

**THE SENATE
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2000**

First Day

Thursday, May 11, 2000

The Senate of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, First Day, Third Special Session, 2000, was called to order at 3:53 p.m. in the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona, President of the Senate, presided.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I ask for your prayers for Justice Villagomez.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Senate Clerk called the roll and all nine (9) members were present.

President Manglona: Before we begin, I would like to recognize the presence of Mrs. Gloria Hunter whom we've missed for many years in the gallery, and other visitors who are here to listen to our session. Welcome to the Senate.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-120: April 06, 2000 - Informing the Legislature that he had signed into law HB 12-83, HD1, entitled, "to amend Public Law 11-199 to reflect new CIP Priorities in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes." (PL 12-4 - 04/06/00)

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-121: April 10, 2000 - Certification for 3 vacant positions at the Department of Public Health that must be filled during the period of continuing resolution.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-122: April 11, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Marianas Health Services.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-123: April 13, 2000 - Nominating Mr. Edwin M. Hofschneider to serve as a member of the CDA Board of Directors to represent Tinian.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-124: April 13, 2000 - Nominating Associate Judge John A. Manglona to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Eric S. Smith to serve as Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the CNMI.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-125: April 14, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Grace Christian Academy.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-126: April 17, 2000 - Certification and justification that 5 positions at the Rota Department Works are vacant and must be filled during the period of continuing resolution.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-127: April 17, 2000 – Certification that the position of Surveyor III at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is vacant and must be filled during the period of continuing resolution.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-128: Informing the Legislature that he had signed into law HLB 12-2, S1, D1, entitled, “To appropriate the sum of \$512,000.00 on the fees collected from SLL 11-2 (Poker Machines); and for other purposes.” (SLL 12-1 04/20/00)

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-129: April 21, 2000 – PL 11-6 Exemption for L.L.A. CORPORATION.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-130: April 21, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Marianas Beach Press.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-131: April 21, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-132: April 21, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Seashore Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-133: April 21, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Joeten Motor Company, Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-134: April 21, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Toothworks.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-135: April 26, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he had signed into law SLB 12-2, entitled, “To prohibit or restrict the use of scuba tank and other related devices on commercial and non-commercial fishermen when fishing for reef fish and harvesting other marine life within the lagoon and coastal waters of the municipality of Rota.” (RLL 12-2 – 04/26/00)

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-136: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 From SAPLR acknowledging receipt of HJR 12-7, re, CDBG.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-137: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Saipan Diamond Hotel.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-138: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for RJ’s Store.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-139: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for blue Horizon Ent., Inc. dba D-Kids.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-140: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Kingfisher Golf Links.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-141: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Pacific Medical Center.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-142: April 26, 2000 – Certification that 4 positions at the Department of Public Health are vacant and must be filled during the period of continuing resolution.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-143: April 26, 2000 – Certification for annual salary in excess of \$50,000 for physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-144: April 27, 2000 – From Governor Tenorio to the Chairs of the Tinian Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council informing them that he had disapproved Tinian Local Bill 8-1.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-145: April 27, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he had vetoed HLB 12-4, S1, D2, entitled, “To appropriate the sum of \$979,725 on the fees collected from Managaha Island Landing Fee; and for other purposes.” (VETOED ON 04/28/00)

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-146: April 27, 2000 – In reference to HJR 12-001, HD2 regarding the establishment of PCB Task force.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-147: April 27, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he had signed into law SLB 12-1, entitled, “To prohibit or restrict the use of scuba tank and other related devices on commercial and non-commercial

fishermen when fishing for reef fish and harvesting other marine life within the lagoon and coastal waters of the Municipality of Rota; and for other purposes.” (RLL 12-2)

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-148: April 27, 2000 –From SAPLR acknowledging receipt of SR 12-6, entitled, “Expressing the condolences of the Senate and the honor and respect of the people of the Commonwealth to the family of the late Corporal Cristino Sablan Dela Cruz on his passing from this life to the next.”

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-149: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-150: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Bianca International, Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-151: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-152: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Bianca International Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-153: April 27, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Mandara Spa.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-154: May 4, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Miyo USA, Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-155: May 4, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for 21-UP (Marianas), Inc. dba The Rota Hotel.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-156: May 11, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Hyatt Regency Hotel, Saipan.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-157: May 11, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for SAIPANCELL Communications.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-158: May 11, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Saipan Grand Hotel.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-159: May 11, 2000 - PL 11-6 Exemption for Auto Marine Inc.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-160: May 5, 2000 – Nominating Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero and Mr. Juan S. Torres to serves as members of the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Gov. Mesg. No. 12-161: May 5, 2000 – Nominating Mr. Plasido M. Tagabuel to serve as a member of the CUC Board of Director.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

Judiciary Comm. No. 12-2: April 4, 2000 – From Chief Justice Demapan re proposed amendment to the Rules of Admission of the Supreme Court.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Dept. Comm. No. 12-1: April 18, 2000 – From the Secretary of Finance to the Legislature re guidelines in the implementation of PL 11-84 and 12-2 (Public Purpose).

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I understand that there are some restrictions with respect to submission of claims by the Legislature on expenditures of funds under Department Communication No. 12-1. I also understand that we’re drafting a communication in response to this. I just wonder if the response has already been completed.

President Manglona: Floor Leader, the Legal Counsel is still working on that letter.

Floor Leader Reyes: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Vice President Villagomez.

Vice President Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. President. On Judicial Communication No. 12-2 regarding the proposed amendment to the rules of admission of the Supreme Court, I would like to ask the Chair to instruct the Committee on JGL and our Senate Legal Counsel with our House counterpart to review the proposed amendment. I believe that we have to comment on this proposed amendment. If we are in acceptance, then I believe that we don't have to do anything. If there's an objection on the proposed rules of admission then we have to come up with it within 60 days. I would like to ask the Chair of JGL to work with the Senate Legal Counsel to comment on this communication. Thank you.

President Manglona: Chairman Atalig, please take note of the recommendation. I think that it is a wise recommendation by the Vice President that we comment on this rule of admission as proposed by the Supreme Court. Any other comment?

Senator Atalig: I think I heard you loud and clear. I'll take note on that. Thank you.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Hse. Comm. No. 12-52: Returning **without amendment** SB 12-50, entitled, "To protect, conserve and prohibit the hunting of the Commonwealth Bird (Tottot) defined in 1 CMC 233; and for other purposes." (WILL TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR).

Hse. Comm. No. 12-53: Transmitting for Senate action HB 12-45, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC 5613, and for other purposes." (BUSINESS LICENSE).

Hse. Comm. No. 12-54: Transmitting for Senate action HB 12-106, entitled, "To amend Title 3 section 4437(c) of the Commonwealth Code." (Non-resident workers medical care).

Hse. Comm. No. 12-55: Transmitting for Senate action HB 12-119, entitled, "To establish a Division of Finance within the Legislative Bureau."

Hse. Comm. No. 12-56: Transmitting for Senate action HB 12-133, entitled, "To establish an Office of Administrative hearings and Appeals, and for other purposes."

Hse. Comm. No. 12-57: Transmitting for Senate action HB 12-170, entitled, "To establish a temporary Water Safety Task Force; and for other purposes."

Hse. Comm. No. 12-58: Returning **without amendment** SB 12-24, SS1, entitled, "To amend 1 CMC §2152, concerning qualifications of the Attorney General, to conform with Article III, Section 11 of the Commonwealth Constitution; and for other purposes."

President Manglona: Any comment on the House communication as listed as well as the one that we have just received. The latest communication is informing the Senate that House Bill No. 12-1 CS2, HD3, SD2, which is the budget had just passed the House by unanimous vote. Any comment on any of the communication?

Senator Adriano: Ready.

The Chair recognized Senator Guerrero.

Senator Guerrero: Mr. President, if I may. Probably you didn't see my hand raised. I would like to make a comment on the communication from the Secretary of Finance.

President Manglona: It is appropriated at this time to do so.

Senator Guerrero: I would like to suggest that if the Legal Counsel and somebody else are to make comments on this issue, I would like to take part on this because of how "Public Purpose" is defined, if my colleagues don't have any objection.

President Manglona: I understand that the direction here is for the letter to be sent by the President. I would make sure that I share the letter with you, Senator Guerrero, before sending it.

Senator Guerrero: Yes, I appreciate that, Mr. President.

President Manglona: Thank you. Any other comment? None?

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

Wash. Rep. Comm. No. 12-1: May 1, 2000 – To Speaker Benigno R. Fitial re office renovation cost.

President Manglona: Is there any comment?

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 12-4: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ACTS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TO ESTABLISH REMEDIES, PENALTIES, AND COURSES OF TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 12-5: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT THE ELECTION ACT LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (1CMC, DIVISION 6, CHAPTER 4 THROUGH 5 PART 1) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes: Thank you, Mr. President. The two bills are already on the Calendar. So, I would like to make a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-4 and Standing Committee Report No. 12-5.

Several members voiced, "second", and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: Any comment on Standing Committee Report No. 12-4 and Standing Committee Report No. 12-5?

Several members voiced, "ready".

The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-4 and Standing Committee Report No. 12-5 carried by voice vote.

SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONFERENCE COMM. REPORT NO. 12-1: REPORTING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 12-001, CS2, HD3, SD2, ENTITLED, "A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ITS AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS, AND TO PROVIDE BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, the bill is on the Calendar. At this time, I would like to make a motion for the adoption of Conference Committee Report No. 12-1.

Several members voiced, "second", and the motion carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

The motion for the adoption of Conference Committee Report No. 12-1 carried by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PREFILED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sen. Bill No. 12-61: A Bill for an Act to limit homestead program participation by any person convicted of a felony drug offense; and for other purposes. (SEN. DAVID M. CING – 05/05/00)

Sen. Bill No. 12-62: A Bill for an Act to require all contractors to register and obtain a contractor's certificate of registration from Department of Public Works before engaging in the construction business here in the Commonwealth; and to require contractors to secure bonds before performing any construction projects; and for other purposes. (SEN. DAVID M. CING – 05/05/00)

Sen. Bill No. 12-63: A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC, Division 8, Chapter 3, by adding a new Section 8360 to mandate the forfeiture of all retirement benefits upon conviction of a felony drug offense involving crystal methamphetaminehydrochloride, cocaine or heroin; and for other purposes." (SEN. DAVID M. CING – 05/05/00)

Sen. Bill No. 12-64: A Bill for an Act to establish a Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Program; to amend 3 CMC Section 1316 (d) ; to amend Executive Order 94-3, Section 211 (a)(b)(c); and for other purposes." (SEN. RICARDO S. ATALIG – 05/05/00)

Sen. Bill No. 12-65: A Bill for an Act to establish a Task Force on Medical and Health Insurance; and for other purposes." (SEN. RICARDO S. ATALIG – 05/05/00)

Sen. Bill No. 12-66: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 6(a) 1 and section 6(a)(2) of Public Law No. 11-15; 4 CMC §8131(2) 2 CMC § 2123 and for other purposes. (SEN. JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO – 05/10/00)

Sen. Local Bill No. 12-4: A Local Bill for an Act to amend Section 2, of Rota Local Law No. 12-2; and for other purposes." (SEN. RICARDO S. ATALIG – 05/05/00)

Sen. Local Bill No. 12-5: A Local Bill for an Act to establish and protect vegetation planted by and throughout a designated public place on the island of Tinian and Aguiguan; and for other purposes. (SEN. JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO – 05/05/00)

Sen. Res. No. 12-8: A Senate Resolution urging designation of the area adjacent to the 4-H Club at the Civic Center for local farmers to sell produce. (SEN. PETE P. REYES)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sen. Bill No. 12-67: A Bill for an Act to prohibit discrimination in lending based on the geographic location of the borrower within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. (SEN. E.U. MARATITA)

Sen. Res. No. 12-09: A Senate Resolution to commend the management and officers of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino in being very instrumental toward the successful consummation of the Mandarin Airlines Taiwan-Saipan direct flights, in their unending effort toward promoting the casino industry in the Second Senatorial District as well as the tourist industry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in their commitment to helping boost the CNMI economy. (SEN. J.M. DELACRUZ)

Sen. Res. No. 12-10: A Senate Resolution expressing the intent and sense of the Senate with regard to the hiring of lobbyist services in Washington DC, and Section 532 of H.B. No. 12-1, CS2, HD3, SD2, Conf. CS1. (SEN. P.P. REYES)

Sen. Res. No. 12-11: A Senate Resolution declaring the Senate's support of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's position before the United States Department of Transportation with regard to Continental's application for renewal of route authority to operate five weekly flights between Guam, USA, and Sapporo, Japan, and daily flights between Guam, USA, and Sendai, Japan, and its Segment 13 (Honolulu-Tokyo, Japan) Route 171. (SEN. P.P. REYES)

Senator Dela Cruz: There is a minor typographical error on line 5 and 23. I will be correcting them, Mr. President.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, let me make a motion to suspend all pertinent rules in order to pass the bills on the Calendar for today.

President Manglona: Any objection? Any discussion?

There being no discussion, the motion for the suspension of pertinent rules carried by voice vote.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-30: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 3-71, (§ 1117) AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 3-72, (§ 1102) AND PUBLIC LAW 6-44, §2 TO EXEMPT FROM FORFEITURE, PROPERTY USED IN THE COMMISSION OF A CRIMINAL ACT BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE OWNER WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE, CONSENT OR WILLFUL BLINDNESS OF THE OWNER.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on First Reading, and Senator Atalig seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

There being no discussion, the motion to pass House Bill No. 12-30 on First Reading carried by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: I yield to Senator Maratita.

Senator Maratita: Before we proceed to the Final Reading Calendar, Mr. President, I would like to place House Communication No. 12-58, Senate Bill No. 12-24, SS1, on today's Final Reading Calendar. I would like that the members support the amendment from the House. That's regarding the qualification of the Attorney General.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I have no objection.

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:06 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:08 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session. The Chair recognizes Senator Maratita.

Senator Maratita: I'm withdrawing my motion, Mr. President.

President Manglona: With that, if there's no objection, we're back to the Final Reading Calendar.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-34: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ACTS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND TO ESTABLISH REMEDIES, PENALTIES, AND COURSES OF TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO PERPETRATORS AND VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Vice President Villagomez seconded.

President Manglona: Floor Leader, that's number 15 on our Calendar, and you're moving it up to....

Vice President Villagomez: He's fast.

President Manglona: There's no objection. There's a motion on the floor to go down to number 15, Senate Bill No. 12-34. Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Since this is for Final Reading, Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Abstained
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Eight (8) members voted yes and one (1) abstention.

President Manglona: By a vote of eight (8) yes and one (1) abstention, Senate Bill No. 12-34 passes the Senate on Final Reading.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, before I make another motion and with the consent of the members, I'd like to recognize the presence of former Speaker Diego Benavente, distinguish colleague and current member of the House, Representative David Apatang.

President Manglona: Welcome. They've just passed the budget.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-16 SENATE DRAFT 2: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT THE ELECTION OF THE LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (1 CMC DIVISION 6, PART 1); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and several members seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Can I ask the Floor Leader to effectuate a motion for a floor amendment offered by the Chair to Senate Bill No. 12-16, SD2, if there's no objection.

Vice President Villagomez and Senator Adriano voiced, "no objection".

Floor Leader Reyes: Short recess, Mr. President.

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:11 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:12 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I move for the passage of the following floor amendment to Senate Bill No. 12-16, SD2.

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO S.B. NO. 12-16, SD2:

1. Page 25, after line 12 and before line 13, add the following:

(c) Beginning one week before the day of election, the board may establish special polling places within the Commonwealth at which a voter eligible to cast an absentee ballot may request an absent ballot, cast their ballot, and deliver it into the custody of the Board to be counted seven days after the election as provided by this Chapter.

Offered by: /s/
 Sen. Paul A. Manglona

Senator Atalig and Senator Guerrero voiced, "second".

President Manglona: Is there any discussion on the amendment?

Several members voiced, "ready".

The floor amendment offered by President Manglona passed the Senate by voice vote.

President Manglona: We're back to the main bill, Senate Bill No. 12-16, SD2, as amended. Is there any further discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready?".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes

Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, Senate Bill No. 12-16, SD2, as amended, passes the Senate.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-001, COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 2, HOUSE DRAFT 3, SENATE DRAFT 2, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ITS AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS, AND TO PROVIDE BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and several members seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I have a statement to make on this particular bill, if there is no objection from the members.

President Manglona and Senator Adriano voiced, "no objection".

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President and dear colleagues, because I am a member of the Conference Committee on the FY 2000 budget, I have to respect the decision of the majority of the conferees. Permit me, however, to comment on some observations I have on Conference Committee Report No. 12-01. As everyone here fully understand, my original objection to the inclusion of \$700,000 for the CNMI's Lobbyist in Washington is on the premise that a single sole source contract may be expected. As a result, I am extremely thankful that all my colleagues in the Senate supported my recommendation to zero out that funding and instead move the funding over to the scholarship fund and other equally important programs which all of us supported. However, during the conference committee meeting in Tinian, I conceded to the members to reinstate the \$700,000 for the CNMI's Lobbying in Washington on two conditions. First, scholarship funding is not to be reduced and secondly, the lobbying firm is to be bidded out to the best bidder. In my best recollection, the House Conferees agreed to these two terms and thus the identification and reinstatement of the \$700,000.00. Unfortunately, the administrative provision, as well as the Conference Committee Report, does not represent this understanding and instead encouraged sole sourcing the contract. This is contrary to everything that we stand for and most especially our commitment for compliance with the government procurement regulations, which effectively and efficiently administers and protects the use of public funds. To make an exception on small and minor concerns such as Section 507(a) as a concession is reasonable although it compromises basic principles. So as not to jeopardize the overriding interest of our government, which is the total budget package, I cautiously commit support with reservation. Although this bill appropriates the \$700,000.00, our Governor is reminded of his austerity program and the fact that the appropriation of the \$700,000.00 does not mean that it has to be obligated to one single lobbying firm or to be expended in its entirety prior to the end of the fiscal year. To understand the impact of this action, consider that by the time this bill becomes law, with or without the Governor's approval, we would have four remaining months till the end of the fiscal year. Thus, the appropriation translates to \$175,000 per month if the intention is to use all the funding up to the end of the fiscal year. If this is the case, when you annualize the funding for this purpose, it represents \$2.1 Million per year. We are back to the Former Governor Froilan Tenorio Administration's practice. I am certain that the budget will pass the Senate despite my objections and concerns. I will vote in support of the budget because there exist a larger consideration than the \$700,000 which I am bringing to your attention. Sometimes we have to make a hard uncomfortable decision in the best interest of our people and I regret this is one of those times. I humbly request the members understanding and support on my resolution which will encourage the

Governor, in the event this bill becomes law through his approval or by Legislative override, not to exercise his authority under Section 532 of the Budget bill. Thank you.

President Manglona: Any other member who would like to comment on House Bill No. 12-1? If none, Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, House Bill No.12-1, CS2, HD3, SD2, Conf. CS1, passes the Senate.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-101, HOUSE DRAFT 1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FOR THE DEPOSIT OF AMBULANCE FEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Senator Adriano and Senator Guerrero seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Senator Adriano and Senator Guerrero voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, House Bill No. 12-101, HD1 passes the Senate.

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

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Senator Atalig seconded.

President Manglona: It has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

Vice President Villagomez: This is on House Bill No. 12-16, which is to prohibit non-traditional fishing method in the Commonwealth and for other purposes. I was going through the legislation, and I have some concerns on line 6, page 1. It says, "Non-traditional fishing method such as breathing assistance device and the use of explosive device are being used to harvest more fish which reduced the number of fish available for the people who fish using traditional method". I have a concern on the phrase, "and the use of explosive device". And then on line 13, of Section 3, it says, "No person may fish in CNMI waters, from the shoreline to 1,000 feet beyond any reef, using non-traditional methods, such as self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba), and the use of explosive devices". I believe there's an existing statute that prohibit the use of explosive devices in our waters here in the Commonwealth. I believe that if we put in this provision it might conflict with the existing provision. Now, are we going to authorize the use of explosive devices beyond 1,000 feet from the reef? Can we have a short recess and ask the Legal Counsel?

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:24 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:28 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session. Floor Leader Reyes had a motion for the passage of House Bill No. 12-16, HD1.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I would like to withdraw my motion on House Bill No. 12-016, HD1.

President Manglona: Is there any objection?

Senator Adriano voiced, "no objection".

President Manglona: There being no objection, House Bill No. 12-16 is hereby withdrawn from our Final Reading Calendar.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, the withdrawal of that motion also is to refer this to the appropriate committee.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-40 HOUSE DRAFT 2: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE ONE YEAR VESTED SERVICE CREDIT IN THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR EVERY TWO YEARS OF SERVICE ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I move for the passage of Senate Bill No. 12-40, HD2, on Final Reading.

Vice President Villagomez and Senator Guerrero voiced, "second".

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes

Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, Senate Bill No. 12-40, HD2, passes the Senate.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-42, HOUSE DRAFT 1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES AND LIMITS OF LIABILITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Vice President Villagomez and Senator Guerrero seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, Senate Bill No. 12-42, HD1, passes the Senate.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-51, HOUSE SUBSTITUTE 1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALLOW A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE TO CONVERT P. L. 7-31 RETROACTIVE SALARY ADJUSTMENT TO VESTING CREDIT SERVICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and several members seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Floor Leader Reyes and Senator Guerrero voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes

Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, Senate Bill No. 12-51, HS1, passes the Senate.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-11, SENATE DRAFT 1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS THROUGH THE CREATION OF THE FREE TRADE ZONES, THE CREATION OF TAX INCENTIVES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC CORPORATION TO ADMINISTER FREE TRADE ZONES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Senator Adriano and Senator Guerrero seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Senator Cing and Senator Guerrero voiced, "ready".

The Chair recognized Senator Adriano.

Senator Adriano: Mr. President, I have a floor amendment here to offer.

FLOOR AMENDMENT TO H.B. No. 12-11

1. Page 1, line 2 - strike out "1999" and insert in lieu thereof "2000".
2. Page 4, line 24 - add "ing" to "belong".
3. Page 5, after line 6 and before line 7 - insert the following:

(e) Pursuant to the mandate of Section 4(f) of Article XI of the Commonwealth Constitution (requiring transfer of public lands management functions to the executive branch of government) and the legislative power vested in it by Article II, Section 1 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the Legislature hereby makes the following provisions for the administration of public lands designed to stimulate and facilitate economic growth on Rota and Tinian and complement the establishment of Free Trade Zones in furtherance of the purposes of this Act. Within 180 days of the effective date of this Act, the Board of Public Lands, in consultation with the mayors and legislative delegations of the Tinian and Rota, shall designate thirty (30) hectares of public land on Rota, and thirty (30) hectares of public land on Tinian, to be administered by the respective mayors in accordance with this subsection, notwithstanding 1 CMC §§ 2653(c), 2672, 2673, and 2676, and notwithstanding whether such land is designated a Free Trade Zone or not.

(1) Such land may be put to municipal uses or leased for commercial purposes. Subject to other provisions of this Act, 1 CMC § 2674(e), (f), and (g), 1 CMC § 2675(b), (c), (d), and (f), and 1 CMC § 2677(a), (b), (c)(2) through (6), and (d), shall apply to the mayors in their administration of the designated land; Provided that, minimum rental requirements may be waived as provided by paragraph (4) of this subsection. 1 CMC § 2153(g) shall not apply to leases, contracts, or other instruments employed in the mayor's administration of the designated lands; Provided that, such documents shall

be reviewed and approved by a duly qualified government attorney and copies thereof provided to the Attorney General.

(2) The mayors may enter into agreements with the Division of Public Lands or other governmental agencies for assistance in the administration of the designated lands. The mayors may not transfer a freehold interest in any part of the designated land.

(3) 1 CMC § 2674(i) shall not be construed as applying to any public benefit contribution under any public land lease now or hereafter in effect with respect to any public land anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Legislature further recognizes and affirms that management of public lands for the benefit of persons of Northern Marianas descent does not require that all persons of Northern Marianas descent throughout the Commonwealth benefit equally from each and every use or disposition of public land, so long as there is no invidious discrimination and equal protection standards are met for the beneficiary class by the management of public lands in the Commonwealth overall.

(4) Minimum rental requirements may be reduced by the mayor based on the economic or other public benefit of the project or development, up to fifty percent (50%) from the amounts otherwise mandated by law, and may be further reduced by the mayor with the concurrence of the Governor. All such exemptions shall be supported by a written finding published in the Commonwealth Register, detailing the economic and/or other public benefits to be derived from the project or development. The 30-day waiting period prescribed by 1 CMC § 9104(a) shall apply to such findings prior to going into effect.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (4) of this subsection, the mayors may lease any of the designated public land included in a Free Trade Zone on any terms conforming with Section 10(k) of this Act.

(f) Whenever this section authorizes a legislative delegation to take an action "subject to the concurrence of the Governor" such action may be accomplished by local law enacted by way of a Local Bill for an Act, which acts are hereby expressly declared pursuant to Article II, Section 6 of the Commonwealth Constitution to be proper subjects of local law. Nothing in the Local Law Act (1 CMC § 1401 et seq.) shall be construed as precluding the enactment of such local laws or restricting the application of this Act.

3. Page 11, line 27 - change "10(j)" to "10(k)".
4. Page 17, line 22 - change "(f)" to "(b)".

Offered by: _____ /s/
Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano

Notes:

Excluded from this amendment, when compared to the FTZ bill from the 11th Legislature, are the following:

1. The designation of particular land on Tinian as an FTZ, and the grant of authority to the Mayor of the Rota to designate a block of land as an FTZ. Instead, Rota and Tinian FTZs are left to designation by the Legislative delegations, subject to the concurrence of the Governor.

Language was added to clearly and firmly affirmatively state the constitutional basis for the provisions concerning management of certain public lands on Tinian and

Rota by the respective mayors. Such management by the mayors is of course legally subject to any encumbrances placed on the land by the Covenant or prior grant.

President Manglona: Copies are being provided at this moment to all the members. Is there any discussion on the floor amendment as offered by Senator Adriano?

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, the only question I have is whether or not this floor amendment is the same floor amendment that was offered before resulting in the veto of the bill by the Governor.

Senator Cing: No.

Floor Leader Reyes: Was this the reason for the....

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:33 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:41 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session after a short recess. The Floor Leader still has the floor.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, copies of the floor amendment on House Bill No. 12-11 have been provided to the members. I would like to make a motion for its approval.

President Manglona: I believe there's a standing motion. So, is there any further discussion?

Several members voiced, "ready".

The motion for the passage of the floor amendment offered by Senator Adriano to House Bill No. 12-11 carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: We're back to the main bill, House Bill No. 12-11, as amended. Is there any discussion?

Senator Adriano voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, House Bill No. 12-11, as amended, passes the Senate.



Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, just for the record, I challenged the Legal Counsel earlier during recess that the approval of the floor amendment to the bill will result in a veto. I would like that statement to go on record so I can repeat that when we receive the Governor's message. Thank you.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-87: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS APPROPRIATION ACT OF 1999 (PUBLIC LAW 11-89); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading and Vice President Villagomez and Senator Dela Cruz seconded.

President Manglona: Can somebody just briefly explain what is House Bill No. 12-87?

Vice President Villagomez: Well, PSS, Board of Education came out with a position and is proposing two High Schools for Saipan. That was the position of the Board. I believe that what we're doing here is accepting, agreeing, to the Board's position that there should be two high schools here on Saipan. It's as simple as that. I mean that's the intent.

President Manglona: Thank you, Vice President Villagomez. Is there any other discussion?

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I am in support of the bill. My only concern, again, is that we have sixteen million dollars that was made available through the floating of bonds and to date only four hundred some thousand dollars have been used. I don't know whether the use of that funding was contingent upon the expectation that the money is to be used to fund two separate high schools or not. But regardless of that, if that is the intent, they could have proceeded and started bidding out the project for at least one high school. They should start spending the appropriations, the available funds, so that we can see some signs of progress with respect to this funding. It appears that the general practice of this activity is that even though the money is available, they would hesitate to use it and that concerns me a little bit. So, I would like, upon the passage of this particular bill, that the President communicate with the Chairman of the Board of Education and find out what the problem is on this. Thank you.

President Manglona: Thank you, Floor Leader Reyes, I am referring that request also to the Committee on Fiscal Affairs so that we can all jointly work on this concern. We're still discussing House Bill No. 12-87. Is there any further discussion? If none, Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, House Bill No. 12-87 passes the Senate.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12-116, HOUSE DRAFT 2: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 6 (c) (4) OF PUBLIC LAW 11-79; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Vice President Villagomez seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Floor Leader Reyes voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, House Bill No. 12-116 passes the Senate.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-61, SENATE DRAFT 2: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO LIMIT HOMESTEAD PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BY ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF A FELONY DRUG OFFENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Senator Dela Cruz and Vice President Villagomez seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion on Senate Bill No. 12-61?

Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Adriano voiced, "ready".

President Manglona: Senate Clerk, call the roll, please.

The Senate Clerk called the roll with the following result:

Senator Joaquin G. Adriano	Yes
Senator Ricardo S. Atalig	Yes
Senator David M. Cing	Yes
Senator Jose M. Dela Cruz	Yes
Senator Ramon S. Guerrero	Yes
Senator Edward U. Maratita	Yes
Senator Pete P. Reyes	Yes
Senator Thomas P. Villagomez	Yes
President Paul A. Manglona	Yes

Nine (9) members voted yes.

President Manglona: By a vote of nine (9) yes, Senate Bill No. 12-61, SD2, passes the Senate.

SENATE BILL NO. 12-63: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 1 CMC, DIVISION 8, CHAPTER 3, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 8360 T MANDATE THE FORFEITURE OF ALL RETIREMENT BENEFITS

UPON CONVICTION OF A FELONY DRUG OFFENSE INVOLVING CRYSTAL METHAMPEHTAMINEHYDROCHLORIDE, COCAINE, OR HEROIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Floor Leader Reyes moved for its passage on Final Reading, and Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Adriano seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion? Vice President Villagomez.

Vice President Villagomez: I have some concerns on this bill, specifically on the forfeiture of all rights and benefits in the Retirement System on members who have been convicted of a felony involving drug offenses like ice, cocaine, or heroin. Can we really deny the family with their pension? I do have reservation on this issue. Is it just the individual that is convicted, or the entire family?

Senator Cing: That is correct. That is for the individual and not the dependent or the beneficiary.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I have a little concern also. I wonder, because the Constitution on benefits provides that it should not be reduced. I am not sure what the language is, but I know it should not be reduced or diminished. I think that is the language in the Constitution. Whether or not statutory authority if this becomes law, or whether or not it has overriding effect on the Constitutional provisions? And, whether or not it would affect the language of the Constitution with respect to benefits? And second, again, I want to just reiterate and further expound on the concern that was raised by Vice President Villagomez. I share the concern of the author that people that use drugs, regardless of the kind of drugs, should be severely punished. But I'm wondering, whether or not, because of the criminal and negligent action by a parent, this would result in indirect and maybe unintentional repercussions and ripple effects unto the beneficiaries other than the person that is involved in the use of drugs.

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recess at 4:52 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 5:04 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session. After discussing Senate Bill No. 12-63 during recess, it appears that all the members are in agreement to defer action on this bill and have the Committee refine it further.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I withdraw my motion on Senate Bill No. 12-63, and I recommend that it be referred to the appropriate Committee.

President Manglona: There being no objection, the motion for the passage of Senate Bill No. 12-63 is hereby withdrawn.

Floor Leader Reyes: Thank you, Mr. President, with the consent of the members, can we have one minute recess?

President Manglona: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 5:05 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 5:06 p.m.

President Manglona: We're back to our regular session.

Floor Leader Reyes: At this time, Mr. President, I'd like with the consent of the members, to move down to item N of the Order of Business.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12-8: A SENATE RESOLUTION URGING DESIGNATION THE AREA ADJACENT TO THE 4-H CLUB, AT THE CIVIC CENTER FOR LOCAL FARMERS TO SELL PRODUCE. (SEN. P.P. REYES)

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12-9: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE MANAGEMENT AND OFFICERS OF THE TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL AND CASINO IN BEING VERY INSTRUMENTAL TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL SONSUMMATION OF THE MANDARIN AIRLINES TAIWAN-Saipan DIRECT FLIGHTS, IN THEIR UNENDING EFFORTS TOWARD PROMOTING THE CASINO INDUSTRY IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AND IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO HELPING BOOST THE CNMI ECONOMY. (SEN. J.M. DELA CRUZ)

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12-10: A SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT AND SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH REGARD TO THE HIRING OF LOBBYIST SERVICES IN WASHINGTON DC, AND SECTION 532 OF H.B. NO. 12-1, CS2, HD3, SD2, CONF. CS1. (SEN. P.P. REYES)

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12-11: A SENATE RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY'S POSITION BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WITH REGARD TO CONTINENTAL'S APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF ROUTE AUTHORITY TO OPERATE FIVE WEEKLY BETWEEN GUAM, USA, AND SAPPORO, JAPAN, AND DAILY FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUAM, USA, AND SENDAI, JAPAN, AND ITS SEGMENT 13 (HONOLULU-TOKYO, JAPAN) ROUTE 171. (SEN. P.P. REYES)

Floor Leader Reyes moved for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 12-8, Senate Resolution No. 12-9, Senate Resolution No. 12-10 and Senate Resolution No. 12-11, and Senator Adriano and Senator Guerrero seconded.

President Manglona: Is there any discussion?

Senator Adriano voiced, "ready".

The Chair recognized Senator Dela Cruz.

Senator Dela Cruz: Before we pass Senate Resolution No. 12-9, I want to make an oral amendment. On line 5, page 2, after the word "market", change the word "the" to "that". On line 23 of the same page, add, "the Honorable Mayor of Tinian; and to the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Floor Leader Reyes and Senator Adriano voiced, "second".

President Manglona: Is there any objection to the oral amendment?

There was no objection, and the oral amendment offered by Senator Dela Cruz carried by voice vote.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I have a very short remark to make on Senate Resolution No. 12-8. This is a Resolution that was requested by the local farmers in Saipan. They have discovered that the used of that particular area across Marianas High School has enhanced their ability to market their produce. If the members have not seen this activity, I encourage you to go down there every Saturday morning and buy farmers produce. And I understand

that it also includes selling of domestic animals. The used of that particular area have been proven to be very profitable. Thank you.

Vice President Villagomez: Is that the Sabalu market?

Floor Leader Reyes: Yes, it is. The need to designate that, Mr. President, as a permanent vending sight is encouraged. Thank you.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Senate Resolution No. 12-8, Senate Resolution No. 12-9, Senate Resolution No. 12-10 and Senate Resolution No. 12-11 carried by voice vote.

President Manglona: The said Resolutions passed the Senate.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Misc. Comm. No. 12-2: April 19, 2000 – From the Executive Director of NMHC re Refinance Act for the MPLT/NMHC Loan Arrangement.

Misc. Comm. No. 12-3: April 19, 2000 – From the Chairman of MPLT re proposed House Bill re Refinance Act for the MPLT/NMHC Loan Arrangement.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Senator Guerrero.

Senator Guerrero: I would like to recommend that the Senate, if possible, invite to the Senate Chamber the Canoe people that are still on island and officially present the resolution to them. At the same time, they can see how we function as Senators here. It will be nice to present them the corrected resolution that we passed during our Senate session in Tinian.

President Manglona: I believe that there is no objection to that. Is there any particular date that we can discuss at this time?

Senator Guerrero: I'll find out tonight and make a recommendation tomorrow on what date it will be. Presently, they are visiting the schools now.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader Reyes.

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, how long are they going to be here? Are they going to be here next week?

Senator Guerrero: They are planning of completing in about a couple of weeks, all their tours of the schools, explaining the trip.

Floor Leader Reyes: Next week would be a right....

President Manglona: So, we'll wait for a recommendation regarding the date.

Senator Guerrero: I will check the date with them and I will let you know.

President Manglona: Any other member on Miscellaneous Business?

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Manglona: I would just like to announce that tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., there will be an employee recognition ceremony here in the Legislature for the House, the Senate and the LB. That will take place in this

Chamber tomorrow. So, please try to be present. That's tomorrow. Today, we passed the 2000 Budget. Let's not forget to recognize the conferees and all the members. So, I would like to recognize all of you, today.

Floor Leader Reyes: Thank you, Mr. President. I know it's appropriate for me to congratulate our Chairman of the Fiscal Affairs Committee. I can tell you with all honesty that this is one difficult task for the Chairman to be able to work well in such a difficult situation. Most especially because our counterpart in the House were diligent in their pursuit to ensure that there's a budget for this fiscal year and that they were very committed to the concerns of their programs. It made it extremely hard to reach an agreement in the conference committee and I take my hat off to our Chairman for a job well done. Thank you.

Senator Maratita: Thank you, Floor Leader.

President Manglona: Any other member under Announcement? If none, motion for adjournment?

Floor Leader Reyes: Mr. President, I move to adjournment subject to your call.

Several members voiced, "second", and the motion to adjourn carried by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 5:15 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,



Ramona I. Kapileo
Senate Journal Clerk

ADOPTED: July 20, 2000