

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

FIRST DAY

July 26, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its First Day, Eleventh Special Session, on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, at 10:26 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.

*Mr. Perios Besong was appointed Acting Sergeant-At-Arms.*

A moment of silence was observed.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:28 a.m.

**RECESS**

The House reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. Roll call.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), fourteen members were present. Representatives Martin B. Ada, Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr., Thomas B. Pangelinan and Maria "Malua" T. Peter were excused.

Speaker Fitial: I believe Representatives Benavente and Palacios are in the building and Representatives Alejo Mendiola, Peter and Pangelinan, they are excused because they are attending prior engagements. I believe Representative William Torres is on his way. Representative Ada is in Guam. So all those members who are not on island are excused and those members who are on islands will be here so.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

None

### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. J. R. NO. 12-14: A House Joint Resolution supporting the immediate hiring of Preston, Gates, Ellis & Rouvelas, Meeds (LLP), a Washington, D.C. lobbyist, to defend the Covenant and interests of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Washington, D.C.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta and seven others

Speaker Fitial: Further introduction of resolutions?

Rep. Apatang: Ready.

Speaker Fitial: Okay. If there's no other resolutions to be introduced, Resolution Calendar.

### RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, can we take a two-minute recess?

Speaker Fitial: Short recess to reproduce copies of the newly introduced Resolution.

The House recessed at 10:35 a.m.

### RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

*Rep. William S. Torres came in at 10:38 a.m.*

Speaker Fitial: The House shall reconvene. We now have copies of the Joint Resolution introduced by the Floor Leader, 12-14. We need a suspension motion, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: So move for suspension of Rule VII, Section 9 for the placement of House Joint Resolution No. 12-14.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Lee Torres has already entered so please, House Clerk...

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Passage motion.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I so move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 12-14.

The motion was seconded.

**H. J. R. NO. 12-14:** A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMMEDIATE HIRING OF PRESTON, GATES, ELLIS & ROUVELAS, MEEDS (LLP), A WASHINGTON, D.C. LOBBYIST, TO DEFEND THE COVENANT AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: [microphone off] ...and the Senate.

Speaker Fitial: The House of Representatives insert, the Senate concurring, of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. So if no objection, can we effectuate that concern raised by Representative Benavente?

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, to suspend Rule IX, Section 11.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. On line 13 the resolving clause, should read, “BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature,” further deliberation?

Several members voiced, “ready”.

Speaker Fitial: Since this is a Joint Resolution let us have a roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution No. 12-14, House Draft 1, 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	no
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	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	excused

Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	excused
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	excused
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	abstained
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Joint Resolution No. 12-14, House Draft 1 is adopted.

Rep. Jones: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: If there is no objection, can we go back to Introduction of Bills I have one bill to introduce?

There was no objection raised.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-233: A Bill for an Act to provide tax incentives to CNMI businesses and potential business investors in the CNMI for tourist related projects.

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

Speaker Fitial: Miscellaneous.

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Rosiky Camacho.

Chairman Rosiky Camacho: Mr. Speaker, reminder again to the PUTC Committee and also other members of the Legislature the July 31<sup>st</sup>, the big companies and individual users of fresh water and CUC water are invited to give presentation and also a little education from the U. S. Geological Team for our problems of water. Everybody is invited to this Chamber at 8:30 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: Other Announcements? If none, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The House stands recess until tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

The House recessed at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk  
House of Representatives