



House Journal Fifth Special Session, 2007

Adopted:
July 24, 2007

First Day

May 29, 2007

The House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Fifth Special Session on Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at 10:20 a.m. in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and sixteen members were present. Representative Jesus SN. Lizama was excused, and Representative Edwin P. Aldan came in late.

Floor Leader Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero moved to resolve into the Committee of the Whole for presentation of Resolution; was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried.

The House went into Committee of the Whole at 10:22 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House returned to plenary session at 10:37 a.m.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

Floor Leader Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero moved for the adoption of the Third Day, Second Special Session 2007 Journal; the motion was seconded.

3rd Day (04/23/07), Second Special Session 2007

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Third Day, Second Special Session 2007 Journals was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 15-267: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 3(a) of Public Law 13-51; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero

H. B. NO. 15-268: A Bill for an Act to appropriate \$1,017,279 million dollars to the Marianas Visitors Authority and \$70,000 to the Garapan basketball court from the fees generated under Public Law 11-64, as amended by Public Law 13-16; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Ray N. Yumul and five others

H. B. NO. 15-269: A Bill for an Act to make the financial records of the Legislature applicable to the Open Government Act by amending 1 CMC § 9913, as amended by Public Law 15-19; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat and seventeen others

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-94: A House Commemorative Resolution commemorating Asiana Airlines' Inaugural Flight from Incheon, Korea, to Saipan, CNMI, on May 27, 2007.

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

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-95: A House Commemorative Resolution to honor the memory of Technical Sergeant Hardy Richards, United States Air Force Retired, and commemorate his dedication and outstanding service to the people of this nation.

Offered by: Rep. Crispin M. Ogo and seventeen others

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-96: A House Commemorative Resolution to honor the memory of Specialist Mariano Santiago Sablan, U.S. Army Veteran, and to recognize his longtime employment with the Commonwealth Government.

Offered by: Rep. Crispin M. Ogo and seventeen others

H. R. No. 15-118: A House Resolution to direct the House Legal Counsel to file a brief of amicus curiae in the matter of Pangelinan & Sablan, in the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

Speaker Babauta: Floor Leader, can I get a motion to resolve into the Committee of the Whole so that we may request our Legal Counsel to briefly brief us on the ongoing petitions that Senator Pangelinan, and Ms. Tina Sablan have petitioned the court.

Rep. Tebuteb: Mr. Speaker, for the record, we just want to make sure that it was not Senator Pangelinan, but as a private individual.

Speaker Babauta: Correct. For the record, Senator Pangelinan filing for herself as a private citizen, and Ms. Sablan as a concerned citizen.

Floor Leader Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero moved to resolve into the Committee of the Whole; was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried.

The House went into Committee of the Whole at 10:42 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House returned to plenary session at 11:39 a.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. Under privilege, I recognize Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: If there is no objection, I wanted to ask the members if we can go back item number 3 on our Agenda.

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I wanted to ask the author of H. B. NO. 15-269 if she has no objection to have this bill be introduced by Committee as a Whole?

Rep. Kaipat: No objection.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: And if there is no objection from the members either.

There was no objection.

Speaker Babauta: So ordered.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Aldan.

Rep. Aldan: Mr. Speaker, if no objection, can we move to Introduction of Resolution.

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. No. 15-119: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Raena P. Cing for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 3rd place in the Chamorro Proficiency category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-120: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Myrese Ann Rose N. Cruz for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Oratorical Speech category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-121: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate the Tinian Junior and Senior High School Choral Reading Team for their outstanding performance in garnering 2nd place in the Choral Reading category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-122: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Mary M. Hocog for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 2nd place in the Poetry Recitation category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-123: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Megan L. Cruz for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Oratorical Speech category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-124: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Mr. Joseph H. Ada for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Male Vocalist category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-125: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Genevieve Santos for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-126: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Denise Guiao for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team

that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-127: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Nikita P. Mendiola for winning the Best Witness Award during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-128: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Kaisha Aquino for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-129: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Joelene Lizama for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-130: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Michelle Aquiningoc for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-131: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Louvelle Borja for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

H. R. NO. 15-132: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Winona Maratita for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Offered by: Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and seventeen others

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, on the Resolutions, are we clear on the direction that the legal counsel would take – pertaining to H. R. NO. 15-118?

Speaker Babauta: I think we all have the same contentions on what we want the Counsel to indulge the Supreme Court. I would allow the Counsel, proceed.

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: *Based on today's discussion as far as submitting a plan, what my understanding is that the House is supportive of maintaining the four districts as drawn, but shifting reapportionment if necessary and as necessary according to population. My other feeling I am getting is counting the entire population, not just citizen population, and I can proceed from there. That gives me a baseline to work with.*

Speaker Babauta: Correct.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: And in terms of the implementation of the...

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: *I understand that there is a concern. I think the House should be prepared for this to be implemented before this election. I understand that there are great concerns about that logistically. Keeping the same districts solves one of those problems, which is having the...have to redraw the districts and produce new maps, but I will certainly include in the brief that the House would like this to be implemented after this current election, and then we have the four-year bridge to get to the next census.*

Speaker Babauta: Those are vital points to be submitted. Okay. Item number 5, Messages from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 15-247: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. NO. 15-237, HD1 (To amend 4 CMC § 8122(c) as amended by PL 15-40). [Deadline 7/16/07]

GOV. COMM. 15-248: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he signed into law H. B. NO. 15-222 (Authorize NMC to enter into \$250,000 Commercial Loan Agreement). [Became **Public Law 15-58**]

GOV. COMM. 15-249: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he signed into law H. B. NO. 224 (re Immigration – Marriage Fraud). [Became **Public Law 15-59**]

GOV. COMM. 15-250: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he signed into law H. B. NO. 15-227 (re Immigration – Entry for the purpose of utilizing health services). [Became **Public Law 15-60**]

GOV. COMM. 15-251: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he signed into law S. B. NO. 15-82 (Prohibit NMIRF from paying less than the full pension to retirees). [Became **Public Law 15-61**]

Gov. COMM. 15-252: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. NO. 15-7, HS1, SD1 (CNMI Roadways Innovative Finance Act). [Deadline: 7/16/07]

Gov. COMM. 15-253: (5/22/07) Informing the House that he signed into law S. B. NO. 15-70, SD1, HD2, CCD1 (Mandatory Firearms Safety Education Class Exemption). [Became **Public Law No. 15-62**]

Gov. COMM. 15-254: (5/18/07) Withdrawing the appointment of Mr. Allen Perez to serve on the PUC Board.

Gov. COMM. 15-255: (5/18/07) Withdrawing the appointment of Mr. Manuel M. Rabauliman to serve on the PUC Board.

Gov. COMM. 15-256: (5/18/07) Withdrawing the appointment of Ms. Lina Villagomez to serve on the PUC Board.

Gov. COMM. 15-257: (5/17/07) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. NO. 15-59, D1 (\$100,000 appropriation from the 1st Sen. Dist. Poker Fees. [Became *Rota Local Law 15-5*]

The Chair recognized Representative Taman.

Rep. Taman: Mr. Speaker, I move to reject the GOV. COMM. NO. 15-247, and move to override his veto of H. B. NO. 15-237, HD1.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: There is a motion on the floor offered by Representative Taman to reject GOV. COMM. NO. 15-247 reflecting the disapproval of H. B. NO. 15-237, HD1. Discussion on the motion. I recognize Chairman Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment before we act on an override. I have read this bill, and I looked at the comments also from the Governor, but it does seem that if we were to override this, what it basically proposes to do is to automatically pre-qualify a company, and pre-qualify basically means that they really do not need to make the actual payment. As you are aware, there are three sets, one is to basically get the package, which cost \$1,000.00. For prequalification, there is a fee of \$25,000.00, and this is where this stands out. A company that is already pre-qualified do not need to make any payments to go to the final qualifications or rather the \$50,000...

Speaker Babauta: One second, Representative Dela Cruz – Vice Speaker, can you take over.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Proceed, Representative Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Personally, I feel that by overriding this veto, this will not have all companies come in to bid on the same playing field, and therefore, I would hate to say it, but I would move not to override this at this time. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Any other comment from the members? Before I recognize any comment...on page 2 of the bill, on line 13, which states, “shall be permitted to submit a proposal upon the payment of the required fees,” so that means that if they participate, they will still be required to submit whatever fees required of them. Any second on the motion?

Rep. Kaipat: Who’s motion?

Vice Speaker Quitugua: On the subsidiary?

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker, I think there is a point of order issue here. I think the motion by Representative Taman is to override, and if Representative Dela Cruz is so inclined to oppose that motion, then he would vote accordingly. I do not believe that you can introduce two different motions and a subsidiary motion to basically supercede and is contradictory to the main motion.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: So any other comment before we vote on the first motion? I recognize Chairwoman Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: Thank you. I support what Chairman Dela Cruz said. It is really important to preserve the integrity of the bidding process that everyone be judged according to the same rules, and to have somebody skip that, and to get in and be pre-qualified just raises that question as to whether some people are being favored over others. To me, that sets a very dangerous precedence, and it just raises the same question. Why even bother if there is already a sweetheart deal? I really think that privatization of CUC is so important that we do not want to even leave the impression that there has been a deal in the works, and that some people are being given a chance to not have to go through the same process as everyone else. I urged that we not override the Governor’s veto, and that we think carefully of the ramifications of what this means, and take the responsible vote on this. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: We are still discussing whether to override the Governor’s veto or not...Any – Congressman Waki.

Rep. Waki: My sentiment is exactly with Congresswoman Kaipat and Dela Cruz. We had already started the process on the privatization bidding, and to circumvent that by just inserting additional language so somebody else can be put in after the fact – it just has a look of impropriety. So right now, I just do not believe that we should allow the process to continue as it is, and get this...it is a concern to everybody that the privatization process be fast track and get it going, and this would just basically add in more into it, and kind of put a monkey wrench into a process that everybody is kind of concerned about right now. With just the way it is going right now with all the power rates being so high, the inefficiencies of CUC, etc., etc., etc., I think the process started and we should allow the process to continue and finalize. I would just say that my feeling is, I am not voting to override the veto. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Taman.

Rep. Taman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I am the mover for this motion, I would just like to point out that my intention is merely just to inform everybody here that we have been very inconsistent with policies that we tailor. We like to be friendly to businesses, and we are not even

trying to nurture existing businesses in our Commonwealth. There is no sweetheart deal here, and there is no circumvention of the bidding process, but we just want to make you guys aware that we have existing businesses here that we need to take care of and nurture. We are sending the wrong signals here. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, and I stand to be corrected, the changes that we made here is that the business that is licensed for at least ten years and has engaged in the Commonwealth for at least 8 years – we just lowered it by 2 years...you know when I look at this legislation in general, as far as I am concerned, a guy could be in today and do business, and then go through the entire process like everybody else. I do not see why we should even put a threshold of business experience here or existence here. Privatization basically for the utilities takes a huge amount of money, and it is a huge investment to the Commonwealth, and everybody will be affected. So putting all these numbers in there, limiting the – somebody has to come up with the rest and what have you, but why limit? If you have a good company out there, and just look at the opportunity to come over here...has the money. Would you deny that individual of that company the opportunity to come and invest in the CNMI, because he has only one year for instance, but has the capability, manpower, and investment money ready to go into it, why do we have to deny this individual? I do not know if there is anything involve here that is a sweetheart deal. I do not know, and I voted for this bill. If anybody knows of any sweetheart deals, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know because I can always change my vote. It just says here, “for at least ten years in a business that is closely related to the utility service for which the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation publishes a request for proposal or solicits bids, shall be permitted to submit a proposal upon the payment of the required fees.” About this “automatically pre-qualification” is what I want to understand. Is it not that everybody after they pay their bill, they have to go through a process of prequalification?

Speaker Babauta: Presently, correct, yes.

Rep. Tenorio: So even if they pay their – and submit, they have to go through...I do not see any reason why they have to be pre-qualified? There is another stage of prequalification, right?

Speaker Babauta: Correct.

Rep. Tenorio: I mean, like a process of elimination so that the Commonwealth can get the best company for the privatization that...

Speaker Babauta: Very close to MVA, game 5, process of elimination.

Rep. Tenorio: Because I do not see the argument that cutting this down from 10 to 8 years after they pay all of these – they still have to go through another stage that you have to proof...about investment capital and you are not a crooked company...

Speaker Babauta: I understand that it has stringent criteria other than what is said on the law.

Rep. Tenorio: Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just pretty much concerned with the sentence here on the veto message. Let me just read it out. “To the extent that this bill appears to favor a specific business concern,” I mean just that language is basically – I just want to ask how true this is with the author, because this is basically a conviction of accusation.

Speaker Babauta: That is the same question that Representative Tenorio is alluding to.

Rep. Ogo: It is bothersome, Mr. Speaker, and if I may ask the author to please explain. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Any of the authors want to answer? None. Similarly, to what Representative Tenorio mentioned earlier, I do not know, who else bids? It is opening up the playing field to everybody. Unless you have a direct answer, Representative Torres?

Rep. Torres: I understand that you are the prime author.

Speaker Babauta: I am. That is why I am trying to answer Chairman Ogo’s...Ready. Clerk, call the roll on the motion.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to veto GOV. COMM. NO. 15-247 on H. B. NO. 15-237, HD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
If this is really to open up the opportunities for other businesses to participate – since this is an open market that we have here, I would have to vote, yes.	
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	no
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
As mentioned by Representative Ada, I think that it is best, yes.	
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
To allow local businesses to be afforded the opportunity to engage in this proposal, yes.	
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	no
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	yes
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Mr. Speaker, I fully understand the potential to abuse some of this type of legislation, you know, even in the business community out there, and if they labeled this legislation as a special interest bill, well, let me be clear, the Commonwealth and any other state and jurisdiction have what is called, “local preference legislation” that is to accommodate companies in the local that have been in the community in the particular jurisdiction preferential preferences for public vendors; such as buildings, RFP’s and whatnot. We have local preference clause in our procurement regulation in existence today. I believe that it is a good policy. Of course, this is very controversial because of the magnitude of the procurement process of privatization of the power plant. So it is a concern, but we also try to be consistent. My vote is, yes.	
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes

Mr. Speaker, my only concern is, this is such a huge undertaking, and I know that the people who are reviewing this will not just let it go for a few bucks. They should have the people in their heart when they make these kinds of decision because taking over the utility corporation is a huge undertaking, and requires a lot of investment. I only think that anybody that is capable of doing that and providing the best service to the community should be allowed to participate in this bidding. That is all I know, but if anybody, like I said, know of any illegal activity going on, I would like to know, but in the absence of that, I can safely vote, yes.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres yes

Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr. no

Rep. Ray N. Yumul yes

The way I read the bill, it is true that the Minority Leader did mentioned that we have put forward many local preference laws, legislation, which became law, and it is meant to provide for an opportunity for the businesses that have engaged here for certain number of years to get a slight advantage. The way I read this legislation, there is no mention of waiving financial requirements, so even if this bill becomes law, and preferences given to them to prequalify to bid, if they do not meet the financial requirements, they probably would not even get the contract anyway. So with that, I will vote, yes.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 14 “yes”, GOV. COMM. NO. 15-247 is hereby rejected by the House. Any more comment under the Governor’s Communication, and I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, in reference to GOV. COMM. NO. 15-252 relative to H. B. NO. 15-7, HS1, SD1.

Speaker Babauta: Proceed.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: This bill provides an opportunity for the CNMI government to complete some of our highway projects that are pending, and can be fast tracked rather than waiting for the grants every year to proceed with the projects. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I move to reject, GOV. COMM. 15-252, and call for an override of the bill.

The motion to override the Governor’s veto on H. B. NO. 15-7, HS1, SD1 was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Chairman Ada.

Rep. Ada: Mr. Speaker, I am just concerned about the – I wonder if anyone can enlighten me on the first page of the cover letter at the last sentence on the words, “stewardship agreement between the federal highway administration and the CNMI.”

Speaker Babauta: What is your question again?

Rep. Ada: I need clarity on the stewardship agreement between the federal highway administration and the CNMI.

Speaker Babauta: You are questioning the second paragraph last sentence?

Rep. Ada: Yes. I need some education.

Speaker Babauta: What do you want? The definition of the word “stewardship”?

Rep. Ada: What is the stewardship about between the FHA and the CNMI? It looks like the Governor is mentioning...

Speaker Babauta: The process of working together.

Rep. Ada: Well, is there any special agreement? That is what I am trying to come up with.

Speaker Babauta: To answer your concern, I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: I am not particularly sure what stewardship agreement this is specifically referring to. So the message itself is ambiguous, because if there is a specific violation that this legislation will have in regards to any agreement between the Federal Highway and the Commonwealth government, then it would have been spelled out specifically. So to me, it is an ambiguous, very general statement made by perhaps the Secretary of Public Works. Now, I do not believe that the legislation attempts to tie down the Secretary of the Department of Public Works in terms of how he proceeds with the implementation of projects and financing of highway funds. The legislation in the heading and throughout the provisions thereof authorizes, it merely authorizes the Department of Public Works to seek potential other avenues of financing for our highway system in the Commonwealth using Federal Highway funds, which we have been authorized for the next four or five years. The authorization is there, the authorization such that we have potentially averaged close to \$4 Million to \$4.5 Million a year. Now, the...bond itself is a grant authorization financing – this is a program that the Federal Highway Office have recommended the Commonwealth to consider. This legislation did not merely appear from thin air. It was a matter that was considered in the 13th, 14th, and now the 15th Legislature. I remembered having a meeting with staff of the Technical Services Division, the Highway Section, which administers these funds, and they had all the input into this legislation. In fact, this was drafted several times between the Public Works staff and my office. It was even reviewed by the lady that heads the Federal Highway in our region in Hawaii. Again, I would like to refer you to the Committee Report. I do not know if the Committee Report is attached to your package. When we passed this legislation, we had an extensive Committee Report, and it came out of the Ways and Means Committee. It is a very fairly well written report. It cited a lot of the legislative history, what a...bond is, and what those territorial transportation improvement plan is that we have in the books today. For the island of Saipan, it includes the cross island road and drainage improvement phase II, the cross island road and drainage improvement phase III, totaling \$12 Million dollars. Now, you know that if we are going to implement this, it will take us four years because it cost \$12 Million dollars. The Rota Route 201 and drainage improvement is \$2 Million. The Tinian Route 10 is \$2 Million dollars, totaling up to \$16 Million dollars of four year period. Again, if you go back, it merely authorizes the Department of Public Works. Now, it is up to the Secretary. This gives him under tool. It is up to him whether he does want to implement this. This is allowable under the Federal Highway Fund Program. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Ada.

Rep. Ada: I am well informed and I am supporting this bill. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Waki.

Rep. Waki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we look also on the Governor's respond on paragraph 2, the second sentence which is really key. "I am not confident that the Commonwealth is guaranteed to receive the required level of federal funding to address the required loan payments contemplated by this bill." We may want to give the Department of Public Works the authority to borrow money off of bonds, but even I had spoken with the Federal Highway Administrator from Honolulu, and she addressed major concerns over the past so many years on Federal Highway Funding, either not being used, or being used for not its intended purposes. She says that there were times when they were told that they were going to pull it. Now, this is not a joke, and we are thinking of borrowing money for future payment when we maybe pulled off federal funding in many different areas. WIA came over, and they wanted to pull funding. They did. They pulled about \$230,000.00 somewhat that was not used since the previous administration, and we did not use it in the first year. It is unfortunate, but Federal Funding has not gone up for us. It seems to have come down. So how can we justify being able to pay over a 10 year period at 7% interest on something that we do not even know if we are guaranteed to get. This is a very risky thing at a time that other revenues are dropping. We have Federal funding and they want is to make sure that the A&E design is put together so that we can start using the money, and right now, they are questioning whether they are going to leave the money with us, and this is our concern. Sitting with her for about an hour and a half talking to her about the issue; she says, this is nothing new. This issue has been an issue for so many years over different administration, and she had addressed it and addressed it. She says that she does not like coming out here to address the same problems. It is almost a waste of energy, but that is something that we need to address, and that is the utilization of these projects towards the plan. There is always supposedly a plan for the funding, and somehow, the funding is moved to something else. Now, who is responsible, we as an entire government who moves and shifts these funds around. The bottom line is, we cannot guarantee that the funds will be consistent for the next so many year, and that is the issue. So to allow DPW to go ahead and borrow some money and to leave it for somebody else to worry about down the road based on something we had no guarantee over, I do not see it being a smart move for us. We have some money to use. They said that we can reappropriate different funding for different highway projects to one or two other projects so that way there is enough funding if that is the priority that we have, but she says, we have to finalize priorities. Projects that have been funded and never been done – maybe it will never be done, so move back to what is needed to be done, and request for a movement of those funds for a particular projects, but she is waiting to see some of these constructive ideas to do that, and she is willing to approve it. So right now, I just do not believe that giving authorization to DPW to go after monies to finish certain projects which may end up causing us more than what we had anticipated years ago when we requested for the money. It is just going to be a never ending obstacle that we are going to have. We had projects that we never finished...

Speaker Babauta: Time out, change of tape...you may continue.

Rep. Waki: So I just believe that it is not a real good fiscal management for us to allow DPW who really at this point in time do not really want to do it, and I understand that there has been many conversations with maybe previous individuals with TSD, and Public Works, and I understand that everybody has their ideas, but it is the Director of Public Works who has the authority or we are giving him the authority, and he is not asking for that authority. So at this point in time, I just do not think that it is wise to override the veto from the Governor.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Point of information, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Under point of information, I recognize Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to kind of touch on Representative Waki's comments. You made several comments, one was that the Governor's comment in his vetoed message that he is not confident that the Commonwealth is guaranteed to receive the required level of Federal Funding to address the required loan payments. First of all, the funding that we are going to be committing is Congressional Funding that has been approved for the next four years – there has never been a case where U.S. Congress lowers the annual grant after it has appropriated it. So as far as confidence level, there is no precedence that would dictate that this funding will somehow be either reduced or eliminated once it has been appropriated. Second, I wanted to point out that federal grants have been going down to the contrary – federal highway administration funds for the CNMI has gone up. In previous years, it was \$3.2 Million per year, and other members can correct me if I am wrong here, but this last appropriation raised it to \$4.4 Million. Third, you were mentioning concerns that were raised by – I forgot the name of the lady that comes here from Federal Highway in Hawaii – I am aware of that. A lot of the problems are really attributed to this body by them changing the priorities for what would be funded, and we have done that through resolutions. This bill or this authorization measure does not intend to do anything like that. It merely authorizes the CNMI to borrow money to use for projects that are already listed in the TTIP, which has to be approved by the Federal Highway Administration. So it is consistent in that respect. It does not attempt to change priorities. Third, as Representative Palacios mentioned, this is an initiative that was raised by the Federal Highway Administration. In 1994, as the bill's findings states, that they launched an Initiative to identify barriers to federal highway infrastructure investments and to develop strategies to overcome this. The...bond is one such strategy. It provides flexibility and also makes it more efficient, and that you can reduce cost by completing or by getting proposals on time, the whole amount, and complete it, rather than to wait every year and doing it by piece meal. Like I said, this is an initiative by the Federal Highway Administration, and perhaps the biggest argument that I would like to place, or the reason why I am supporting this override is the fact that we the CNMI really need to find ways to infuse much needed funds into our economy, now and not later. This is an opportunity to get \$16 Million dollars to be infused into our local economy through construction of these road projects, not only on Saipan, but also Tinian and Rota. Why should we not do everything we can to get federal funding in, contract it out and construction going on? I will not even get into the spin off or the multiplier effect that such a project could entail. So I see it as a win-win for the CNMI. We would be almost negligent enough to try to go this route. I do not see any disadvantages here, and the only thing that we are committing is funding that is already guaranteed and appropriated, nothing more. We cannot commit future appropriations, but only what has been approved for the CNMI. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairwoman Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. I appreciate the information and I understand your concern. It also – my vote to support the override hinges on this language which says, “to authorize the department.” Ultimately, the decision is still in the hands of the Secretary of the Department of Public Works. So they may and may not take action on this, but at least the option is there for them, and we are leaving ourselves with more options to...as you say to find financing and be more creative, and pump some much needed money into our economy. So I am supporting the override.

Speaker Babauta: In the interest of our staff and the Bureau, we have four minutes to close this argument or debate. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, federal highway project is one of the foremost, and if it is not the most priority in the U. S. Congress, every appropriation you will see funding tag onto major appropriations for highway renovation, construction, repairs and whatnot. The funds we are receiving from the Federal Highway is a formula grant. We are guaranteed by the Federal Government percentage here in the CNMI including the territories. So the funds come every year to the CNMI. The problem that we face based on some of the comments that I heard from TSD in the past is that, these projects that are listed under the TTIP actually – if they are going to implement this, they cannot implement this at one time because it only comes every year. So to have them implement the TTIP, they need one time huge money like \$16 Million dollars to proceed and implement, and accomplish what is in the plan. A very good example is the Isa Road. The reason why Isa Road from San Vicente all the way to the traffic light down here in Capitol Hill that they go in faces is because they do not have the money up front, they do not have \$16 Million dollars up front to bid out the entire road project to be completed, and because of that, they go by phases. They are going to do phase I from round house to the blue tank, and then wait for the next year's funding, and bid from the blue tank to the mobil gas station down here in Kagman, and then wait again for the next funding, and bid out the project from the mobil gas station to here at the Legislature, and then wait again for the next year's funding to bid from the Legislature down to the traffic light. So this is what is hampering the TTIP, is that the funds do not come in advance. This bill is to expedite the construction of especially the Isa Road to be completed once the bond is undertaken and funds are available. With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and move to end debate.

Speaker Babauta: Before I recognize that motion, to close the debate, I recognize Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: Mr. Speaker, I agree with most of my colleagues that presented their views on this, but there is only one question that I have in mind. I am not too worried about the guaranteed, because with this process, we would have to go through bonding and whoever wants to finance the project needs to know all of this before they even finance the \$16 Million dollars. So I am sure that if we are not guaranteed, and we do not have the money and we cannot do it, they would not finance it. So that is the end of that, but my concern is on the Governor's Communication. The stewardship agreement, I would like to ask the legal counsel as to what this is, and is there any legal problem here that we might face if we do this? I think this would be my only concern as far as the guarantee. Can we look into this?

The Chair recognized House Legal Counsel Ian Catlett.

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: *I do not know what that agreement is, but I can check for it, and I would have to get back to you.*

Speaker Babauta: I am sure the sentence is alluding to the relationship of the department and the grantor as far as requesting Federal Highway Funds is concerned.

Rep. Tenorio: Yes, but their concern is that this might directly or indirectly affect the projects. So what if we are endeavoring into something that we do not know. That is my only concern, Mr. Speaker, but if I can be assured that this is not a problem, of course, I will vote for the override.

Speaker Babauta: Ready. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor's veto on H. B. NO. 15-7, HS1, SD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
I believe it is our responsibility to continue to develop our infrastructure, and I have been hearing about this cross-island project for over the years, Mr. Speaker, for almost 8 years, and I think we should incur this debt and do it. So my vote is, "yes."	
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	no
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By unanimous consent, GOV. COMM. NO. 15-252 is hereby rejected by the House. At this time, the Chair would like to request for recess until 2:00 p.m. this afternoon for the disposition of the remaining agenda. I ask all of you to please come back and we will finish the Resolution Calendar and the other remaining agenda. I want to expedite this session this afternoon because the Chairwoman on JGO and the Committee members would like to prepare for the public hearing this evening at 5:30 p.m. in the House Chamber regarding the Labor Reform Act.

The House recessed for lunch at 12:32 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:11 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session, and we left off with item number 5, unless there is anymore comment.

Rep. Ada: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Under privilege, Representative Ada.

Rep. Ada: Can we go back to item number 3.

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 15-270: A Bill for an Act to compensate Mr. Francisco Santos Deleon Guerreo as provided for in Public Law 13-17 for properties acquired by the CNMI Government and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada

The Chair recognized Representative Ogo.

Rep. Ogo: Mr. Speaker, just in reference to H. B. NO. 15-270, just a bit of information for the members, if this information is correct, there is only \$2,843.96 for land compensation. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you for the information. We will deliberate when we come to the appropriate venue. Let us move to item number 15 under Resolution Calendar.

Rep. Torres: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Under privilege, I recognize Representative Torres.

Rep. Torres: Can we move back to item number 7, please.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair recognized Representative Torres.

Rep. Torres: I have several House Communications. Let me touch the matter on CUC. This is a privilege speech, just to make it clear.

Speaker Babauta: Understood.

Rep. Torres: Mr. Speaker, and members, when will it stop? The mismanagement at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is becoming more and more unbearable. I have asked in the past for a thorough oversight hearing of CUC, and while I applaud Chairman Dela Cruz's attempts to bring CUC here for a comprehensive and can-opening hearing for CUC's large can of worms, the majority here that is in charge must insist as a body to bring in CUC before our Commonwealth and its people collapse under the strain placed on them by CUC's mismanaged monopoly over our very important source of water and power. The latest report in today's newspaper is stating that CUC has failed to collect over 300 thousand dollars from the Commonwealth's autonomous agencies, and are these agencies disconnected like our poor people who get disconnected in an abused flash by CUC?

This is madness for our people. Day after day we are witnessing unfortunate stories about CUC's criminal and mismanaged failures to collect monthly utility fees, and most people who pay their bills are realizing that maybe the high charges they pay just make up for CUC's failure to properly manage CUC. Let us ask now for the return of CUC as a line agency and the removal of CUC's dead wood like the ineffective Williams and Mathis. Let me acknowledge that the CUC personnel in the field are capable employees, but CUC needs a management team composed of more expert personnel. I have another privilege speech, Mr. Speaker, and members. I find it very ironic that Mr. Richard Pierce, who works as one of the Governor Fitial's special advisors and yes men, has criticized me and the Legislature for wanting to know the results of drug tests for the administration's appointees. These appointees occupy very important positions in our government, and as government leaders the Legislature needs to know their overall backgrounds, including personal finances and drug testing. The Governor himself acknowledges this in his appointment letters to the Legislature, and he even states that the results of the appointees' drug tests will be made available. So, should we legislators be criticized by Mr. Pierce when we request the missing drug test results? I find it disgusting that Mr. Pierce makes insinuations that important inquiries about the missing results just unnecessary witch hunts. Mr. Pierce wants us to believe that drug test results are meaningless, and that the Legislature should not be given the results. Maybe Mr. Pierce's fuzzy thinking is a product of his own reported drug abuse in the past, and that his apparent two visits to Hazelton drug rehab has not really impress him about the need for honesty in revealing one's drug abuse when necessary. I want Mr. Pierce to know that I strongly reject his trying to smear me in the public, and I urge him to look in a mirror when he desires to look at a real witch, who is now parading around in special's clothing. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you, Representative Torres. My reply to your request last week should be in your office this afternoon. It is already finished, and I asked my Secretary to deliver that letter to your office.

Rep. Torres: Mr. Speaker, may I? I hereby submit this as a House Communication. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Any more under item 7? Okay, without objection we will move down to item number 15 under Resolution Calendar.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, to suspend pertinent House rules for the placement and adoption of H. R. NO. 15-118 through H. R. NO. 15-132, HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-94, HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-95 and HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-96.

The suspension motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. Adoption motion, Floor Leader for the three Resolutions.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker for the adoption of all the Resolutions that appear on today's Calendar.

The adoption motion was seconded.

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-94: A House Commemorative Resolution commemorating Asiana Airlines' Inaugural Flight from Incheon, Korea, to Saipan, CNMI, on May 27, 2007.

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-95: A House Commemorative Resolution to honor the memory of Technical Sergeant Hardy Richards, United States Air Force Retired, and commemorate his dedication and outstanding service to the people of this nation.

HSE. COMM. RES. NO. 15-96: A House Commemorative Resolution to honor the memory of Specialist Mariano Santiago Sablan, U.S. Army Veteran, and to recognize his longtime employment with the Commonwealth Government.

H. R. NO. 15-118: A House Resolution to direct the House Legal Counsel to file a brief of amicus curiae in the matter of Pangelinan & Sablan, in the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

H. R. NO. 15-119: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Raena P. Cing for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 3rd place in the Chamorro Proficiency category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. NO. 15-120: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Myrese Ann Rose N. Cruz for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Oratorical Speech category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. No. 15-121: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate the Tinian Junior and Senior High School Choral Reading Team for their outstanding performance in garnering 2nd place in the Choral Reading category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. No. 15-122: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Mary M. Hocog for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 2nd place in the Poetry Recitation category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. No. 15-123: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Megan L. Cruz for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Oratorical Speech category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. No. 15-124: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Mr. Joseph H. Ada for delivering an outstanding performance and garnering 1st place in the Male Vocalist category during the 4th Annual *CHamoru* Language Competition held on Guam.

H. R. No. 15-125: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Genevieve Santos for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-126: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Denise Guiao for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-127: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Nikita P. Mendiola for winning the Best Witness Award during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-128: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Kaisha Aquino for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-129: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Joelene Lizama for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-130: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Michelle Aquiningoc for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. No. 15-131: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Louvelle Borja for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team

that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

H. R. NO. 15-132: A House Resolution to recognize and congratulate Miss Winona Maratita for delivering an outstanding performance as a member of the Tinian High School Mock Trial Team that placed 35th in the Nation during the 2007 National Mock Trial Championship held in Dallas, Texas.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion on any of the Resolutions? I understand the requests of the authors that all Resolutions are sponsored as Committee as a Whole.

There being no further discussion, all the Resolutions were carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. Floor Leader, suspension motion for the placement of those bills that were requested to be calendared on today's Order of Business.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the suspension of pertinent rules for placement on today's Calendar, H. B. No. 15-267, H. B. No. 15-268, H. B. No. 15-269 and H. B. No. 15-270.

The suspension motion was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion on the suspension motion? I recognize Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Just clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: State your point of clarification.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: The author of H. B. No. 15-268 only asked for passage on First Reading.

Speaker Babauta: Correct. This is just for placement.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: But you said placement and passage.

Speaker Babauta: Yes, but we will come down to the passage motion, and we will make reference for First Reading only.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

There being no further discussion, the suspension motion was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. Floor Leader, you may proceed with the first bill.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading, H. B. No. 15-238.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 15-238: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL MANUFACTURES IN THE CNMI TO LABEL THEIR MANUFACTURED, GROWN, PRODUCED OR ASSEMBLED PRODUCTS AS “MADE, IN (‘ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, OR ANY ISLAND TO THE NORTH OF SAIPAN’), COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.”

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer an oral floor amendment.

Speaker Babauta: Proceed.

Rep. Yumul: Starting on page 2, line 18, to insert, “(c) The word ‘made’ as described in subsection (b) of Section 3 of this Act may be substituted with the word ‘manufactured, grown, produced, or assembled’ as appropriate.”

Speaker Babauta: Does everyone have that. Is it a written amendment?

Rep. Yumul: Yes, written.

Speaker Babauta: Have copies been made?

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Short recess, Mr. Speaker.

The House recessed at 2:24 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:28 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session, and I recognize Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to restate my amendment. I would like to introduce H. B. NO. 15-238 in a House Draft 1 version.

The amendment offered by Representative Yumul was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: We will be voting on H. B. No. 15-238, HD1. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 15-238, HD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a unanimous consent of the House, H. B. NO. 15-238, HD1 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, number two.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading H. B. NO. 15-246.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 15-246: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in regards to page 2 of the bill under Section 3 “Metering.” My concern here is the – not all meters are being read in a timely fashion. There are growing concerns that some meters or accounts would have a 31 day billing cycle, and some would be 26, 24, 34, and some as high as 40 days. I think that it is very critical for us to make sure that the metering is done in a streamly timely fashion because if we do not, it may push customers to the next step, the over 500 kilowatt hour for example. So I would like to ask the author if he is willing to add another sentence perhaps to allow that all metered accounts shall have a monthly billing cycle of no greater than 32 days to give CUC that extra day to send people out. Ideally, we would like them to do 30 day billing cycles, but considering the fact that there are some accounts that are in remote areas, they may need the extra day to drive out. I think that by making that type of an amendment would be very reasonable.

The Chair recognized the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: I am certainly amendable to that recommendation, Mr. Speaker, certainly my good colleague is more than welcome to make that amendment. I believe that he had a legislation – a very similar legislation, and I would like to defer the issue back my colleague, and...

The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you. Mr. Speaker...

Speaker Babauta: Before I recognize you for the amendment, I would like to recognize Representative Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recalled, we raised this issue with CUC, the one time that they came in here to answer questions regarding the rates, and that was a serious concern because if you are billed an extra 2 or 3 days, what ends up happening is that, that would come in at the tail end of your kilowatt hours, and what happens is that you would get billed at the highest schedule. I recalled them mentioning to us that they took that into consideration, and that you maybe billed or receive on the billing a 32 to 33 days, but that either could be adjusted or they will adjust it so that the extra days after the 30th day will not be billed on that current billing. What I do not know is whether you as a customer need to go up and request that. It should be automatic, but that I do not know at this point. So whether it warrants legislation or just an amendment of their regulations is something that we might discuss here today. I do know that they are cognizant of that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Are you still willing to offer the amendment?

Rep. Yumul: I think so, Mr. Speaker. I share the sentiments of Representative Deleon Guerrero, but I did have the experience through a family member who had a meter that was not able to be read so they gave the highest rate, and I think it was over 2,000 kilowatt with a \$400.00 bill, and when they had requested to have CUC go out and re-read the meter, CUC wanted to charge a fee to go out and re-read the meter. They said that they had already gone through the area and it will cost them expenses to drive back to read just that one meter. What ended up happening was that under the suggestion of the family member was to take the daily newspaper for that day, put it right up next to the meter, show the security tag that it has not been tampered with, take a photo of the meter itself, and brought that up to CUC, and then when they made the adjustment, the total billing was only \$11.00. So I can tell you first hand, that if we do not put anything in language in the form of a law, situation like this can always happen.

Speaker Babauta: I understand. Furthermore, I just want to caution you on your statement since you had – on a family member having to have a similar. So just be careful. I recognize Representative Torres.

Rep. Torres: It sounds like he is talking about my power bill. My meter too, they took picture of my bill, and they bill me three times less than what...

Speaker Babauta: I hope you are the family that he is talking about.

Rep. Torres: How did he know that?

Speaker Babauta: Ready.

Rep. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, starting on line 26, page 2, after the word, “three months” a new sentence. “All metered accounts shall have a monthly billing cycle of no greater than 32 days, except that the month of February’s billing cycle shall not be greater than 30 days.”

The amendment offered by Representative Yumul was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Representative Torres.

Rep. Torres: Mr. Speaker, I just hope that the House passes this bill. Our people are waiting for this bill. They are crying for something from us. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: I just hope too that we have enough to cover the fuel cost.

There being no further discussion, the oral floor amendment offered by Representative Yumul was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. We will continue to discuss, H. B. NO. 15-246, HD1. Ready. I recognize Chairman Waki.

Rep. Waki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get a clarification if possible from our legal counsel. Now that we had passed a law having a PUC, and here we are adjusting rates, is it – are we legally able to adjust rates now that we have a PUC that is supposed to be put in place to regulate rates? Are we allowed to circumvent what their responsibility is? I just need to find that out. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Dela Cruz.

Rep. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the absence of the PUC Commission, this body is and will make legislation through that absence of PUC. The PUC Commission will not be organized in time. This Commission will not be able to promulgate policies and regulations for utility companies in the Commonwealth, and so therefore, I believe that this body is the right body to make the necessary changes for these times of I would say hardship towards the people. Until such time that a PUC is organized that I believe PUC should be given the chance, and should be given the respect it deserves to promulgate the policies and regulations that they are tasked to do for any utilities company, whether it be the electrical, CUC itself, or even a private company such as PTI and Cable. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Waki.

Rep. Waki: I thank the fine Chairman for that, but I am still looking for a legal opinion. I cannot in all good conscience to say that we are not authorized basically to review, we are not trained like a PUC Board or even a regulatory commission to review rates. We can recommend rates, but to review it and to see how an agency is to survive based on its rates, I do not think that we have the expertise that is supposed to do that. That is why regulatory commission like PUC will be send out – people will be send out to be trained to learn how to do that. I understand, the intent is to lower the rates, but at what expense also, because of the fact that we are not trained in this regulatory work,

and I just wanted to ask the legal counsel, because we have a law in place. In the absence of the law, I would just like to get some kind of a legal opinion before I can make a reasonable decision here...

Rep. Palacios: Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Under privilege, I recognize the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that my good colleague, Representative Waki is asking for an opinion from the legal counsel, but let me simply say that we as elected leaders have the Constitutional right to do this. We do. CUC is a creation of statute. PUC is a creation of statute. Therefore, I certainly believe that the Legislature has every right to legislate this. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Chairman Waki.

Rep. Waki: I still, like I said, as much as I appreciate the answers from the members, the members are not legal counsels, and I appreciate their thoughts, but I still like to get an answer. It is not for anybody else's sake, but my own. I would just like to get a clarification. Thank you.

The Chair recognized House Legal Counsel Ian Catlett.

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you can do it. The Legislature created the PUC, so you could abolish it or change it, and now you have a withstanding clause at the beginning of Section 2 that would have this legislation preempt anything that PUC did on that subject. So yes, you can do it.

The Chair recognized Chairman Waki.

Rep. Waki: And that is all I really wanted to find out. I just hope that if this passes, and we pass it on to the consumers, and the funding is not sufficient enough for CUC to run its operation to such time that PUC comes on board, I hope we all realize here as to whose fault it was. That is all I wanted to say. As much as we want to save the people, but the bottom line is, we are in dire straits at CUC, and it has its problems, but it also needs finances to fix its problems. Unfortunately, we do not have the money to give them, and even the monies that we are giving them, it is going to take some time for them to recover. I am just saying that we just have to be very careful about how we micromanage different companies. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Ready. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 15-246, HD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Mr. Speaker, in order to provide some relief to our community, I vote yes.	
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	abstained
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 16 “yes”, H. B. NO. 15-246, HD1 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, number 3.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading, H. B. NO. 15-267.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. Are we ready? I recognize Chairwoman Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: Just clarification, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask the author before lowering this investment permit for long-term from a \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00, what is short-term?

Speaker Babauta: Say that again?

Rep. Kaipat: We are referring to the deposit that is required for an applicant. The long-term foreign investment permit from \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00, this is what this bill is intended to do. I am saying that if we are lowering it from a \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00 for long-term foreign investment, then what would the amount be for a short-term investor?

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. For that matter, Representative Kaipat, I have in the bill an amendment on the back where it says, this was a bond supposedly for two years, instead renewably in one year. So this is only for a year basis. As a matter of fact the short-term of one year is the number one.

Speaker Babauta: Representative Yumul, are you familiar with the business bracket?

Rep. Yumul: As far as short-term goes, Mr. Speaker, that is a totally different issue. This amendment that the Floor Leader is proposing just aims to amend Public Law 13-51. The issue that is befalling these investors is that, there are not that many insurance companies or surety companies that are able to get the type of bonding requirements because the Department of Commerce is bound by the laws that were enacted prior – they want to use deposits that they have in the banks that the Department of Commerce has access to – the issue really is with the...listed companies. A lot of them actually have vacated the Commonwealth and there are not that many around anymore. So just like the way we had given QC participants benefits to invest here. We want to try to allow those that are here that are not big companies, but are notable businesses that have been here for many years

that are finding it difficult to maintain surety bonds only because there are not that many out there. Some of them even want to provide a bank account with \$25,000.00. Of course, the \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00 is a policy call, and I think this is a good legislation, and we need all the help we can right now. We are losing a lot of businesses and this is a good measure for the little guys.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. I recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, the bill does not intent to reduce the deposit from \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00. This is the current statute. The bill is only trying to amend the two-years renewable bond to one-year. So this means that if the surety bond of the businesses is to secure surety bonds, if this bill becomes laws that they will renew their surety bond every year instead of the current statute of every two-years.

The Chair recognized the Minority Leader.

Rep. Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of surety and security that we impose on these businesses, Mr. Speaker, to me is very minimal. My concern, and if it does help, and if it would help the foreign investment activities in the Commonwealth, I will support this legislation, but we must be concern also that there will be some bad apples. This is very realistic that we will have foreign investors that are, as the terms goes, fly by nights. We have seen recruiting agencies come in here, recruit nonresident workers, and left them without any employment and have left the Commonwealth. This is the type of surety that we are trying to ensure again. We have also foreign companies that have come to our shores, set up shops, employ nonresident workers, and then left the Commonwealth; living the cost of making these employees whole to the Commonwealth. I note however that the Secretary of Commerce will be tasked, and this is an additional burden on them to be on top of this, to make sure that these surety companies are indeed capable of the insurance policy that they issue out. We had experience companies set up as insurance companies or surety bond companies – almost as useless and worthless as the bonds are issued particularly on the labor bonds, but if we can trust Department of Commerce and the insurance commissioner – putting an additional burden on them to make sure that surety bonding company are legitimate, able, and are capitalize adequately to carry out the bonds that they issue out. That is something that we really have to emphasize with the Department of Commerce if this thing is going to work. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Public Law 13-51, if I am not mistaken was authored by former Representative Andrew Salas dropping the threshold from \$200,000.00 to \$100,000.00. One convincing amendment here on page 2 was it continues to carry the mandate of the original law which is Public Law 13-51 that allows for the bank – approved by the banking commissioner to withhold and certify to the issuing authority, in this case, the Department of Commerce that there is sufficient capital that warrants approval of application for foreign investment permit and business license. The only changes here other than the changes that I noticed is dropping the two-years to one-year, which is a very good move that would allow for annual review of the investment or for that matter the investor. The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Rep. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to correct the earlier statement, Public Law 13-51 did reduced the \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

Speaker Babauta: It did right?

Rep. Yumul: Yes, and then the amendments as outlined in this bill – the reason of the one-year renewable is because when it comes to surety bonds, performance bonds, and even bid bonds, anything longer than one year becomes very difficult and expensive to maintain, because your company as it is set up has to provide certain financial to the bonding company, and when it is a multi-year bond, bonding companies get very nervous because you can have gains in one year and you can have losses for the next. So if it is not done properly, of course, the bonding companies are going to lose out, and will be forced to pay. So to help correct that, the fees will be increased; it will become inherently difficult for bonding companies to accept applicants. The one year renewable makes it a lot easier because then they can ask the companies that are looking to renew to go through CPA's for annual reports such as the financials and the likes. So, this makes it a lot more easier for both the bonding companies and the foreign investors to conduct business here.

Speaker Babauta: Okay. I recognize Chairwoman Kaipat.

Rep. Kaipat: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate all the explanations, and Representative Palacios is absolutely correct. We had discussed this at length about surety bonds and our concerns that they deliver when it is time to pay out. So I was concern about this to make sure that we are...**[End of Tape 3, Side A]**

Rep. Tenorio:...**[Beginning of Tape 3, Side B]**...clarification on page 2.

Speaker Babauta: State your clarification.

Rep. Tenorio: On page 2, line 24. I am reading this and there is a word between “shall” and “be” that is probably missing. Is that “shall be” or “shall not be”?

Speaker Babauta: Page 2, line 24.

Rep. Tenorio: If you read the entire sentence, and I stand corrected, but I thought maybe it should say, “shall not be released” instead of “shall be released.”

Speaker Babauta: I think this is the present language of Public Law 13-51.

Rep. Tenorio: But is it accurate? I mean, if you read the entire sentence...

The Chair recognized the House Legal Counsel.

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: I am looking at Public Law 13-51, it should be “shall be released.” It is the same as it is in the bill.

Rep. Tenorio: It is correct?

Legal Counsel Ian Catlett: Yes.

Rep. Tenorio: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I want to make an oral floor amendment on line 17.

Speaker Babauta: Continue.

Rep. Tenorio: After the word, “taxes are fully satisfied”, insert, “and accounts all the CNMI government are fully paid.” There are so many reasons for doing that. Sometimes they do not pay the hospital or they do not pay the utilities and just take off. So I think that would address some of the concerns before they draw their bonds. I so moved, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Before I second that, can he read that again?

Speaker Babauta: Can you repeat that again, Representative Tenorio.

Rep. Tenorio: “That all applicable taxes and financial obligations to the CNMI government are fully satisfied.” I just changed the order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Babauta: Okay, repeat one more time slowly and clearly.

Rep. Tenorio: On line 17, after the word, “taxes” insert, “and financial obligations to the CNMI government are fully satisfied.”

Speaker Babauta: Is that clear?

The oral amendment offered by Representative Tenorio was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. We will continue to discuss H. B. NO. 15-267, HD1. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 15-267, HD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	excused
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 16 “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-267, HD1 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Representative Ogo is excused at this time. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved for the passage on First and Final Reading, H. B. No. 15-270.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. No. 15-270: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO COMPENSATE MR. FRANCISCO SANTOS DELEON GUERRERO AS PROVIDED FOR IN PUBLIC LAW 13-17 FOR PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE CNMI GOVERNMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion. I recognize Representative Ada.

Rep. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the reason why we are introducing basically this bill is through a request made to reintroduce this as a resolution when we had the Saipan Northern Island Legislative Delegation Session. Now, we are transferring it actually, and making it into a bill for the purpose that the person here by the name of Francisco Santos Deleon Guerrero was not included under Public Law 13-17, which is the authorization to authorize CDA to float the \$40 Million bond for the land compensation. Thank you.

Speaker Babauta: Thank you. Ready. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. No. 15-270 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	yes
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	excused
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 16 “yes”, H. B. No. 15-270 passes the House on First and Final Reading.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for the passage on First and Final Reading, H. B. No. 15-269.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Babauta: Discussion.

Rep. Yumul: Mr. Speaker, short recess.

The House recessed at 3:07 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:08 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, to go into Executive Session.

There was no objection and the motion to go into Executive Session was carried by voice vote.

The House went into Executive Session at 3:08 p.m.

Executive Session

The House reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

Speaker Babauta: We are back to our plenary session. We continue to discuss, H. B. NO. 15-269. As a matter of record of the Legislature pursuant to the Constitution in our Rules that we openly now discuss what the result is of our Executive Session. So who is the mover of the amendment? I recognize Chairwoman Kaipat, recognized.

Rep. Kaipat: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to offer this substitute language for – it is a written floor amendment, and this is replacing line 3 of the second page down to line 8, and it shall read, “§ **9913. Legislative Branch: Applicability.** The public records of the Legislative Bureau and financial records of expenditures made by members of the Legislature from funds appropriated pursuant to Article II, Section 16 of the Commonwealth Constitution shall be subject to 1 CMC § 9917. Any request to make a public record or financial record available for inspection or copying pursuant to 1 CMC § 9917 shall be subject to the exemptions listed in 1 CMC § 9918. Requests for financial records under this section shall be made directly to the member of the Legislature receiving funds pursuant to Article II, Section 16 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Financial Records of a member shall not be released by any person other than that member.”

The written floor amendment offered by Representative Kaipat was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. We will continue to discuss, H. B. NO. 15-269, HD1. Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 15-269, HD1 on First and Final Reading:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Jacinta M. Kaipat	yes
Rep. Jesus SN. Lizama	excused
Rep. Crispin M. Ogo	excused
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Benjamin B. Seman	yes
Rep. Candido B. Taman	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. Absalon V. Waki, Jr.	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes

Speaker Babauta: By a vote of 15 “yes”, H. B. NO. 15-269, HD1 passes the House on the First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, can I have a motion to refer item number 8 on the Bill Calendar to the appropriate Committee?

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, to refer S. B. NO. 15-87, SD1 to the respective Committee.

The motion to refer S. B. NO. 15-87, SD1 to the respective Committee was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is carried. You may proceed with your last motion, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero: So moved, Mr. Speaker, for recess subject to your call.

Speaker Babauta: The motion is undebatable, and may I again remind the members of the JGO as requested by Chairwoman Kaipat that she wanted to meet with you briefly immediately after the session before the 5:30 p.m. public hearing. Okay. The House stands recess subject to the call.

MISCELLANEOUS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

The House adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

Second appearance

None

Third Appearance:

H. L. B. NO. 15-62: A Local Appropriation Bill for an Act to appropriate \$30,000.00 from Saipan Local Law 15-12, Section 2(f); and for other purposes. (Rep. Candido B. Taman)

H. L. B. NO. 15-63: A Local Appropriation Bill for an Act to appropriate \$88,000.00 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes. (Rep. Crispin M. Ogo)

H. L. B. NO. 15-64: A Local Appropriation Bill to establish a local fee on car rental and scooter rental in the Second Senatorial District and to create the Tinian Tourism and Beautification Fund; and for other purposes.