



House Journal

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

Eleventh Day

Friday, October 31, 2008

The House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Eleventh Day, Second Regular Session on Friday, October 31, 2008, at 10:22 a.m., at the Rota Courthouse on Rota.

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll and fourteen members were present; Representatives David M. Apatang, Oscar M. Babauta, Diego T. Benavente, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Joseph C. Reyes, and Stanley T. Torres were absent and excused.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Before we move any further, I would like to thank the Judicial Branch for allowing us to use their judicial building. I would also like to welcome and thank Mayor Inos, a long time Senator from the First Senatorial District, and present Mayor, who is joining us this morning. I would also like to welcome the distinguished members of the Rota Gaming Commission, Chairman Songao and other government officials. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the senior class of student government for Rota High School. Thank you and we are honored to have you join us during this session. If there is no objection on the floor, I would like to resolve into Committee of the Whole so we can have the Mayor of Rota give us a few words.

There was no objection.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, motion to rise into Committee as a Whole so we can entertain the message from the Mayor of Rota, the Honorable Joseph Inos.

The motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

The House dissolved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:26 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House returned to plenary session at 11:17 a.m.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to resolve back to our session.

The motion to resolve back was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried. Let me call a two minute recess.

The House recessed at 11:17 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. Let us move down to Introduction of Bills.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 16-181: A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC § 1622; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Joseph C. Reyes

Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 16-182: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 2 of Public Law 13-38.; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Victor B. Hocog

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 16-183: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 1331 and 1332 of the Commonwealth Code pertaining to divorce or dissolution of marriage; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Joseph N. Camacho

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 16-184: A Bill for an Act to provide for greater control and regulation on the hiring, training and licensing of security guards; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Joseph N. Camacho

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 16-185: A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC § 1503 and 4 CMC § 1505(a), as established by Public Law 15-78; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Victor B. Hocog and one other

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 16-186: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 2 of Public Law 13-48; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Victor B. Hocog and one other

H. B. NO. 16-187: A Bill for an Act to amend Section 7(a)(2) and repeal and reenact Section 7(c) of the Rota Casino Act of 2007; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Victor B. Hocog

H. L. B. NO. 16-23: A House Local Bill for an Act for the First Senatorial District to appropriate \$40,000.00 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Victor B. Hocog

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Clerk, H. L. B. NO. 16-23 was prefiled, and Representative Hocog is now requesting that it will be considered as H. B. NO. 16-187. Let me recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: I just want some clarification whether the Casino Initiative allows amendments through a House Bill or Local Delegation.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Because of the need of the clarity of the amendment, it would be more expeditious to make it as a House Bill rather than a House Local Bill.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 16-61: A House Resolution to recognize and commend Ms. Kim Prinz, President of the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteer Association for her untiring dedication and selfless contributions of her TIME to the CHC Volunteer Association for over 18 years.

Offered by: Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider

H. R. NO. 16-62: A House Resolution to respectfully encourage the Board and the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) to deny granting additional benefits to existing Qualifying Certificate to Saipan LauLau Development, Inc.

Offered by: Rep. Ray N. Yumul

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 16-235: (10/23/08) Certification for a vacant position within the Office of the Governor.

GOV. COMM. 16-236: (10/24/08) Executive Order 2008-19 - Renewal of Declaration of a State of Emergency for the Pharmacy Department at CHC.

GOV. COMM. 16-237: (10/27/08) Extension of the State of Emergency declaration for the island of Anatahan.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This refers to GOV. COMM. 16-236, the renewal of Declaration of State of Emergency for the Pharmacy Department at CHC. This came up as a subject of discussion at our session, and it was pointed out by various members that the Declaration of State of Emergency was unnecessary, and there were some provisions in the existing law that were

pointed to that would have – giving the Governor other avenues for permitting the hiring of a Pharmacist, which we all agree is desperately needed at the Commonwealth Health Center. I want to clarify it from you, Mr. Speaker, if there has been any formal communication with the Governor about the Pharmacy issue, particularly with respect to the lack of necessity for Declaring a State of Emergency that seems to be a rather extreme measure and unnecessary with that. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. I also note that this is becoming a very disturbing approach to...with the Governor. If you all recalled, we had an issue with the Pharmacy bill that was vetoed, and we would...some sense of urgency and left legislation on the pharmacy issue...salary cap is with the Senate. I would like to at this point in time take a more direct approach in finding out what seems to be...with the Pharmacy at CHC. I have given it some thought and I would like to ask our Committee on JGO and HEW to please schedule a meeting with the Secretary of Public Health and OPM, and also ask the Attorney General to join us in this meeting so that we can get to the bottom of this once and for all. I will ask the Senate to act on the House Bill that we passed several sessions ago to see if they can expedite passage on that legislation. Thank you.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 16-92: (10/24/08) From the Senate President Reyes information the Speaker of his appointments to the Conference Committee on H. B. NO. 16-169, HD9, SS1, FY 2009 Budget Act.

Representative Hocog: On behalf of your Conference Committee, Representative Quitugua and Representative Aldan, and myself, Mr. Speaker, we had met your Committee for the Conference in the Budget. We have met twice, and we have place before the Senate the position of the House of Representative regarding the Non-Austerity measures for this Fiscal Year, and we strongly mentioned that the House stand back on their decision not to have Austerity measures during the FY 09 Budget. We have progress in our conference, and hopefully that your Committee along with the Senate will resolute the concerns by probably next week Friday and then we can move forward with the passage or rejection of the appropriation bill for FY 09. Unless, there is any particular concern that the members would like to know, the Committee stands ready to address at this point in time, if not, we can address that during the leadership and other members in the House of Representatives.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you for that information.

Representative Hocog: And for that, Mr. Speaker, the Senate Conferees also are amendable for the Non-Austerity measures, and this also will confirm as we receive the information from the Secretary of Finance on the status of additional or any resources that will take care of the shortfall of FY 08 and the anticipated shortfall for FY 09. Once your Conferees meet, we will come up with the complete package and decision of what we...but we set the deadline for next Friday. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I surely thank you and members of the House for that update. I know that there were some...and I hope that the negotiating points...successful...in the guidelines of the FY 09 Budget... [Inaudible] Representative Sablan recognized.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot help but notice with interest that GOV. COMM. 16-235 pertains to the hiring of a Community Development Specialist for the Office of the Governor, which the Governor deems to be of vital importance for the...Central Parks Services. And on top of that, the Special Assistant for the Administration is also requesting a waiver of the

announcement. Apparently, they already have somebody in mind for this position and will not be needing the announcement, not giving a chance for other people to compete for that. So, besides the fact that I do not know what a community development specialist is or what it does, I do not know why is it vital and important, and I do not understand why we would waive the announcement. We are under a continuing resolution and we are very concerned about implementing austerity measures, and the Senate's budget version anyway zeros out certain vacant positions, and in the midst of all these, we are apparently still hiring. I just want to raise this particularly to the attention of the members who are assigned to the Joint Conference Committee. I am not one who would want to ever recommend micromanagement to the Executive Branch, but I think that we should raise a concern because this is one example of hiring that is continuing, and there may be others that would be impacting the budget even as we speak before we even have a budget. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I was also concern about that. It is part of the reason why we need to move on with the passage of the budget. Perhaps we should revisit...continuing of hiring...just to submit papers to the Legislature without...any say so whether it is justifiable or not. These certifications have become a...plate. Let me recognize Representative Salas.

Representative Salas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have couple of questions that I want to ask my colleague on my right here. I know that there are three members of this House that compromise of this Committee, but I just have a concern on the budget, and I was just wondering if my colleague would be open to any suggestions or comments before Friday. Second, I did not...and it would be nice if we are advised to the total expenditure for the government for Fiscal Year 2008, and whatever date that I have...provided to the Committee, and perhaps if they can share that with us.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I believe the Executive Branch would have to close its books...

Representative Salas: Yes, I understand, but I believe the most current that we have is up to June only.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I certainly do not have that. Maybe the Chair of Ways and Means can explain that.

Representative Yumul: Earlier this week, I sent out a letter to the Secretary of Finance requesting for – in two parts, one is the total revenues received for FY 08, and also the expenditures for FY 08.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Representative Salas, I believe the Chair had already requested for those. Once you get those information Chairman Yumul, I want you to share those with the members. Representative Hocog, recognized.

Representative Hocog: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any objection from any members to provide the Conference Committee what you think we can lay on the table to discuss with the Senate so we can discuss them. So I welcome any members with any concerns that you have that pertains to the Fiscal year 2009 budget. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let us move down to item 10 on the Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, this is a new development with the Retirement Fund. Apparently, our current health care, AETNA Global Benefits, which handles our health care programs has increased the premiums for both retirees and employees at 12.9% across the board. The letter was written to you, Mr. Speaker, so that...our budget is...adjusted to take this into account. I just want to ask if perhaps one of our Committee chairs could sit down with the Retirement Fund to justify this increase. This is a substantial increase not only to our employees, but primarily for the retirees who have been receiving their pensions without the annual cost of living allowance adjustments. So this would be a significant increase for them. And I just want to recommend that maybe JGO is the appropriate committee to look into this and report back to the House members. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Before I recognize the good Chair of JGO, I was thinking about this issue and saw the need for...and the Retirement Fund to provide some clarifications in terms of the impact of the employer contribution to the health insurance...that has to be re-adjusted within the FY 2009 budget. And also get a feel as to how much this would impact the employees'...Since I had already assigned multiple tasks to the Committee on JGO and HEW, I am going to task the Vice Speaker to set up a meeting with the Retirement Fund – would you...?

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: So noted, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Santos.

Representative Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Vice Speaker has been tasked, I want to offer to assist him on this matter.

Representative Hocog: For point of information, Mr. Speaker, what is the present percentage being charged to the retirees in their health care?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I am not familiar with that right now. I do not have the number right on top of my head, but that raise today is going to increase by 112%.

Representative Hocog: So, Mr. Speaker, assuming that there is an 8% being charged to the retirees, so that means that in addition to the 8%, there will be charged on top of that?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: No, it will be I guess it will be 12% of the 8%. Okay. Thank you. Ready. Let us move on to Miscellaneous Communication.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I guess MISC. COMM. 16-54...by...Conference Committee. And,...talk to the Chair of Commerce and Tourism on MISC. COMM. 16-53 and MISC. COMM. 16-55 as they pertain the same piece of information that has been introduced in the House. Representative Yumul, you have a House Communication?

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Yumul: Yes, Mr. Speaker, HSE. COMM. 16-79 which was filed earlier today in light of an article that came out on Tuesday, October 28th regarding an order of writ of execution that was signed by Judge Alex R. Munson, which he ordered the U.S. Marshall to seize the Department of Public Lands funds held in bank accounts or any other properties to satisfy payment to Antonio S. Camacho. Because of this reason, I have set official communications to Secretary of Finance, Department of Public Lands, the Attorney General's Office, and also any other agencies that have been given judgment. The Committee wants to know basically how much is out there, and in light of this issue, we need to know what...order is, and eventually I will...that out and forward that to the Chairwoman on JGO because this is a very interesting and troubling issue...provide the financial...that have come in, but I think that it is a very dangerous...that has been set. I do not know what the form...both from a legal point, but I will get the financial ramification of this should we see a flood of suits go down that road through the federal court. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: You said, you sent out formal communications or letters...the affirmation...I had also asked the legal counsel to take a look at the order, the decision in that order and provide the House with the report to show a summary of...Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Just so that members are aware, I had asked for specific information such as the actual case number, the parties involved, final disposition, any payments made if any, and whether or not the interest rate is compounded and if so,...The final disposition will also include whether it was a settlement or a decision so that we will have that information. I had notified them to provide this information within 10 working days. I have copies here.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Once you get that information, please provide them to the members as soon as possible. Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can address to the Chair on Ways and Means, Representative Yumul, either with that letter or maybe a separate letter to ask the question also whether or not...be true upon the Covenant. It is very clear that some of these land compensations from the CNMI government receive...piece of land or roadway...public lands is...by the people who are Northern Marianas descent that under Article XI of the CNMI Constitution, when the Trust Territory transferred property, it was very clear when they said, property owned by the Trust Territory government is not transferred to the CNMI government, and properties that are not private property...is collectively owned by the people of the Commonwealth. And if the Department of Public Lands is taking rents from those public lands, those rents collected belong to the people of the Commonwealth who are Northern Marianas descent. And for the actions of the CNMI

government...perhaps you can discuss that in your letter with the Attorney General – where is the judgment to be satisfied – whether from the CNMI government or from Public Lands? Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios:...Chair on JGO and the Floor Leader, since you folks are legal counsels by occupation and by profession, would you both be willing to assist our legal counsels looking at the...of this case? Hopefully, we could get a legal report that you could provide to the House so we know where we could go on this. I recognize Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: In light with this discussion, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the respective committee to consider looking into the local government compensating wetlands that the local funds had been used pay that. I understand that the Federal Government will not allow any exchange for any development from wetlands and other conservation area. I would also like to find out how many of these wetlands were compensated by local funds, and probably reimburse the CNMI so that we can address all these land compensation justified under the taking for public interest. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, on the wetlands issue, I do have information in my office that outlines all the wetlands that have been certified...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Well, let me just kind of...in here and put some...on all these...certainly, a wetland issue versus a roadway acquisition versus other...land for specific public use should...of priorities and is certainly within the purview of our...to introduce a legislation prohibiting if necessary exchange land compensation for wetlands. Representative Salas, recognized.

Representative Salas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask Representative Yumul for the case number of this particular federal case.

Representative Yumul: We do have that information, but...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let us take a short recess.

The House recessed at 12:04 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Motion to adopt to adopt, S. C. R. NO. 16-47 reporting on H. B. NO. 16-31, H. B. NO. 16-52, H. B. NO. 16-95, and H. B. NO. 16-94.

The adoption motion was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion has been seconded. Discussion. Representative Yumul, recognized.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to register that I am not in support of this report, and...against that in particular because for example, H. B. NO. 16-95 which would provide for liquid fuel tax holiday for the CNMI residents 2 days of every month. There is no bill of detailed analysis that will indicate whether or not it is going to impact on the tax base. We have an opportunity here to help not just to the people of Saipan, most especially Rota and Tinian who is obviously paying way higher fuel prices at the pump. We have not actually addressed their concerns, and that to put this aside and...this junctures would not make it fair to the people of Rota and Tinian that have not even got the chance to provide comments or concerns. We just heard from the Mayor about his strong concerns on the fuel. So, I will vote “no” on the adoption of S. C. R. NO. 16-47.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 12:07 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 12:16 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios:... [Beginning of Disc 2]...the Committee Report because of the positions of the different legislations that is lump into one Report. Vice Chair, please bring this back to the Committee and advice the Chair that we will entertain committee reports separately. Okay ready for the question?

There being no further discussion, the motion to refer back to Committee S. C. R. NO. 16-47 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 16-48 reporting on H. B. NO. 16-39.

The adoption motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt H. R. NO. 16-61 in reference to Ms. Kim Prinz.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 16-61: A House Resolution to recognize and commend Ms. Kim Prinz, President of the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteer Association for her untiring dedication and selfless contributions of her TIME to the CHC Volunteer Association for over 18 years.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, I want to offer some technical amendments to this Resolution. To correct the capitalization of the word “time” on line 10. I was not sure why. On line 7, to change the word “in” to “to”. Again on line 12, to correct the capitalization on the word “donations” and to correct the punctuation on line 13 after CNMI.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We will allow the legal counsel to correct the technical changes. I would suggest that you sit down with the legal counsel to make those changes.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adoption H. R. NO.16-61 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried. Representative Sablan, please get together with the legal counsel to effectuate some of the technical changes that you would like to see. Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt H. R. NO. 16-62 in reference to CDA.

The adoption motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 16-62: A House Resolution to respectfully encourage the Board and the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA to deny granting additional benefits to existing Qualifying Certificate to Saipan LauLau Development, Inc.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Let me recognize Representative Salas.

Representative Salas: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask for a short recess so I can read this.

The Chair recognized Representative Santos.

Representative Santos: Could we just ask the author to expound a little bit on the Resolution.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We will take a two minute recess.

The House recessed at 2:48 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:51 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. Further discussion on H. R. NO. 16-62. I would like to recognize the author to provide a brief...

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. H. R. NO. 16-62 – as we go down to where the whereas, these are all factual basis of the Resolution where we had Kumho Asiana purchased Laolao Bay Golf course, and the 15th Legislature allowed for a new lease. On page 2 of line...the rental rate was reduced from \$314,000 annually to \$103,000. So that is actually a benefit right there. Then moving up from lines 12 through 14, the Qualifying Certificate was put together by the Commonwealth Development Authority's Board of Directors based on the amounts that they thought would be reasonable. If you notice on page 1, Laolao Bay originally boasted that they were going to invest over \$70 Million dollars with the construction of \$128...units, but then it was drastically reduced. The Commonwealth Development Authority basically after hearing and analyzing, which they did analyze, they did not pull figures from the...sit down and look at the information – they came up with this type of offering for a Qualifying Certificate. One of the members, Alicia Tomokane had made comments at CDA's board meeting that the Alcoholic Beverage Tax is not included here, and some QC's in the past have receive a waiver of the Alcoholic Beverage Tax. When CDA made their final recommendation, they sent it up to the Governor who at then signed and affixed his name to the Qualifying Certificate as a firm...to Kumho Asiana, and...Kumho Asiana accept it. This was confirmed to me by Executive Director Oscar Camacho in a conference phone conversation with myself, the House Legal Counsel, and the Legislative Assistant for Ways and Means, which assisted in drafting this Resolution. So after they accepted the QC – a short time had passed, and then Kumho Asiana went back to the Governor and asked for reconsideration which is troubling. The Governor then wrote a letter – it is on file at CDA. The Executive Director informed me that they have that letter from the Governor requesting the CDA board to reconsider and increase benefits. Kumho Asiana then submitted a similar document to CDA to reconsider the initial offering and wanted CDA to increase the amounts...the terms. The issue before us is that CDA cannot act on this. The Executive Director relayed to me that the board does not have promulgated rules and regulations to allow for reconsideration after all parties have agreed. This Resolution in essence basically aims to inform CDA that under the intent of the law on Qualifying Certificates that this needs to be a process between CDA and the applicant, and that the Governor merely is a person who would sign a firm offer which can be accepted or rejected. I believe that as the Chairman of Ways and Means, this needs to stand...CDA the authority under law to follow exactly what they did and they should deviate from it.

The Chair recognized Representative Santos.

Representative Santos: Mr. Speaker, I do share the same concerns with Representative Yumul. However, I have to admit that Kumho Asiana does benefited substantially from the...of the CNMI in signing this contract. It is rather gracious – that some of the lost to us. Maybe I would be cautious to language the Resolution the way it is. I would rather and I am suggesting that the Chair probably address CDA to address the issues that he had just mentioned that if there were any changes or amendments that need to be made, that it be made to CDA and strongly encourage the politicking from the administration, to minimize that at all if at all possible. I have met with the management of Laolao Bay and they are contributing to the community, and we do not want to discourage that type of business, but if the Chair would just reconsider that and not act on this Resolution today, and go back to the table with CDA or meet with folks from Kumho and address this issue prior to us as a body acting on this Resolution.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get some additional information from the author of the Resolution. So is the primary concern, is that the Governor might be inappropriately participating in this negotiations between CDA and Kumho. And then also, perhaps maybe he might had already talked about this, maybe I missed it, but what additional terms are being proposed to the initial Qualifying Certificate? That is recognized on line 28, page 2. I think that would be good information for the members to have.

The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the benefit cap on line 17 for \$18 Million dollars, they wanted that to be increased. There was a number that was thrown out, but I will not get into details with that because it is still a request.

Representative Sablan: What was it?

Representative Yumul: I believe it was in excess of \$5 Million more.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I believe it was \$27 Million.

Representative Yumul: I stand corrected on that.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The original request for QC had – I believe was \$27 Million through negotiation and evaluation with CDA. CDA came back and said, I guess after making their decision and deliberating on the law, and having their economist take a look at other governments of the...decided that a fair incentive will be \$18 Million instead of the \$27 Million that they were asking for. Am I correct?

Representative Yumul: Yes.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: So our understanding then is that the major concern that is driving this Resolution is the role that the Governor is playing. Is it also the structure of the QC program? Is that the major concern because I can also imagine that they can always come back to CDA and the Governor and say, it is the power of the Legislature to amend and improve the QC program. In fact, I think it did passed one improvement that would cap benefits at no more than what has been actually invested. I think that is with the Senate. But perhaps, this would be an opportune time rather than to pass a Resolution that might be construed as discouraging to investor, and rather than doing that, we can look at more comprehensive in improving the QC program, and follow up on the amendments that already been passed by the House and the Senate.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do support the intent of this Resolution. I just want to share my thoughts in providing incentives to investors coming to a depressed community or municipality for the government that all of us were lured into economic prosperity. Today, our Commonwealth coffer getting low tide that we are trying to scramble funds to make ends meet within the operation of the government. And this is partially contributed from our leniency in providing 100% in Qualifying Certificates. And we are forgetting that the benefit that will

contribute as a result of dealing full Qualifying Certificate from an incentive from any developer, we are getting very small return versus the gain a developer will realize. I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that any developer that will induce economic activity and prosperity for both themselves and the community where they opt to do such development, I felt that we should also scrutinize the type of development that is to be within any Senatorial District in Commonwealth. Taking advantage also to our leniency, we are having total... and disadvantage on the other hand. I believe that...with financial solvency will not probably and immediately request for incentive such as Qualifying Certificates. Probably along the way, they might be asking if they are also experiencing financial difficulty, but to expedite a Qualifying Certificate as an incentive for continuing development, Mr. Speaker, I think we should take a hard look again at what justifies a Qualifying Certificate. I am not opposed to providing an incentive for any developer on a certain degree, but to use such as an airline as an incentive to built our economic development, local employment that would be courted during the time of development, and perhaps during the operation, it is very evidence today, Mr. Speaker, of all these businesses that came in to develop business opportunities here in the Marianas. Compare how many of our locals are given the privilege or opportunity for employment. It is very minimal. I think we are just allowing ourselves to tell the truth that providing 100% of Qualifying Certificate or incentive for any company, Mr. Speaker, is not in the spirit of working together economically. I just want to make this as a concern to all the members to reconsider, and perhaps a company that comes in and procures an establishment that had already existed, that should not be integrated or migrate into the Qualifying Certificate. I believe that what we should be looking into providing an incentive is a new development of that particular government that should address that incentive, not probably a 100%, but perhaps 50% that can also encourage some of other development that can come in such an example like the Rota Resort. Providing a 100% QC after all these developments being done, I think I am kidding myself to say, yes, I am giving you 100% of incentive. So I ask the members to look into this that a 100% incentive to any developer that we should look at our regulations or incentive package again. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I think I want to continue on with this. I think we have the gist of concerns on Qualifying Certificate System that we have in our statutes – we really need to move on these issues and make a decision whether to table this or what, but let us check with the author – I know...the issue of Qualifying Certificate continues to...this body, not just in the 16th Legislature, but it keeps being thrown back and forth since the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th Legislature that I can remember. Perhaps, if we can place this on the table and Representative Yumul, maybe when we get back to our next session and get more information. I encourage you to look into this particular issue. It is of great concern to me. Some of these incentives are for 25 years...I do agree with most of you that we need to revisit the QC Program. In my...my understanding of the incentive programs for investment of most corporations to a community is that the community has to somehow benefit directly to that incentive. Having said all that, Representative Yumul, you might want to have a little bit more information on this. This is a very important Resolution, but the mere fact that CDA probably realizes that the Legislature – that you have authored a Resolution calling for them to consider denying the amended request by Laolao Development. We probably...them under...to begin provide information to us and look at the issues.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, the information that is on the Resolution is all factual when it comes to finances. The...economist working for CDA even had questioned as to why a request from Kumho Asiana to retro part of the project be done prior to submission of the QC application, meaning that they wanted to receive back a rebate of 75% of the project. So, that coupled with other information that came from Representative Aldan from Tinian that mentioned that the parent corporation that lost over \$30 Million in share value. They are pretty much nitpicking about the QC.

I mean this is a very generous QC – forget the fact that we had already reduced their rent, but just like what Chairman Hocog had mentioned, you have a caliber of Laolao Development’s parent corporation coming down on nitpicking on QC, it starts to raise red flags. The Board members of CDA are also concern because when a QC has...by both Legislatures is meant to be all finances. It is the business end of enticing businesses to come here. There is no politics. It is basically the bottom line – how much you are going to invest, what benefits are going to be received by the people of the Commonwealth, and most especially, can we get our residents to work. That is it. There is no politics about reconsideration and adjusting on the numbers because then you get into the politics sight. I am amendable about allowing us to sit and call in CDA, and ask them about their thoughts, but then I feel that we might be getting into politicking with CDA. I think that they have done a good job in making this proposal. I read the minutes of the meeting with CDA...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let me ask you. Do we have a...as to what the professional staff of CDA is going to recommend?

Representative Yumul: Right now, CDA has instructed their legal counsel to prepare rules and regulations to allow for reconsideration. There is not reconsideration until this came up, because it is either to accept or reject. If you reject and you want to come back to the table and put new numbers and request of a QC, you have to pay a fee because the amount of information that needs to be handled by CDA just to put up a proposal to bring in the Department of Finance to get their input is a fee in and of itself. We are not doing this for free. It a very big concern. However, again, if we want to settle this for a week or two, I do not have any issues with that, I would rather pass this today and get it out. We can make some amendments and just have this Resolution go straight to CDA board and just remove all the other recipients and just keep it as a...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I have an intention to have a session midweek maybe Wednesday or Thursday, would you be able to put this on the table?

Representative Yumul: Yes.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: You know, Mr. Speaker, this is just a Resolution addressing, and probably if there are any concerns from CDA, maybe that will be the time – this Resolution is just to inspire CDA to communicate with the author and the members, and I do not see any...I do not know, but that is how I see it.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think it would hurt to take some time to call in CDA, perhaps, call in Commerce as well, and talk not just about the Resolution that is on the table and the amendments that they are considering to the QC that has been...already, but also to talk more generally about amendments to the QC Program and improvements that they might have in mind that we that we can consider in the Legislature. And I guess to go back to what I said earlier, if the issue really is, is that the Governor is intervening inappropriately and exerting undo influence on the CDA Board, then perhaps that a Resolution should be addressed to the Governor. Obviously, the CDA Board and the Executive Director have rules and regulations, they have a law that should be giving them guidelines, and they should be allowed to do their jobs. I agree that if the Governor is acting on behalf of this one company, that should be a cause of concern, but I would be

worried as well on the other side about the Legislature exerting undo influence on the CDA Board. They should be allowed to do their jobs period. If the problem is with the program itself, then our job is to fix that. So I think that we should take the time to call in CDA and look into this issue and really identify the real problems are. It might not be with CDA, it might be with the QC Program, and it might be the Governor...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Points well taken.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, on that note, if there is no objection, I would like to invite Representative Sablan to join me and the Ways and Means just for this special task to call in CDA and we will get the answers.

Representative Sablan: I would love to attend, but I think it should be open to all the members.

The Chair recognized Representative Salas.

Representative Salas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, the Zoning Board had given this company a – I guess what I am trying to say is that they have down scale their permanent in terms of their buildings. There seems to be a stall in their projects, and I would like to know why they are on stall. So I think just kind of deny to say to deny...benefits at this time is kind of wrong because I think we should at least take a look and see what is wrong. Like I said, I think that the projects are on stalled and we need to look at that.

The Chair recognized Representative Aldan.

Representative Aldan: Mr. Speaker, with all the discussions going around, I think Mr. Speaker, I think we need to entertain H. B. NO. 16-172, whether we expand it or turn it around, but we need to entertain H. B. NO. 16-172. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: If there is no objection from the members, and pursuant to Representative Yumul's statement that he is amendable to leave it on the Calendar, I would like to make a motion to withdraw to adopt and just leave the Resolution on the Calendar at this time.

The withdrawal motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried. I know that some of the members in the 16th Legislature were present during the 15th Legislature when we made decision on the Laolao Bay Development. That was one of the hardest decision that I made in my 7 1/2 years as a member of the House of Representative because it was dealing with public lands...issues...golf course...and then...hotels...extending the lease term to zero, and then again reinstating it to forty years, and that within itself was – I know that our members...Representative Aldan and Representative Tebuteb, Vice Speaker, and Representative Quitugua struggled with some of these issues in making decision. At the time, it was very aware of the need for stimulus...economy, and the promise of...rental by 100%...and...lease...suspicion that the QC issue will come at a later date and...it happened. It be interesting to quantify what the Commonwealth has got so far...or what the Commonwealth can expect to get out of this...There are several legislations regarding the Qualifying Certificate issues,

and I urge those Committees to take a look at them. Okay. Floor Leader do can we entertain a motion for recess?

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, so when we get back we will move on to the Bill Calendar, can I make a motion to suspend the bills that were entertained earlier?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay.

Floor Leader Camacho: Motion to suspend rules so we can place H. B. NO. 16-185 and H. B. NO. 16-186 on the Bill Calendar.

The suspension motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried. Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to place H. B. NO. 186 and H. B. NO. 187 on the Bill Calendar.

The placement motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to recess until 2:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed for lunch at 1:08 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. Let me recognize the Floor Leader under the Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-129 in reference to Tobacco Control Fund.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-129: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ALL MONIES DEPOSITED IN THE TOBACCO CONTROL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 13-38; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Let me recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a substitute. I have passed out a copy of a House Substitute One. If you recalled, Representative Quitugua earlier introduced a bill which included what is in the House Substitute on page 2, line 5 through 15, this substitute...this funding which will go to the Public School System in the amount of \$325,000 to accommodate the request of PSS in this bill. This bill will also provide funding to the Department of Public Health for various programs on an annual basis. All this does is to continue to provide funding to these programs which basically deals with education treatment, prevention programs to our Tobacco programs such as Cancer and the Diabetes Coalition also.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Any further discussion. Let me recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Vice Speaker for this bill, which sets clear priority for prevention and health care programs in the Commonwealth. I just have a few questions on the dollar amounts. Are these based on actual and documented request received from PSS and the Department of Public Health?

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Yes, however, I did not bring down the requests that were turned in by the various programs, but when we get back to Saipan, I will provide you all the copies, not only in addition to the request, but also in addition to their allocated funding from the previous years. I also met with each program managers – it does not exceed what they had received from the past, but it is actually scaling down. They had asked for more, but because this year, unlike previous years – the last two years, I believe it was at \$1.7 Million and this year it is at \$1.4 Million.

Representative Sablan: So it is at \$1.4 Million?

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Yes. So now they have to get a reduced amount.

Representative Sablan: I understand that the amount that is being proposed for PSS for their collaborated school health education program, these are all the appropriation that were included in the bill that Representative Quitugua introduced and passed in the House, is that correct? Does this create any kind of difficulty though, if the Senate acts on that previous appropriation? As I recalled, Representative Quitugua's bill was quite detailed in terms of how those funds should be expended. So if the Senate acts on that bill are we double funding the same program if we pass this bill as well.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: That bill I believe is H. B. NO. 16-102, was received by the Senate and it was referred to a committee. I have communicated with the committee to put that on hold to see if we would adopt this bill which will include the other programs. There is no concern about both passing. There is already an understanding between the House and the Senate that they will await this.

Representative Sablan: Okay. My other question is on the additional provisions on H. B. NO. 16-102, as I recalled it was quite detailed on how the money is to be spent. Perhaps that is something that we incorporate that into this bill.

The Chair recognized Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Sablan is correct on H. B. NO. 16-102, which has several provisions even penalty that...and provisions, where the Public School

System shall report to the Legislature on how they spend the money. And if they do not do so on a certain time that their next disbursement of funds shall not be...So that pretty much is the difference.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: It is on page 2, section 5 and 6.

Representative Quitugua: H. B. NO. 16-102, asks PSS to come to the Legislature and present an annual report on how the program was conducted or how the money was used, and at the same time submit an annual report to the Legislature. This provision over here is also requesting to report to the Legislature, but H. B. NO. 16-129 requires them to come to the Legislature and hold a presentation for the members.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Would it be possible for us to access that bill, maybe there are some provisions from that bill that we can just incorporate into this bill before we...if we will pass it today.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any objection to that. If the members want to hold back on this and access that bill to amend it further. I do not have any problems. I only ask for one thing, and that is if this bill can be passed. The reason why I am asking if we can pass it sooner and not later is because we do have the legislative breakfast with the Diabetes Coalition, and this the bill that they are hoping we would pass.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: I guess, Mr. Speaker, the...of concerns raised by Representative Sablan is being addressed other than a difference of requesting PSS or whoever is the spending authority of such fund will come to the Legislature and report. I am pretty sure that the Senate will also have a different, or perhaps have an attitude for this bill if we all agree that the concern under H. B. NO. 16-102, probably the House Substitute could also be relayed to the Senate so that proper amendments could be inserted into. I think that is very minor that prevents dispute for passing this bill today and we had always done an...with our counterpart in the Senate to put in what we see or what we oversight.

The Chair recognized Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Like I said, I do support the intent of the bill. I do not think that it would hurt for us to – as I understand, we may be having a session on Thursday, and maybe by then we could get the information that the Vice Speaker has available for the members to review. I also noted that on page 1 of the bill, there is an attached exhibit (a) that is not included. I would be interested in seeing that as well. And also going back and checking the provisions of Representative Quitugua's bill. If it means just a few more days, and that we take some time to do this, and to go ahead and put in the amendments before it goes to the Senate, I think that can be done. I would like to recommend that...today.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:16 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. Any further discussion, Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: So, if I can verify from the Vice Speaker and from the members, who may be more knowledgeable than I am. All of these are existing programs except for the Youth Affairs. Currently, the Youth Affairs does not receive Tobacco Control Funds for substance abuse program and tobacco program, is that correct?

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Yes.

Representative Sablan: What I would suggest to the members, I supposed we can do an amendment now is, rather than I guess create an unfunded program at the Office of Youth Affairs, I guess that we give that funding to programs that already...so that the Office of Youth Affairs can work in collaboration with those existing and current programs. Would you be amendable to that?

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: It is a bit unfair to state that we will be providing them funds that are unfunded. There is no basis on what that funding should be. You and I, we may think that it may not be enough, but if \$39,000 divided by 7 or 8 programs within the CNMI, it comes out to almost \$5,000 a piece, and that is money that they can use for educational programs and other activities that they can use for this purpose. So it is not fair to say that we should not give them because we feel that it is under funded, when it is funds that they do not have to begin with.

Representative Sablan: I guess what is not clear to me is, why we would give funding for a program that does not exist yet, and that Youth Affairs has not developed a Tobacco Control and Substance Prevention Program yet for all the Youth Centers. It seems to me to be premature to give money now, particularly when we already know that existing programs are being funded less this year than they were last year. The existing programs – the Cancer Registry, the Diabetes Prevention and Control, the Tobacco Association Programs, all of these, we all know that they have been requesting...and of course...but, right now, they are not receiving enough funding so what I am suggesting is that we not give funding to a program that does not exist yet, and give the funding to the programs that do exist that we do need, and that are already under funded as it is.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: I guess I hate to defer with Representative Sablan regarding the unfunded activities. I guess there is a Youth Affairs, and there is a difference as having an entity without a funding that does nothing, and we might imagine how this would be productive and how it contributes to the welfare to the youths when they have little. In other words, a little to begin with to use these funds to advocate the importance of this program given each agency or department organization of this, is an incentive of itself to create value of these...resources to infuse advocacy of drugs uses. We might not feel the importance of it today because they have never been funded,

but I believe that you give a person from something to nothing, that they will come to be creative in making its funds that have been given to them to work for them. So, that is where I defer with Representative Sablan, but giving them the opportunity to have a...will probably enable them to...for that funding and...in the prevention of the use of drugs. So this may be a stepping stone for them to be really involved in the implementation of the youth program. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We really need to continue. We do not have enough time. I think all the members listened in and brought up concerns on some of the justification for it. I know that Representative Quitugua agrees that after 6 to 7 years of the program...evaluation and assessment of the Tobacco Control Programs...I think that it is time that we vote on it.

Representative Sablan: Before we do that. I would like to say one thing. I supported H. B. NO. 16-102 which I think was a request for the Public School System for \$354,000 and there were pretty detailed plans on how those funds would be expended, and I understand that this is a compromise bill. But it does cut out \$25,000.00 and from the original request, and in the mean time, it gives \$39,000 to the Office of Youth Affairs for programs that do not exist yet. Also...\$39,000 for the reading and interpretation for CNMI's Mammogram...I am sure that program needs more money. I am sure there are lots of women who are in need of mammogram readings and related assistance. So I guess I do not think it is a small thing when we are looking at diminished resources for us to give \$39,000 to a program that does not exist...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let me...

Representative Sablan: Is it reality?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The Youth Affairs program was created in the 13th Legislature. This program has been under funded throughout the year, programs that are supposed to take effect...We have not been able to give them any funding for some of these programs. I think it is...at least for this year to allow the Youth Centers to take on these programs to the community...The significant part of this funding are for Public Health and the Public School System that certainly the Public Health...to shift some of these funds that are under the Department of Public Health within the program, and they...and the same goes to the programs of the Public School System...That is one way of enumerating...I live close to one Youth Center and I believe that Youth Center has about 60 kids especially during the summer time. I think that for this Fiscal Year, I am going to support this.

Representative Sablan:...now, that they be funded by...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Yes.

Representative Sablan: Oh okay.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify my statement...I said that they did now, but that did not mean that they have not in the past. We have been giving them funding from the past and so they do have had programs. It is just that recently, they were cut out of the picture. Like others have said, it is better to give it directly to the Youth Programs, direct in the village community base programs that are directly dealing with our youths. And it is a minimal amount.

The Chair recognized Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: This is for Representative Sablan. The Youth Affairs Office was funded in the 14th Legislature for about \$300,000 so that program was funded back then, and I think this legislation is just to make sure that the program continues...now, there program should...to be more on the Tobacco & Alcohol Prevention.

Representative Sablan:...the \$3.4...

Representative Quitugua: For now, I would say that I think it is not enough, but I think it is a good start to do...with the program.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Okay.

Representative Sablan: Okay.

The Chair recognized Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: I am going to insert an amendment on line 6, page 1.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Proceed.

Representative Quitugua: This is to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that the programs funded under the Tobacco Control Fund are – because Public Law 13-38 is very clear on how the 30% is to be used, therefore, I would like to insert an amendment, after the word appropriation, insert, “notwithstanding any provision of law,”.

The amendment was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion.

Representative Sablan: Can Representative Quitugua just explain I guess what the issue will be that are raised by this bill in terms of Public Law 13-38?

Representative Quitugua: Public Law 13-38 is very specific. It says, 30% of the funds collected under the Tobacco Control Fund shall be earmarked for Public Health and the Public School System to provide programs that will reduce the use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Abuse. That is very specific under Public Law 13-38 to ensure that the programs funded under the Tobacco Control – because the Governor can turn around and say, I can line item veto a(3) because Public Law 13-38 says that it shall be used for education and prevention by Public Health and the Public School System to reduce the impact of alcohol and tobacco. So having the phrase “notwithstanding any provision of law”, ensures that the Governor will not veto any provisions here that he thinks does not apply to Public Law 13-38.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Public Law 13-38 in other words allows only for alcohol and tobacco substance abuse program...some of the items being funded...are...

There being no further discussion, the amendment offered by Representative Quitugua was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The motion is carried.

Representative Sablan: Mr. Speaker, one more amendment on line 15.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Proceed.

Representative Sablan:...just because there is no attachment of exhibit (a), I suggest that we remove that line.

There was no objection.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let us just consider it as technical amendment. We are now voting on H. B. NO. 16-16-129, HS1, HD1.

Representative Hocog: Discussion?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are now voting.

Representative Hocog: On the amendment offered by Representative Sablan?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: It is just a technical. Clerk, roll call.

The clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-129, HS1, HD1 with the following result:

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Joseph N. Camacho	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Victor B. Hocog	yes
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Christina Marie Elise Sablan	yes
Rep. Edward T. Salas	yes
Rep. Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: With a vote of 14 “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-129, HS1, HD1 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion to pass on First and Final Reading, H. B. NO. 16-145, HD1 in reference to the retirement.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-145, HD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MANDATE THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITIZE AND PAY THE RETIREMENT EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I was just reviewing the Committee Report on H. B. NO. 16-145, HD1, and maybe it was accidentally left out, but I did not see any reference on communication to the Retirement specifically on Public Law 15-70 Section 3 which requires...consultation to retirement shall be...

Representative Torres: I did receive the communication yesterday from the Retirement. Basically what the Retirement Fund said was that the bill itself needed more...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:48 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:51 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. I recognize Representative Torres.

Representative Torres: Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that we withdraw H. B. NO. 16-145, HD1 until the next session, and I would appreciate if we can entertain the bill at the next session.

There was no objection.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: There was no objection by members from the author withdrawing H. B. NO. 16-145, HD1 himself with the understanding that we had some of the correspondence from the Retirement Fund ...Let me recognize Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: I understand that there was a motion to withdraw this bill, but for the benefit of the author and the members, your Conference Committee is now working along with the Senate to address what this particular legislation is trying to do. So I guess it is an opportune time not to act until your Conference Committee come up with an understanding of addressing all potential employees to retire in our Commonwealth government.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: It is certainly an issue that the two of you can continue to discuss.

Representative Hocog: If the Conference Committee fails, Mr. Speaker, I believe this will come through.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-135 in reference to Autism under S. C. R. NO. 16-43.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-135: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH AUTISM COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STATE PLAN TO GUIDE SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Let me recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: I realize that the author of the bill is here, but perhaps the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare is welcome to answer this. I was a little bit perplexed upon reviewing this bill about subsection 104 on page 3 for the compensation of the members...I do not understand what it meant that cost of reimbursement or reasonable expenses maybe decided equally among the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Executive Branch. What does that mean exactly?

The Chair recognized Representative Torres.

Representative Torres: Mr. Speaker, I think we should have the author...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:56 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:01 p.m.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to...

There was no objection.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Without objection, we will just leave it on the Calendar.

Representative Sablan: Would it be Out of Order to request for a supplemental report meaning that the membership...the intent behind the way the membership...and also a question that was raised earlier?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We will allow the Chairman to get together with the author. Okay. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-186 on First and Final Reading.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-186: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF PUBLIC LAW 13-48; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. I recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: One minor amendment, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Proceed.

Representative Quitugua: On page 1, line 14, after the word “education” insert, “in consultation with the school principal”, and on line 9, after the word, “appropriation” insert the phrase, “notwithstanding any provision of law.”

There being no discussion, the oral floor amendment was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The bill is now, H. B. NO. 16-186, HD1. Any further discussion on the main motion? I recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I do recognize the needs of Sinapalo Elementary School, I think they came across loud and clear in their presentation earlier – I have some concerns about the proposed appropriation for \$215,000 for a fence when – as I noted earlier during the session, it exceeds even by far their request at least for that particular expense, and then also with respect to the purchasing of tractors. It was not really clear to me – DLNR has tractors right now that are just in need of repair. Why would we go out and purchase new tractors rather than just repair the ones that are here now. My other concern has to deal with the actual availability of funding. I understand that the Rota...project has been stalled because of environmental issues, land compensation and so on, and that there is some funding available since that project will not be complete for years to come. Most likely, that there are some money available, but it has not been certified yet by the Commonwealth Development Authority, and that there might be less than \$300,000 because there are still some outstanding contracts that have not been closed yet under that particular fund. Perhaps if we can get some clarification from the author as to the source of funding, the particular figures that are being requested, and also the status of the Rota Project...

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the reference of, not enough money, based on the testimony this morning by the School Principal, I would like to emphasize that the \$600,000 has been appropriated 2 years ago. The fund balance under the rough \$100 is the bond interest that has a bond balance of \$418,000. That is why you can see the bill that they had stricken out the \$500,000 after verifying the funds availability. Not only did I verify that with CDA, I also verified that with the Department of Public Works. There is a fund balance in the amount of \$411,000 that is available. This piece of legislation as you may know, previous legislators from the 14th and the 15th Legislature have been appropriating these funds in one House, and sitting in the other House until another Legislature comes in, and it goes the same. I believe this one was made as a rider on one of the bill that was authored by Representative Tebuteb, and supposedly to be used also for incentives. And the Senate passed the bill, and when it reached the House it was again over hauled and was intended to use for the commission. However, Mr. Speaker, knowing that this cannot be used for any other operation, the Senate did not pass the version that the House passed during the 15th Legislature. So by coming back again to see the availability of this funding, it was not \$500,000 that was available, the funds as of October 23rd, 2008 funds available for the First Senatorial District is \$411,000.24, and that is what this bill is trying to appropriate as a result of that bond interest. I hope that answers Representative Sablan’s concern. In regards to the DLNR tractors, the Resident Director clearly stated that the tractor that we have is from 1995, and preparing the farmers to provide the industry here on Rota for the preparation also with the Guam build up will be in order at

this time to look into getting another new tractor that will have a long service for our farmers and ranchers. Right now, there are many complaints from customers to have their lands lease because of the inability of these equipments, and many times, applicants are told the there is a break down in the equipments that they are unable to induce more farming activities. As you may know, taro and sweet potatoes are a major export now, and these fields requires substantial work by providing additional machines to be devoted to the farmers in trying to provide more growth in this type of industry. We feel that it is justified to look into this to provide the Department of Natural Resources with additional equipment that will service the interest of the people of Rota particularly the farming industry.

Representative Sablan: What about the \$215,000?

Representative Hocog: The \$215,000 will be used at the Sinapalo as fencing as evidence submitted by the School for the uninvited guests that have been coming in and out. I believe it is timely that we address the need to put the security as it will continue to impose unsafe environment in the school ground. Additionally, out of these funds if there is some fund balance, I guess the Principal had aired also about having a drop off shelter for the students, and also a small shop to put in their equipments. So with this rigor of funds that is presented to this body to make it available, I am confident that the Sinapalo School can address their immediate requirement to secure their school grounds. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero: Thank you for explaining that to us, Representative Hocog. I was going to ask you if you would like to off a floor amendment because as written, you would only allow PSS to use that money for the perimeter fencing, if you wish to include the other projects that you are referring to, then it would not...offer a floor amendment.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:14 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:16 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. I recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: Mr. Speaker, minor amendment on line 13. After the word fencing add, "and other facility improvements at the Sinapalo School."

The oral amendment was seconded.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion. Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: I notice in their request that they are also asking for an additional restroom...classroom? Will a new construction be considered under...?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Facility.

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

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Ready for the main question? I recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: I just want to find out how far this letter goes from Senator Paul Manglona where on letter (c) it says, all these improvements for Sinapalo will be funded by the College reprogramming funds...whether this had already been taken action...

Representative Hocog: I guess there was never an appropriation. Like I said...

Representative Quitugua: But the statement on the bottom – it says, this will be funded by reprogramming of \$748,195.00 from College classrooms.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: You should know, Representative Hocog. Is there such funding?

Representative Hocog: I do not know if there is one, Mr. Speaker, but I am very hesitant to find out.

Representative Quitugua: It says reprogram, so there are funds, but I support the bill, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: You are one of those members who should know that there are sources of funding. Are there such funds for funding?

Representative Quitugua: Under 702.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Alright. Ready for the main motion. Representative Sablan, recognized.

Representative Sablan: Once again, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Sinapalo Elementary has some serious needs for their facilities, but I am concerned about the source of funding. I do not think that has been addressed yet. I spoke to the Executive Director for CDA this today along with the Director of DPW, and both them said that, yes, there should be funds available, but they were not certain that \$400,000 is there because there are contracts that have not been settled yet, including one that was done for environmental assessment. At least for DPW, they said that there might be actually less than \$400,000 that will be available, but they do not know yet because they have not verified that yet. I would be concerned with taking money away from funds that are already obligated for contracts that have not been closed yet. So I guess what I would like to ask is, if we can pass this on First Reading or wait until we can verify.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: Mr. Speaker, I have a clear statement on the project Road100 improvement, the expenditure of this availability of funds. As of October 23, 2008, this is just couple of days ago, and certified by CDA. I also verified this Wednesday with the Department of DPW, that the funds are available. So I do not know how Representative Sablan is getting her information different from mine.

Representative Sablan: I think you should find that out.

Representative Hocog: We met with the Department of Public Works and the Rota Delegation...I do not know who is telling the truth whether they are telling us the truth or whether they are telling Representative Sablan the truth. The fact is, the money is verified of the availability of \$411,000.

Representative Sablan: What about the contracts?

Representative Hocog: There are no contracts.

Representative Sablan: They said that there are contracts...

Representative Hocog: There is no contract yet, Representative Sablan.

Representative Sablan: I received that information today.

Representative Hocog: The spending authority of these funds also is within the Department of Public Works, Mr. Speaker, and I verified that again.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:24 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. Any further discussion on H. B. NO. 16-186? Representative Hocog recognized.

Representative Hocog: Just to satisfy the concern of my good colleague, Representative Sablan. In fact her finding is her correct, and both Houses pass this bill, I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that the Governor will look into it before he signs it into law. Am I correct?

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: That is correct. Clerk, call the roll.

The clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-186, HD2 with the following result:

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Joseph N. Camacho	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Victor B. Hocog	yes
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Christina Marie Elise Sablan	no

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we should wait for the Governor to do what we should be doing. It would not hurt for us to...and verify that this funding is actually available and that we are not impeding on...I will have to vote "no."

Rep. Edward T. Salas	no
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Maybe that they are lying – maybe not lying to someone, but it was also on...that I heard there may be not enough funding so I will have to say "no" because there is no clarity.

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: With a vote of 12 “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-186, HD2 hereby passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, recognized. Before we move on, one of the things about CDA...appropriation...even with the Technical Service Division, and even with the CDA staff, even with their CIP Coordinator – all of these offices, when you ask something, you will different answers from them. I have experienced it. That is why...the members, or I have vested myself into following all these funding resources, and content myself with putting a rider on somebody’s appropriation bill like Representative Quitugua’s bill, the Vice Speaker’s bill, and Representative Aldan. So, it is a policy decision and I certainly appreciate the concerns of Representative Salas and Representative Sablan’s. I think that the urgency factor also played in the decision of the other members to vote for this bill. Let me call for a short recess.

The House recessed at 3:30 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our session. Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion to pass on First and Final Reading, H. B. NO. 16-187.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-187: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 7(A)(2) AND REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 7(C) OF THE ROTA CASINO ACT OF 2007; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Discussion on the motion, and I recognize Representative Quitugua.

Representative Quitugua: Just my previous or earlier question whether the Casino Act that was ratified – allows the Legislature to amend – only the Rota Delegation.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios:...I will allow the legal counsel, if there is no objection, for clarity.

Legal Counsel Antonette R. Villagomez: *Yes, the Rota Casino Act...the First Senatorial District. So the amendments to be made obviously will be the Rota Legislative Delegation that will make amendments to their own Initiative. In this case, the author who...for a district chooses to introduce it as a House Local Bill which is appropriate, but under the Local Act of 1983, that is 1 CMC §1401, that law authorizes local matters to be introduced or to be dealt with either the Commonwealth Law or Local Law. So in this case, Representative Hocog chose to the Commonwealth Law to change the Rota Casino Act which is a local matter. So there is nothing that prohibits. You have done it before, appropriations for First, Second, and Third Senatorial Districts. If you want it pass right away, you can introduce it as a Commonwealth Bill which is either House or Senate Bill versus a Local Bill.*

In this case, it is a member of the Rota Legislative Delegation that chooses this bill to amend the Rota Casino Act. I do not see any problem with that.

The Chair recognized Representative Hocog.

Representative Hocog: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it would be more prudent...[End of Tape 4, Side A]...with a period of such approval to be determined in regulation issue by the Commissions and the deposits of a license fee be paid in shall be paid in an escrow – I see no logic reason that if I give you my license, and you paid me, that I take that payment and put it in an escrow to sit for awhile until an investor is ready to perform the construction and operation. It is unduly unfair that a payment for a license fee where you will authorize you to start your daily business will be held hostage in an escrow account, and the Commission cannot use that money. And with the way the funding...with the Commission, I would rather see that if a license is given and payment is made, that the Commissioners will have access to the usage of that funding to further enhance their work as Commissioners. So that is the purpose of the striking that provision out on that Initiative, and to buy the Commissioners to the usage of that payment of license fee. I hope that explains to Representative Sablan the reason why we are amending that section. Any other that you want me to explain? The Gross revenue tax of 1% - I...discussed this with the legal counsel that it is problematic for the Gaming Commission to charge 10% gross of the gaming. So the amendment, Mr. Speaker, is made to reflect 10% of the revenue from the gaming, and 1% of the gross revenue will stay within the Senatorial District, and that will justify the satisfying of the...

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: In other words, what you are saying is that the Casino Act be consistent – taxation with the...tax – that is what needs to be changed?

Representative Hocog: That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask the legal counsel for the interpretation of that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: I will allow that if there is no objection.

There was no objection.

Legal Counsel Antonette R. Villagomez: *The amendments of the Rota Casino Tax...under 1 CMC § 1402 which is the Local Law Act. The Local Law Act basically lifts the different areas in the Senatorial District...jurisdiction over. It says that you have jurisdictions over animals or jurisdictions over street name, or all these different areas. And one of that section which is § 1402 (c) 1, discusses gambling taxes, and 1402 (c) 1 authorizes...tax of 1% of the gross revenue. Right now, the Casino Act has a 10% tax of the gross revenue, which is not permitted under 1402. So it has to conform with 1402 (c) 1. And the only thing that the Rota Casino Act can authorize is the gross revenue tax of 1% of the gross revenue. The second one is the Gambling Tax. Again, 1402 (c) 4 authorizes a gambling revenue tax on the Casino gross revenue. So there is a difference. The Gross Revenue is everything at 1% ...of the total gross, and they can also impose a gambling revenue tax which is just based on the revenue that they receive at the casino. Most casino's would probably have hotel services, maybe golf resort, and all these things. So there is a difference between the gross revenue and the gambling revenue. So, those are the two different taxes that are authorized. Section 1402 (c) 4, also authorizes a gambling amusement machine tax. So, Rota Gambling Commission can establish a gambling machine tax for poker machines if they in the establishment. Right now under our existing law, the poker machines within the casino are exempt from the general license fees. So, these three provisions needs to be consistent...the Local Law Act.*

Also, these three provisions are identical to the Tinian Casino Act. These three different types of taxes are also authorized... Casino Act. They are pretty much the same.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:52 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:56 p.m.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. Clerk, call the roll.

The clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-187 with the following result:

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Joseph N. Camacho	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Victor B. Hocog	yes
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Christina Marie Elise Sablan	yes
Rep. Edward T. Salas	yes
Rep. Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: With a vote of 14 “yes”, H. B. NO. 16-187 passes the House on First and Final Reading. Floor Leader, recognized.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-108, SD1.

The motion was seconded.

H. B. NO. 16-108, SD1: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 3 CMC §§ 5514 AND 5121(C) TO RESTRICT THE APPLICATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: It actually went down to the Senate, and they passed a minor amendment. So basically what we are passing here is the legislation with the Senate amendment. We are basically accepting the Senate amendment. Discussion. Let me go ahead and ask the author explain the amendments.

Floor Leader Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically, this bill was passed in the House, went up to the Senate, and if you look at where the Senate made just one minor amendment – the changes that they proposed was, except for government financial crisis and all hardship. The Senate inserted the word, “financial...before hardship.”

The Chair recognized Representative Yumul.

Representative Yumul: Mr. Speaker, if you look at the pages, just look for the extra double underlined. That is what they added. Not the single underlined.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Ready. Clerk, call the roll.

The clerk called the roll on the motion to pass H. B. NO. 16-108, SD1 with the following result:

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Rep. Joseph N. Camacho	yes
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Victor B. Hocog	yes
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios	yes
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua	yes
Rep. Christina Marie Elise Sablan	no
Mr. Speaker, since I was not allowed the opportunity to...discussion, I would like to just note that I voted against this bill the first time around because I felt that the language was a little too ambiguous, and that in the case CUC for example, where financial crisis has been one of the major causes of real disaster emergencies in the Commonwealth. I was concerned about similar incidents by arriving in the future, and this legislation in some ways...to tie the Governor's hands to address these disasters. So, I would have to vote "no". Once again...Senate amendments, I do not feel that that concern is being addressed.	
Rep. Edward T. Salas	yes
Rep. Rosemond B. Santos	yes
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres	yes
Rep. Ray N. Yumul	yes
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios	yes

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: With a vote of 13 "yes" H. B. NO. 16-108, SD1 passes the House on Final Reading. For awhile there, I thought that we were going to go back into the bill, but procedurally, we are not supposed to go back into the bill. We are only voting on the amendment on that one word. Representative Sablan is correct when she voted "no" on the bill. It would have been...if she voted "yes" for the Senate amendment, and she voted "no" on the bill the first time. I just want to make that clear. This bill is...voting for one word which is the Senate amendment. Okay. Our time is up...if we can have 15 minutes to help clear the area...and help the Clerk. I want to first thank Chairman Hocog for...hosting us this afternoon as well as taking care of us yesterday and today. I personally agree that it was...welcome to...facilities are ready and also had the time to meet with the Mayor...I certainly appreciate it. I value our time going to Sinapalo Elementary School to look at the problems that...try to address the needs. It is going to be a community effort. I would like to ask that the Committee on Ways and Means assist in identifying CIP funds – one wing of the classrooms...I am not an engineer, but if you go to a school and see that there is no insulation...raw metal part of...I think it takes the cost of the energy down, and I think that is something that still be...I want to thank Representative Hocog for taking us down to the School and meeting with the Principal. Although it was very brief, we appreciate it. Representative Yumul, please begin to look into the CIP funds that could help out the school. Okay. I want to also thank the staff, the Channel 5 for their coverage, and our lone LB staff for assisting us for today's session. Representative Hocog, would you like to say a few words?

Representative Hocog: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really thankful to the all the members to making this session a success, and I ask that in the near future that the members will spend some

time to go around to see the real...Rota so that everybody can really understand the situation here. I hope that today's session is...justified, and it has meant a lot to the community of Rota and the students of the school to have witness their leaders in action. I hope that we continue to do this from time to time to provide more opportunity to the people of Rota as well as to the people of Tinian...they do not have the chance to witness...as well as – this is a very good gesture for the members to be here in Rota to really feel the hardship of this municipality. By experiencing this hardship...able to understand me more when I start...legislative in Saipan, and that goes the same probably with the feeling of Representative Aldan. I would like to also extend an appreciation for the parents of the PTA for our presence into this Legislative Session. Again, I extend also my warm welcome to our Representative Sablan. I thought that she will not come, but I am very happy that she made it on time before the session. Mr. Speaker, I do not like to continue talking. I really want to continue, but I am thinking whether who among the members that I will ask to be bombed-off this evening so...stay for an additional two days, but, nonetheless, I know that tomorrow is a very important day for all of us to attend our religious belief in honoring all Saints Day. I wish you all the...to have a safe trip back home, and on behalf of the people of Rota, thank you very much for allowing us to have held this session today on the island of Rota. Thank you.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Thank you. With that, Representative Hocog, I would like to ask if you would be kindly enough to ask the Mayor if we can have accessed to records of the proceeding...

Representative Hocog: I will make sure that I ask the Mayor.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: Let me recognize the Floor Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess subject to the call of the chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios: The House stands recessed subject to the call.

The House adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Guerrero
Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

None