

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2002

SECOND DAY

April 17, 2002

The House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Second Day, First Special Session, on Wednesday, April 17, 2002, at 10:44 a.m., in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Heinz S. Hofschneider, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), fifteen members were recorded present. Representatives Martin B. Ada, Norman S. Palacios and Andrew S. Salas were excused.

Speaker Hofschneider: Before we move on, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Attao: Mr. Speaker, I move to resolve into the Committee of the Whole so Vice Speaker Manny Tenorio can present House Resolution No. 13-021, this morning. Thank you.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried.

The House resolved in to the Committee of the Whole at 10:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House reconvened to plenary session at 10:49 a.m.

Speaker Hofschneider: We are back to our plenary session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 13-112: A Bill for an Act to restrict the planting of tress and other such vegetation below and around power lines and facilities; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Arnold I. Palacios
Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

H. B. NO. 13-113: A Bill for an Act to establish a Northern Marianas Hall of Fame; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua and two others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 13-114: A Bill for an Act to designate land parcel 013-D-39, Garapan Fisheries Complex as a public park to be known as “The Cultural and Recreation Park”; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb and two others
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 13-115: A Bill for an Act to name the Saipan International Airport the Francisco C. Ada International Airport in recognition of his pioneering efforts to modernize Saipan’s airport facility and the islands economy.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. J. R. NO. 13-008: A House Joint Resolution requesting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize the proposed rule to remove the Tinian monarch (Monarcha takatsukasae) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

Offered by: Rep. Arnold I. Palacios

H. R. NO. 13-042: A House Resolution to congratulate and express appreciation to Korean Air Lines for resuming regular schedule flights to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Offered by: Rep. Francisco DLG. Aldan and five others

H. R. NO. 13-043: A House Resolution to honor our fallen and disabled Police Officers and their families and to support the Governor’s proclamation of May 12-18 as CNMI Police Week.

Offered by: Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio and four others

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 13-104 – April 10, 2002 – Certification of vacant positions at the Workforce Investment Agency.

GOV. COMM. 13-105 – April 11, 2002 – Certification of vacant positions at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

GOV. COMM. 13-106 – April 12, 2002 – Certification of vacant position at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

GOV. COMM. 13-107 – April 12, 2002 – Certification of vacant positions at the Rota Mayor's Office.

GOV. COMM. 13-108 – April 12, 2002 – Informing the Legislature that he signed H. L. B. NO. 13-12, RLD, D2 (re R. L. L. 11-1 Appropriation for Rota Projects) into Rota Local Law 13-1.

GOV. COMM. 13-109 – April 15, 2002 – Transmitting a copy of the CNMI Tourism Strategy Plan.

GOV. COMM. 13-110 – March 24, 2002 – Certification of vacant position at the Governor's Office.

There was no discussion raised.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 13-4 – April 8, 2002 – From Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan enclosing the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Admission of the Supreme Court for the Legislature’s consideration.

JUD. BR. COMM. 13-5 – April 11, 2002 – From Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan regarding the reduction of the Judiciary’s budget.

Speaker Hofschneider: Vice Speaker, could you take up Judicial Branch Communication 13-4 in the Committee?

Vice Speaker Tenorio: Yes.

Speaker Hofschneider: Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

WASH. REP. COMM. 13-3 – April 10, 2002 – Enclosing a copy of S. 964 introduced by US Senator Kennedy proposing to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act. (Copy of enclosures available upon request)

Speaker Hofschneider: This is a voluminous package and to avoid duplications or save money in duplicating eighteen or how many copies, I will make a copy available in the Speaker’s Office. If anyone cares to go through it or have it duplicated you may do so. If not, then let us try and conserve paper. It will be in the Office of the Speaker for your review. Representative Quitugua?

Rep. Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, what is the relevant application of that bill to the CNMI, if any?

Speaker Hofschneider: Similarly to the presentation made by the Governor and the Washington Representative the other day, it is basically the same proposed legislation introduced by Senator Kennedy. Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Can we go to item 7, House Communications?

There was no objection raised.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair recognized Rep. Stanley Torres.

Rep. S. Torres: Your letter addressed to Governor Juan Babauta and Lieutenant Governor Diego Benavente, dated April 17, Document No. SPKR#13-0116, I would like to insert this under House Communication and I move to adopt your letter to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor as a House position in reference to my report of lifting of the salary cap that I made in the House Session on April 10, 2002.

Speaker Hofschneider: Is that a motion, Representative Torres?

The motion was seconded.

Rep. S. Torres: I ask for a vote of confidence from the members.

Floor Leader Attao: Mr. Speaker, privilege.

Speaker Hofschneider: State your privilege.

Floor Leader Attao: Before we entertain the adoption of the report, I would like also for the letter to be part on the journal. I ask the Chairman on Ways and Means to read the whole letter from you to Governor Babauta and Lieutenant Governor Benavente.

Speaker Hofschneider: Chairman Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Thank you. A letter to The Honorable Juan N. Babauta, Governor and The Honorable Diego T. Benavente, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth. Dear Governor Babauta and Lieutenant Governor Benavente: Reference to Salary Certification from the Office of the Governor. The House has reviewed the report from the Chairman of its Committee on Ways and Means dated April 10, 2002, about recent salaries justification from your office. This House agrees with the finding in the Chairman's report. I have enclosed a copy of that report with this letter for your reference. As noted in the Chairman's report, the letter from the Office of the Governor purporting to make certifications required by Title 1 CMC section 8250 (c) did not address the key elements of that provision for Francisco I. Taitano, Celina R. Babauta, and Robert J. Schwalbach. In addition to the salary certifications addressed in the Chairman's Report, this House has reviewed three other letters from your Office purporting to certify salaries in excess of the Compensation Adjustment Act for Santiago F. Tudela, Franklin R. Babauta and Edward C. Camacho. This House finds those section 8250 (c) certifications similarly defective. The letter purporting to make the certification required by 1 CMC section 8248 (b), as amended, also fails to specify that Juan I. Castro meets the statutory requirements of that section. Aside from the defective certifications, the Office of the Governor has not secured legislative sanction as required by section 526 of Public Law 11-41 in approving these salaries. At this time, because this House finds the certifications defective, **it will not sanction the excess salaries.** Now as in the future, the House will closely review all certifications of salaries in excess of the limits set by law and consider whether sanction is warranted on a case-by-case basis. In considering future certifications, this House is mindful of: (1) the decrease in revenues that has led to drastic budget cuts that jeopardize critical services such as CHC and DPS operations, (2) long overdue salary

adjustments, including those authorized by Public Law 7-31, (3) the substantial sum (tens of millions), owed to the NMIRF in government contributions, (4) the need for an equitable and cogent policy governing fiscal matters during this time of austerity, and (5) the need to rebuild the trust of the private sector and prevent the continued loss of morale among government employees. This House looks forward to an immediate resolution of these matters. Sincerely, signed by Heinz S. Hofschneider, Speaker of the House.

Speaker Hofschneider: Any comments?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

Speaker Hofschneider: Representative Babauta, do you have comments?

Rep. Babauta: Mr. Speaker, just a short one. I am not privy to the discussions of the Speaker’s outcome of the letter, but as a result of Chairman Torres’ diligent effort, I must applaud the Chairman’s Committee, you as the Chair of this Thirteenth Legislature, Mr. Speaker, for once and for all clarifying the issues as these issues continue to come across our Chamber, not only now, but in the previous years. I must applaud the effort in finding solutions as well as the leadership to resolve the matter both as stated in your letter for today, tomorrow and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a short comment because the letter not only covers the salary increase but also several very important issues including the amount of money owed to the Retirement Fund, among other things. This House is not fully apprised of what really is going on, and what is our responsibility in terms of what action to take? I think it is prudent for the Committee on Ways and Means, to at least call in members from the Executive Branch and meet to discuss other issues that are in this letter. I think the budget officers should be called in, including the financial officers for the Executive Branch, and have them present to the Legislature a written committee report, give us a briefing on what is happening with regards to the budget, and what is happening with regards to the revenues that the government is currently receiving. I have been getting all kinds of different feedback on where we are today. We are not really sure what action to take to address those issues. Thank you.

Floor Leader Attao: Ready for the question. Roll call, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: Clerk, roll call.

The roll call vote on the motion to adopt Speaker’s letter as an official position of the House as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. Francisco DLG. Aldan	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera	yes
Rep. Pedro P. Castro	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Herman T. Palacios	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	excused
Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Andrew S. Salas	excused
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes

Speaker Hofschneider: It is hereby adopted as a House Communication. Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Tenorio: Thank you. I just want to make sure that I'm voting for the adoption of the report and also for an oversight hearing. Is that what we are voting for?

Speaker Hofschneider: Not exactly. It is just adopting the letter sanctioning the position of the House.

Vice Speaker Tenorio: Mr. Speaker, if I'm in order, I would like to move that we have an oversight hearing.

Floor Leader Attao: He's out of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Mr. Speaker, I would like the letter to be hand-delivered over to the Governor's Office immediately before the copies of this letter be distributed to the media.

Speaker Hofschneider: Thank you. If there is no further comment on House Communications, we move down to Communications from Departments and Agencies. Before that, I would like to point the attention of the members on Governor's Communication 13-109. This is transmitting a copy of the CNMI Tourism Strategy Plan, as we all agree, tourism is number one priority for the House of the Thirteen Legislature. You have before you the package submitted yesterday by the Governor and I advise that we take that up immediately since time is of essence for some of those proposed strategy plans under the Governor's proposal particularly the funding sections.

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

Speaker Hofschneider: State your point.

Rep. Babauta: Do we have any idea where we are going to be tapping source? Is it going to be in the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget?

Speaker Hofschneider: Both. There are some monies that we can avail ourselves in terms of meeting the strategic plans and it will be included in the submittals for the following fiscal year budget.

Rep. Babauta: Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

DEPT. & AGENCY COMM. 13-20 – April 3, 2002 – From Acting Special Assistant Nace N. Soalablai, Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, acknowledging receipt of H. R. NOS. 13-034 through 13-036.

DEPT. & AGENCY COMM. 13-21 – April 3, 2002 – From Secretary Thomas B. Pangelinan, DLNR, to Chairman Tomas B. Aldan, Marianas Public Land Board, re Saipan Public Market at Garapan Fishing Base.

DEPT. & AGENCY COMM. 13-22 – April 9, 2002 – AG Legal Opinion #02 01 re Enactment of Local ordinance by the Saipan Municipal Council.

DEPT. & AGENCY COMM. 13-23 – April 11, 2002 – From Acting Special Assistant Nace N. Soalablai, Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, acknowledging receipt of H. J. R. NO. 13-003.

DEPT. & AGENCY COMM. 13-24 – April 11, 2002 – From Acting Special Assistant Nace N. Soalablai, Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, acknowledging receipt of H. R. NOS. 13-016, 13-021, 13-022, 13-026 and 13-027.

There was no discussion raised.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Misc. Comm. 13-25 – March 19, 2002 – From Chief Executive Officer Bill D. Lindstrom, Association of Film Commissioners International to Senate President Paul A. Manglona re film industry in the CNMI.

Misc. Comm. 13-26 – March 29, 2002 – From Director General Leo C. J. Lee, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office soliciting the Legislature's support for Taiwan's observer status in the World Health Organization.

Misc. Comm. 13-27 – April 8, 2002 – From Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou, Pacific Medical Center to Mrs. Dolores Moore, Government Health and Life Insurance, re Notice of Termination of Services.

Misc. Comm. 13-28 – April 10, 2002 – From Administrative Officer Frances C. Muna transmitting certified copies of the Seventh Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Resolution Nos. 7SMC-2RS-01 through 7SMC-2RS-08.

Misc. Comm. 13-29 – April 15, 2002 – From CNMI Travel Agencies re Future of CNMI Travel Agencies.

Speaker Hofschneider: Chairman on Health and Welfare Committee, Benjamin Seman, under Miscellaneous Communication 13-27, please take a note and take that up in the committee. If you have any information as to that particular section, do you care to share with the members? That is under item 11 of the Calendar, Miscellaneous Communication 13-27. This is about Pacific Medical Center terminating Government Health Insurance.

Rep. Seman: I have rescheduled our meeting to bring together the private health care providers, the group health insurance, the board members for the Retirement Fund, the third party administrator, which is the Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral Office, Office of the Governor, and both members of Health and Welfare Committee for the House and the Senate to meet in this Chamber on April 30th, at 9:00 a.m. to resolve this issue.

Speaker Hofschneider: Thank you. Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same subject, I am bothered by Doctor Alou to come up with such a decision. I read the letter and he mentioned that the problem was in existence for three years. Why did he wait until now? He could have done this three years ago. Three years ago of profit making he build his big clinic, now that a third party adjuster came into the picture slashing those so-called profit, he decides to do away with government insurance patients. Is he taking the position that he'd rather go after the profit and abandon his medical oath for healing the sick and his patients. That is my concern of Doctor Alou. If he is calling this bluff, if he is bluffing us, then so be it. There is always another clinic wanting to come in too and might take over his place. It could be a game for other clinics too. Thank you.

Speaker Hofschneider: Thank you.

Rep. Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Babauta: Representative Babauta?

Rep. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I kindly request the appropriate committee to review the letter to the Speaker under Miscellaneous Communication 13-29, regarding the dilemma on all travel agencies here in the CNMI with respect to major carriers serving the Commonwealth and see whether or not the Commonwealth is within its legal parameters to being in some cases or hopefully may be a strong letter to industry players. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: Further to that comment, the Committee on Tourism and perhaps Commerce both can take that issue. This has to do with the nation-wide decision of Continental to do away with the 5% surcharge or commission given to travel agencies who sell tickets for Continental Airlines. That was the national policy to do away with that, perhaps driven by the tickets. Now-a-days you can get your ticket through the internet and it has prompted a national policy decision to do away with the 5% bonus. As you can see in the document, the CNMI Travel Agency Association has done in the neighborhood of about twenty-six million business operations for all airlines in the Commonwealth and with a one point three million gross tax. There are some derivatives derived from other taxable income and operations of the travel agencies. If that is the case then fifty-three employees would be of concern again for the Commonwealth. If and when Continental decides to open a city office that would inevitably force the travel agencies to close since they are not charging the five percent and the travel agencies are still charging five percent on top of the ticket value. By having Continental open their city office specifically for ticketing it will out compete the existing travel agencies today. So that is the concern that they are raising as an association. And perhaps the Committee on Commerce and Tourism could meet together with Continental Airlines to try and see if they could meet somehow to accommodate the travel agencies. It is a substantial component of the tourism industry for the Commonwealth. Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Mr. Speaker, that subject of travel agent commission is not only for Continental Airlines. I think that most of the nations carriers have run into that. I know Delta Airlines and American Airlines are done with that. So, I am not sure how you are going to tackle that, it's a free enterprise, it's optional and it's their decision.

Speaker Hofschneider: Perhaps it is a matter of convenience for travelers to line-up at the airport to buy a ticket if five percent is my concern for travelers. So it is a matter of accessibility and affordability issue.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 13-16, reference to House Bill No. 13-016.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 13-16: Reporting on H. B. NO. 13-016, entitled, “To create a Task Force to study the impact of farm products importation into the CNMI; and for other purposes.” You Committee on Natural Resources recommends passage in the form of H. B. NO. 13-016, CS1.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion on the Committee Report?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 13-16 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Resolution Calendar.

Speaker Hofschneider: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: Mr. Speaker, I have two other standing committee reports.

Speaker Hofschneider: I apologize, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 10, for the adoption of Standing Committee Report Nos. 13-17 and 13-13. Copies has been distributed, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion on the motion?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

Floor Leader Attao: Clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: Floor Leader, could you clarify Standing Committee Report No. 13-13?

Floor Leader Attao: Standing Committee Report No. 13-13 is hereby withdrawn.

Speaker Hofschneider: Thank you. Rephrase your motion.

Floor Leader Attao: I move to withdraw Standing Committee Report No. 13-13.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Suspension motion on Standing Committee Report No. 13-17. Ready?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

The motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 10 for the adoption Standing Committee Report No. 13-17 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: I now move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 13-17 reference to H. B. NO. 13-092.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 13-17: Reporting on H. B. NO. 13-092, entitled, “To re-appropriate fund balances from Public Law 11-119; and for others purpose.” Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends passage of the bill by the House.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion on the Standing Committee Report?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 13-17 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Standing Committee Report No. 13-17 is adopted. Any more Standing Committee Reports?

Floor Leader Attao: Ready.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Speaker Hofschneider: For the members, we need to recall our action on H. J. R. NO. 13-005, SD1, for further work. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to recall from the Governor H. J. R. NO. 13-005, SD1.

Speaker Hofschneider: Just recall our action. I have not transmitted because of the language.

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you. I move to recall House action on H. J. R. NO. 13-005, SD1, for corrective action.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Motion to refer to a committee.

Floor Leader Attao: I move that H. J. R. NO. 13-005, SD1, be referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried.

Floor Leader Attao: Mr. Speaker, I move to withdraw from the committee H. J. R. NO. 13-007.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the adoption of H. R. NO. 13-042, H. R. NO. 13-043, H. R. NO. 13-007 and H. J. R. NO. 13-008.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 13-042: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO KOREAN AIR LINES FOR RESUMING REGULAR SCHEDULE FLIGHTS TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

H. R. NO. 13-043: A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO HONOR OUR FALLEN AND DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION OF MAY 12-18 AS CNMI POLICE WEEK.

H. R. NO. 13-007: TO REQUEST THE GOVERNOR AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AUTHORITY TO GRANT THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION, DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES PUBLIC DOMAIN OF LOT 004 H 08 OF APPROXIMATELY 2,380 SQUARE METERS OF PUBLIC LAND LOCATED IN CHALAN KANOA VILLAGE, DISTRICT #2.

H. J. R. NO. 13-008: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO FINALIZE THE PROPOSED RULE TO REMOVE THE TINIAN MONARCH (MONARCHA TAKATSUKASAE) FROM THE FEDERAL LIST OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

The motion to adopt H. R. NO. 13-042, H. R. NO. 13-043, H. R. NO. 13-007, and H. J. R. NO. 13-008 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Attao: Mr. Speaker, I move to refer H. B. NO. 13-063, HD1, back to Committee on Health and Welfare.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the suspension of Rule IX, Sections 9, 10, and 11, for the passage of H. B. NO. 13-016 reference to Standing Committee Report No. 13-016 and H. B. NO. 13-092 reference to Standing Committee Report No. 13-017 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Hofschneider: Motion carried. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: I now move for the passage of H. B. NO. 016,HS1, on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 13-016, HS1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF FARM PRODUCTS IMPORTATION INTO THE CNMI; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion on the bill?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

Speaker Hofschneider: Clerk, roll call.

The roll called on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 13-016, HS1, on First and Final Reading is as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. Francisco DLG. Aldan	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera	yes
Rep. Pedro P. Castro	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Herman T. Palacios	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	excused
Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Andrew S. Salas	excused
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes

Speaker Hofschneider: House Bill No. 13-016, HS1, passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the passage of H. B. NO. 13-092 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 13-092: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO RE-APPROPRIATE FUND BALANCES FROM PUBLIC LAW 11-119; AND FOR OTHERS PURPOSE.

Speaker Hofschneider: Discussion on the bill?

Several members voiced, “ready.”

Speaker Hofschneider: Clerk, roll call.

The roll called on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 13-092, on First and Final Reading is as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. Francisco DLG. Aldan	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera	yes
Rep. Pedro P. Castro	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Herman T. Palacios	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	excused
Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Andrew S. Salas	excused
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes

Speaker Hofschneider: House Bill No. 13-092, hereby passed the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Attao: That is it, Mr. Speaker.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized Rep. Seman.

Chairman Seman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to remind the members of the Committee on Health and Welfare that we are having a committee meeting at 2:00 p.m. in my office.

Speaker Hofschneider: Any more announcements? – I have several announcements. One is, the oversight on my part, those members absent today will be marked “excused.” The second is, on May 1st, the House is hosting the *man’amko*. As part of their cultural activity, they requested that they come to the Chamber and see the House in progress, to see how their representatives work and how legislations are passed. For this day, we will meet in vernacular that if there is no objection.

There was no objection raised.

Speaker Hofschneider: No one objects to it. Just so they understand, to give more to the *man'amko* the privilege and also receive any comment or view in the way we do things here in the House for them. So, be advised that on May 1st, we will be hosting the *man'amko*.

Rep. Quitugua: What time, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Hofschneider: It will be in the morning at around ten o'clock. The memorandum will be out. Representative Stanley Torres?

Rep. S. Torres: Mr. Speaker, do you allow each member if they have a candidate to take over, like *man'amko* takeover member or representative on that day?

Speaker Hofschneider: We could allow that.

Rep. S. Torres: Bring an extra chair.

Speaker Hofschneider: So long as any bill that is passed would not be an official passage. Representative Quitugua?

Rep. Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, the way I hear it, it's extremely or tempting. However, there's only one representative from Rota and I have a lot of *man'amkos*. It is a tough selection, Mr. Speaker. I hate to say this, but once I pick one, everybody would want to come, Mr. Speaker, so that is going to be my dilemma.

Speaker Hofschneider: Any other announcements? If not, motion to adjourn.

Floor Leader Attao: I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan K. Ongrung, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

H. L. B. NO. 13-020: A Local Bill for an Act to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) from fees collected from Saipan Local Law 11-2; and for other purposes. [3rd Appearance]

H. L. B. NO. 13-021: A Local Bill for an Act to designate land parcel 013-D-39, Garapan Fisheries Complex as a public park; and for other purposes. [3rd Appearance]

H. L. B. NO. 13-022: A Local Bill for an Act to re-appropriate \$50,000 from Saipan Local Law 12-13; and for other purposes. [2nd Appearance]

H. L. B. NO. 13-023: A Local Bill for an Act to amend Section 2, subsection 3 of Saipan Local Law 12-20; and for other purposes. [2nd Appearance]

H. L. B. NO. 13-024: A Local Bill for an Act to name the Saipan International Airport the Francisco C. Ada International Airport in recognition of his pioneering efforts to modernize Saipan's airport facility and the island's economy. [2nd Appearance]

H. L. B. NO. 13-025: A Local Bill for an Act to impose in addition to the user fee collected under 4 CMC § 1421 a local user fee of 1.3% of the gross value of merchandise which require the Department of Finance's certification for export from the Commonwealth. [2nd Appearance]