

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

FIRST DAY

July 13, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its First Day, Eighth Special Session, on Thursday, July 13, 2000, at 03:45 p.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Oscar M. Babauta, Acting Speaker of the House, presided.

Representative Antonio M. Camacho was appointed Acting Floor Leader and Mr. Perios Besong, Acting Sergeant-At-Arms.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), eleven members were present. Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Benigno R. Fitial, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Dino M. Jones, Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr., Thomas B. Pangelinan and William S. Torres were excused.

Acting Speaker Babauta: For the record, Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Benigno R. Fitial, Dino M. Jones, Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr., Thomas B. Pangelinan and William S. Torres are excused.

Rep. Attao: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Recognized, privilege.

Rep. Attao: Representative Hofschneider is off-island on personal business so I ask that he be excused.

Acting Speaker Babauta: So ordered.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-210: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 and thereafter for Retroactive Salary Adjustment Payment; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and one other
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-211: A Bill for an Act to prescribe participant eligibility under the Government Life Insurance Programs; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. David M. Apatang and two others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-212: A Bill for an Act to amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow resort developments offering target range for competitive rifle competition, and skeet shooting; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. L. B. NO. 12-9, Substitute 1: A Local Bill for an Act to amend Saipan Local Law 12-2, Section 2; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao **[WITHDRAWN]**

H. L. B. NO. 12-10: A Local Bill for an Act to appropriate the sum of \$78,100 on the fees collected from the Bingo and Cockfight; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao

H. L. B. NO. 12-11: A Local Bill for an Act to name the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Building as “Honorable Pedro T. Nakatsukasa Building” in honor and memory of the late Council Secretary Pedro T. Nakatsukasa and to appropriate Five Thousands Dollars (\$5,000.00) to cover the expenses of the dedication; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and one other

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-58: A House Resolution requesting the Department of the Interior to assist the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to obtain for the

Commonwealth Compact-Impact funds and a waiver of the CIP local matching fund requirement.

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

H. R. NO. 12-59: A House Resolution recognizing the heroic deeds of Mr. Rogelio DeDucin, Mr. Ariel Narvaez, Mr. Celerino Calayang, and Mr. Manolito Sityar for rescuing, under hazardous conditions, Mr. Jose R. Camacho, Jr. from drowning at Marine Beach in Kagman.

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

H. R. NO. 12-60: A House Resolution to urgently request the Division of Public Lands to designate at least 5,000 square meters of public land on Lot No. 027-E03 at Lower Base to the Mayor of Saipan for Central Maintenance Shop and Office space.

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

H. J. R. NO. 12-11: A House Joint Resolution to urgently request the Governor, Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Finance to reserve at least Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) from the lapsed fund on Fiscal Year 2000 Budget to settle all unpaid salary and wages for those government employees as required by Public Law 7-31; and for other purposes.

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

Rep. Attao: I introduce this House Joint Resolution, Mr. Speaker, for the reason that the Governor vetoed FY'2000 Budget and I hope that this Joint Resolution is supported by the House and the Senate so that we give the Governor the opportunity to review the resolution, the WHEREAS provision and most specially the RESOLVING clause so that the hard working government employees will be given the opportunity on their long awaited salary adjustment. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Anymore Resolutions?

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, can we go back to the Introduction of Bills, if there is no objection.

There was no objection raised.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chair recognized Rep. Palacios.

H. B. NO. 12-213: A Bill for an Act to make supplemental appropriation for payment of \$619,736.00 to the Debt Management Division of the United States Department of Treasury for water wells drilled on Tinian between 1990 and 1997 by the United States Geological Survey Water Resources Division of the Department of Interior; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Norman S. Palacios
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

Acting Speaker Babauta: Anymore? Recognized, Representative Malua Peter?

Rep. Peter: Resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Acting Speaker Babauta: No objection? – No further – We go down to Item No. 4.

There was no objection raised.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

H. R. NO. 12-61: A House Resolution pledging the support of the House of Representatives of the Twelfth CNMI Legislature toward the goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities as well as recognizing the Tenth Anniversary of the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” (ADA) and the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act” (IDEA).

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and one other

Acting Speaker Babauta: Thank you. If there is no objection we move down to – Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:54 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Acting Speaker Babauta: If there is no objection from the members, I would like to go back to Item No. 3 so that Representative Attao may withdraw his bill.

There was no objection raised.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chair recognized Rep. Attao.

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am withdrawing House Local Bill No. 12-009, Substitute 1, that I just introduced earlier.

There was no objection raised.

Acting Speaker Babauta: So ordered. We move down to Item 15.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend all pertinent Rules regarding the section that affects the Resolution Calendar so that we can calendar these House Resolutions that are just introduced.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Babauta: The motion carries. I now recognize the Floor Leader for the adoption motion.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-58.

H. R. NO. 12-58: A HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO ASSIST THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO OBTAIN FOR THE COMMONWEALTH COMPACT-IMPACT FUNDS AND A WAIVER OF THE CIP LOCAL MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.

The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-58 was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Babauta: House Resolution No. 12-58 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 11-59.

H R. NO. 12-59: A HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC DEEDS OF MR. ROGELIO DEDUCIN, MR. ARIEL NARVAEZ, MR. CELERINO CALAYANG, AND MR. MANOLITO SITYAR FOR RESCUING, UNDER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS, MR. JOSE R. CAMACHO, JR. FROM DROWNING AT MARINE BEACH IN KAGMAN.

The motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-59 was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Babauta: House Resolution No. 12-59 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I think I'll move to connect all those numbers, to adopt House Resolution Nos. 12-60, 12-61 and House Joint Resolution No. 12-11.

H. R. NO. 12-60: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO URGENTLY REQUEST THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS TO DESIGNATE AT LEAST 5,000 SQUARE METERS OF PUBLIC LAND ON LOT NO. 027-E03 AT LOWER BASE TO THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN FOR CENTRAL MAINTENANCE SHOP AND OFFICE SPACE.

H. R. NO. 12-61: A HOUSE RESOLUTION PLEDGING THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWELFTH CNMI LEGISLATURE TOWARD THE GOALS OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, FULL PARTICIPATION, AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS WELL AS RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990" (ADA) AND THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT" (IDEA).

H. J. R. NO. 12-11: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO URGENTLY REQUEST THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE TO RESERVE AT LEAST FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$4,000,000.00) FROM THE LAPSED FUND ON FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET TO SETTLE ALL UNPAID SALARY AND WAGES FOR THOSE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC LAW 7-31; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The motion to adopt House Resolution Nos. 12-60, 12-61 and House Joint Resolution No. 12-11 was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Babauta: House Resolution Nos. 12-60, 12-61 and House Joint Resolution No. 12-11 are hereby adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Rep. Attao.

Rep. Attao: Under Miscellaneous, on House Resolution No. 12-58, reviewing the resolving clause, Mr. Speaker, I think it will be appropriate and important to give a copy to the Chairman of the 902 talks. This is relative to requesting the Department of Interior to assist the Commonwealth on the Compact-Impact issues. So, if there is no objection

from the members, I would like to make a motion to add one copy to the Chairman of the 902 talks so that he will be aware of the Resolution that we just adopted.

Acting Speaker Babauta: If there is no objection on the floor, I request the Clerk to make the necessary addition to the resolving clause.

There was no objection raised.

Acting Speaker Babauta: So ordered. Clerk, please take note? Miscellaneous Business? Representative Malua Peter?

Rep. Peter: No. I am ready for Announcement, Mr. Speaker.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Representative Antonio Camacho, under Miscellaneous Business.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very sad when the House of Representatives went to Washington, D. C., we worked hard in trying to establish somebody there to protect our interest and while we are arguing among ourselves here, certain invested interest in Washington, D. C., tried to make our Headnote 3(a) privilege. I really feel that because we are working on the budget and if this happens and it becomes a reality that the U. S. Congress really approve the removal of the Head Note 3(a), it is going to be like downsizing of our government operations. I simply urge the Senate and the House to work together and out ridge the Governor to sole source a lobbying firm there to protect our interest to fight for our interest regarding Headnote 3(a) and other matters that really affects our interest here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Acting Speaker Babauta: So noted, Representative A. Camacho. Anymore under Miscellaneous Business?

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker?

Acting Speaker Babauta: Under Miscellaneous?

Rep. Attao: Yes, under Miscellaneous. Do you plan to call a session tomorrow?

Acting Speaker Babauta: For the benefit of the members, the Floor Leader will be recessing this session until tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

Rep. Attao: So, Mr. Speaker, may I ask that you coordinate with the legal counsel to come up with a resolution supporting the Governor on his effort to have a lobbyist in Washington, D. C., to protect our interests here, and I recommend Representative Antonio Camacho for airing the thing out. Thank you.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker?

Acting Speaker Babauta: You may proceed.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: This is not a debate to Representative Attao's –

Acting Speaker Babauta: As long as you are in line with respect to the issue, proceed.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I think it is going to be like a unanimous consent that we have to have a resolution introduce so that we can allow the Governor to start working on a lobbying firm to work on our behalf over in Washington, D. C.

Acting Speaker Babauta: I am sure both of you -- our counsel Tony Cabrera, see him and probably initiate that House Joint Resolution for tomorrow. Counsel Cabrera can you please take note on that? Anymore under Miscellaneous? Announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Peter.

Chairwoman Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Immediately after our session, the Chair had requested agencies involved with the government insurance and payment for medical referral services providers off-island, will be meeting at the Speaker's Conference Room and it is open for Health and Welfare Committee members and those that would like to join us immediately after this session. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Just one last thing, Clerk, did you include Representative Hofschneider to be excused? – Floor Leader, motion for recess. Announcement, Representative Rosiky Camacho.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Reminder, PUTC Committee members, every Monday at 8:30 a.m. we are having these Committee Meetings for discussion of Bills and other matters regarding PUTC matters.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Is that tomorrow or on Monday?

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Monday at 8:30 a.m. Always on Mondays at 8:30 a.m., please be on time.

Acting Speaker Babauta: Members, take note please. Floor Leader, motion to recess.

Acting Floor Leader A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until 3:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The motion was seconded.

Acting Speaker Babauta: The House stand recess until tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

The House recessed at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

H. L. B. NO. 12-9: A House Local Bill for an Act to amend Saipan Local Law 1202, Section 2; and for other purposes. (REP. JESUS T. ATTAO +3 6/12/00) **2nd Appearance**