: That is it.

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker, point of information here.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: On House Bill No. 12-130, C.S.1, who is the author of the Bill?

Speaker Fitial: Chairwoman Ichihara?

Rep. Ichihara: Vice Speaker is the author.

Rep. Attao: Vice Speaker. How come it doesn't show on the Bill?

Speaker Fitial: This is a Committee Substitute so the original Bill was substituted.

Rep. Attao: So, the original Bill was introduced by the Vice Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Yes. The original Bill was introduced by the Vice Speaker, and the committee substituted the Bill with their own version.

Rep. Attao: And, how come he voted “no”?

Speaker Fitial: Because they substituted his Bill. I would vote “no” if somebody change my idea.

Rep. Attao: This is very serious, Mr. Speaker, I want to find out from him because he is the author and this is going to Rota, and if he is voting “no” then I would like to know the reason why he is voting “no”?

Speaker Fitial: Vice Speaker, I am sure that you can respond.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Actually, I understand it is not really appropriate for me, but I will settle with it. Based on the Committee Findings, the Committee found out that there's a lot of concerns from the PSS and the Board of Education that needs to be addressed and unfortunately, I came into the middle that I have no opportunity, but to accept what the committee finds. I believe that is fair from my side, so, I'm kind of conflict on this, that is why I voted "no". I respect the Committee, that is all I can say.

Speaker Fitial: There's being no further Bill for consideration. Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker, under Miscellaneous, just a small comment on this.

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Attao: This is relative to Standing Committee Report No. 12-84, reference to House Bill No. 12-18, "The establishment for Youth and Man Amko program", I just want to go on record, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill was introduced to replaced the Local Video Tax that was repealed by the Eleventh Congress. Base on the Committee Report, Mr. Speaker, and I have to respect the leadership of the House for coming up with recommendation that the House Leadership will be earmarking revenue. I have to respect that. However, Mr. Speaker, I ask again, the leadership, to take a look on the Bill and reconsider because this particular Bill is important to support and at least help the youth and man amko programs. Almost every year the Youth comes to the Legislature so as Man Amko, to ask for funding on their activities, and this particular Bill will address that and also, Mr. Speaker, as a replacement on the repeal of the Local Bill on the video tax. This is very nominal amount, Mr. Speaker, it is only 5% of the 10% from jackpot winning. So, I ask you, Mr. Speaker and also the Committee, to take a look at the Bill and reconsider instead of filing it permanently. Probably the Committee will take a look and reconsider and return back to the full House for further deliberation. This is such an important Bill to help the youth and also the man amko for their activities. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Chairman Tony Camacho, was there any provision in the budget for Youth and Man Amko?

Rep. A. Camacho: Usually, we budgeted the programs. I respect the decision of the committee because the budget is actually providing assistance to the youth program and the man amko under the Senior Citizens Program.

Speaker Fitial: Was there a specific budget item for...?

Rep. A. Camacho: No, not necessarily, the youth programs are budgeted under itemized basis, but the man amko is under the Senior Citizens Program, under the Department of the Community and Cultural Affairs.

Rep. Attao: That is the operation, but it is not for the off-island travel for the Man Amko, it is a specific line-item budget, Mr. Speaker. If I recall, Aging is allocated about maybe close to \$25,000 and that is for the supply travel for the staff – printing, advertising, those things, so there is no such thing for the Man Amko, specifically budgeted for the Man Amko program activities.

Speaker Fitial: I understand that the Bill provides that the Department of Finance will be the one to administer this account?

Rep. Attao: That is correct, Mr. Speaker, in the Bill, yes.

Speaker Fitial: So, aren't we taking away the responsibility of Youth and Man Amko program from the rightful agency and move it to the Department of Finance where they don't have any program administration responsibility?

Rep. Attao: The Secretary of Finance will establish a special account for these two specific programs. So, the Youth and also the Man Amko will request for the disbursement from the Secretary of Finance, it is only to maintain the control of collections.

Speaker Fitial: I know that all the accounts are maintain in Finance. But it would be more appropriate if this account would be administered and supervised by the responsible agency, in this case, Youth and Office of Aging.

Rep. Attao: Yes. Maybe we can put a provision to set aside funding and be under the expenditure authority of the Senior Citizen and the Youth, whoever is the Youth President, so, maybe we can make an amendment to the Bill and have that thing incorporated.

Speaker Fitial: We already have the agency. I think the problem here is, whether the amount appropriated under the budget is adequate to provide for the intent of this Bill.

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly –

[POWER OUTAGE at 10:43 a.m.]

Due to the power outage, the Floor Leader moved to adjourn the First Day, First Special Session, subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 10:45 a.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives