



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION 2010

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

First Day

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

The House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Special Session on Tuesday, the 11th of May 2010, at 2:25 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Acting Speaker of the House, presided.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Good afternoon, members. Our First Day, Second Special Session now comes to order. Please stand for a moment of silence.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk, roll call please

The Clerk called the roll. Seventeen members were present; Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Raymond D. Palacios, and Froilan C. Tenorio were absent and excused.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: For the record, I would like to note that our Speaker called in sick, so he is not here with us for this session. Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero, recognized.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Just to say that Mr. Benavente is excused.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Benavente is excused. We have a communication that has been submitted but it did not make it in time to be included in our Order of Business for today. Mr. Raymond Palacios is also sick, and he is excused today. Mr. Frederick Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero: I wanted to know if I am marked "present".

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Yes, and thank you, Mr. Deleon Guerrero. Now, I would like to recognize public comments coming in from anyone in the gallery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro:

Mr. Joseph N. Camacho gave verbal testimony on H. J. R. 17-4. (Appendix A)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you very much, former Representative Camacho. Any other comments coming in from the public? At this time, I would like for the record to note that former Congresswoman Tina Sablan has requested that there be a public hearing conducted on H. J. R. 17-4, relative to the report by the Interior Department to the U.S. Congress. Any other comment? If none, I would like to move down to the next item on our Agenda.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

NONE

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize Mr. Iguel for H. B. 17-71.

Mr. Sylvestre Iguel: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Introducing for this body it is a bill for an Act to amend the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Chapter 140-18 to provide for the licensing of foreign trained medical professionals. Madam Speaker, when we created the Medical Professional Licensing Board back in 1982, it has not adopted any regulation for the licensing of medical professionals who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. Since the Medical Professional Licensing Board has not adopted licensing regulations necessary for the health and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth, the legislature finds that it is appropriate for the legislature to adopt appropriate regulations for the licensing for foreign medical professionals. Madam Speaker, this is one of those bills that is about to make the necessary amendment to improving regulations of the Medical Professional Licensing Board's policies so medical professionals or doctors from elsewhere can be allowed to practice here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Iguel. I am referring that House Bill to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. B. 17-71

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND NMIAC CHAPTER 140-50 TO PROVIDE
FOR THE LICENSING OF FOREIGN TRAINED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.**

Introduced by **REP. SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

Refer to Committee on Health and Welfare

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: For H. B. 17-72, I recognize Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce H. B. 17-72 to amend 4 CMC §§ 1401(d), (o), and (p) to make clarifications on the definition of certain taxable commodities; and for other purposes.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I am referring that House Bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. 17-72

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 4 CMC §§ 1401(D), (O), AND (P) TO MAKE CLARIFICATIONS ON THE DEFINITION OF CERTAIN TAXABLE COMMODITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

Refer to Committee on Ways and Means

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader, on H. B. 17-73.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, again, Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce H. B. 17-73, this is to amend 4 CMC § 1402(c)(7) thru (13) to remove an unnecessary provision and to grant the Secretary of Finance or his or her designee the authority to classify new products for taxation purposes; and for other purposes.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: That bill is also referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you.

H. B. 17-73

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 4 CMC § 1402(C)(7) THRU (13) TO REMOVE AN UNNECESSARY PROVISION AND TO GRANT THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE THE AUTHORITY TO CLASSIFY NEW PRODUCTS FOR TAXATION PURPOSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

Refer to Committee on Ways and Means

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize again Floor Leader Camacho.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, also I am introducing H. B. 17-74, this is to amend 1 CMC §§ 8363(a) and 8390(a) to allow the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Administrator to assess interest on overpayment or underpayment of benefits and to make technical amendments regarding life insurance coverage; and for other purposes.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: That Bill is referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. B. 17-74

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND 1 CMC §§ 8363(A) AND 8390(A) TO ALLOW THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND ADMINISTRATOR TO ASSESS INTEREST ON OVERPAYMENT OR

UNDERPAYMENT OF BENEFITS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS REGARDING LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by **REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)
Refer to Committee on Ways and Means

House Local Bills:

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk announced that there is one local bill for introduction and the Speaker Pro Tempore recognized Representative Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce H. L. B. 17-20 to make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for FY 2010 pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Rota Casino Act of 2007, as amended by Public Law 16-4; and for other purposes. Madam Speaker, with the introduction of this local bill, I would like to request the indulgence of the House Clerk to transmit the same to the Delegation Clerk for immediate action by the Rota Legislative Delegation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Ms. Santos.

H. L. B. 17-20

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION FOR FY 2010 PURSUANT TO SECTION 16(A) OF THE ROTA CASINO ACT OF 2007, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 16-4; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by **REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Next, introduction of resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

None

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize Mr. Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, last session I introduced a resolution referring to IT&E and GTA. I introduced that for Calendar purpose but it is not showing on today's Agenda.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: House Clerk. First I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I request for a short recess.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Let us have a minute recess.

The House recessed at 2:38 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:44 p.m.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are back in session. I would like to ask that we move back on our Order of Business and entertain discussion on H. L. B. 17-20. Is that okay with everybody.

Several members voiced "no objection" and the House went back to Item 3B, Introduction of House local bills.

House Local Bills:

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Tebuteb would like to raise concerns on H. L. B. 17-20.

H. L. B. 17-20

A BILL FOR AND ACT TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION FOR FY 2010 PURSUANT TO SECTION 16(A) OF THE ROTA CASINO ACT OF 2007, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 16-4; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by **Rep. Teresita A. Santos** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Please proceed, Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I know by tradition and for the past legislations, anything that deals with the First and Second Senatorial Districts, members usually just let it slide because *it is* an appropriation and in this instance, it is an appropriation coming from the Rota Gaming Commission. I am looking at the numbers and I am looking at Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000). What I understand and maybe our esteemed colleague from Rota will further enlighten us where the Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000) came about and how the Commission arrived at the distribution. And just express word of caution as you progress towards the casino development as called for by the people of Rota.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. Ms. Santos, please.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I thank also Mr. Tebuteb for his concern regarding the funding or where this money of Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000) derived from. Well, this money derived from one of the potential investors who have

seriously expressed his interest in opening up a casino in the island of Rota, and its name is the Rota Treasure Island. They have deposited Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000) to the Rota Gaming Commission and given them provision items, at the same time they accepted this amount of Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000). Of course the breakdown or how the Rota Gaming Commission is going to use or appropriate this Four Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$402,000) is very clear and is itemized in this House Local Bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: You may proceed, Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, I want to emphasize that there is no intention on my side to infringe on the matters dealing with the Rota Delegation. Although I did indicate that the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation did appropriate some funds to the Rota Gaming Commission, and part of the conditions and understanding on record on that appropriation is that within a year the Rota Delegation will pay back the appropriated amount. I know that there are some strings left and right, but that the Rota Delegation, within a year, will need to repay the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation's appropriation. I also understand that the Rota Gaming Commission has requested the Department of Finance through the Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation on the status of those funds given that the Department of Finance only transferred some but not all of the appropriated amount as called for by the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation. My biggest concern is because those are -- the wish for the Rota people is for the Rota gambling to take place. My biggest concern is that we want to make sure that the investor in this instance is protected. Just looking over the distribution on the fees that were collected by the Commission gives me a yellow flag, it tells me to raise a yellow flag most especially to the Commissioners salaries. With all due respect to the commissioners salaries and with my taking of what the most urgent matter that we need to look at is to make sure that we do not have a frustrated Rota Treasure Island investor on our hands and thus it could create some negative feedback later on because the operations, I am not sure where the -- I am not sure what the people who collects the fees are called when gambling operations take place -- I am not sure if the commissioners are the ones or -- I am trying to find the word and speak on the means of those responsible employees within the Commission who collects the fees. I am just saying that I am providing a yellow flag on the Rota Delegation to seriously consider those much needed employees so that the gaming commission in Rota works.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. Ms. Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In response to Mr. Tebuteb's comments, I am not fully aware neither aware of any memorandum of understanding or agreement in regards to the Rota Gaming Commission's repayment on monies that have been provided to the Rota Gaming Commission. If there is, I would highly appreciate if Mr. Tebuteb can submit that repayment document and perhaps after its submission to our Delegation Clerk, we can perhaps deliberate on this matter when the Rota Delegation is scheduled to hear this particular House Local Bill. At the same, and I am sure I have trust and confidence with our Rota Gaming Commission Commissioners that they will exercise prudent fiduciary duty when discharging or executing their duties and responsibilities as Rota Gaming Commissioners both with respect to administrative, personnel or whatever issues that affects the Rota Gaming Commission. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, I would like to recognize one more before we move on to our Introduction of Resolutions. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: I want to assure and I hope that our colleague from Rota does not take me the wrong way. Again, I do not want to infringe on your Rota Delegation issues. And rest assured I will not bring the repayment as an issue. My biggest concern is that we want to make sure that that was elaborated on our actions to support the Rota Gaming Commission by appropriation. That was very clear. I am not concern about the repayment at this point. My biggest concern is that we want to make sure that we do not have a frustrated investor in our hands. That is all.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you very much. I would like to suggest that we move on. I recognize Mr. Basa.

Mr. Ramon Basa: Point of clarification – I am interested – Mr. Tebuteb kept saying repayment. How much money are we talking about?

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Saipan Local Law 16-4, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriated Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000) for the Rota Gaming Commission under the expenditure authority of the Chair of the Gaming Commission. It further provided that the Rota Gaming Commission shall reimburse the same to the Third Senatorial District delegation account within one year of the effective date of the Act. Again, Madam Speaker and members, we want this to work and that is all I am saying because that is the wish of the people of Rota, and I am also concern in that we do not want a frustrated investor on our hands. Just from the looks of the breakdown on H. L. B. 17-20, it just tells me to raise a yellow flag. That is all, thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Let us continue on with our Order of Business. Floor Leader, what is the disposition of Mr. Dela Cruz's concern during recess, H. Res. 17-12.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: We will go ahead and place that on the Resolution Calendar when we get to it. We will just continue on with the introduction of resolutions.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Alright. Any more introductions? House Joint Resolutions?

House Joint Resolutions:

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. McGinnis Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, I need to restate my earlier statement. The resolution I was talking about is H. J. R. 17-3, introduced in this Chamber on April 30th and I ask the members to allow me to introduce and to be calendared. I would like to see that it is adopted today. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: And that House Joint Resolution was not referred to any particular committee? Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I will make a motion to place Mr. Dela Cruz's and Mr. McGinnis Torres' resolutions for action today when we get to the Resolution Calendar.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. We have H. J. R. 17-4. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: I would like to yield for the author to introduce the resolution.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Mr. Demapan.

Mr. Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce H. J. R. 17-4, House Substitute 1. Madam Speaker, the original House Joint Resolution that I authored with Mr. Frederick Deleon Guerrero is to focus more on the report of the Secretary of the Interior which represent erroneous information and data reference to the alien population and status as required by U.S. Public Law 110-229.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Demapan. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Point of clarification, Madam Speaker. Did Mr. Demapan just introduce the substitute? Short recess.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Short recess.

The House recessed at 2:57 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are back in session.

Mr. Rafael S. Demapan: Madam Speaker, I officially introduce H. J. R. 17-4.

H. J. R. 17-4

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT AND OBJECTION OF THE SEVENTEEN NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, TO THE REPORT ON THE ALIEN WORKER POPULATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS THAT WAS PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, WHICH INCLUDES RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DO NOT SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH, THAT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WITHOUT REVIEW OR CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR OR THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH AS MANDATED IN P.L. 110-229; AND STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REJECT THE SAID RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MEET
TOGETHER PURSUANT TO SECTION 902 OF THE COVENANT TO
FORMALIZE THE DOI SECRETARY'S REPORT. (AND ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS.)**

Introduced by **Rep. Rafael S. Demapan** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself* and Representative Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: H. J. R. 17-4 has been introduced and I will place it on the Resolution Calendar for today's discussion. Mr. McGinnis-Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: I just want to let known that I signed the original H. J. R. 17-4.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. McGinnis Torres. We move down to House Commemorative Resolutions.

House Commemorative Resolutions

None

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there was no resolution prefiled to place on the day's Agenda.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: House Concurrent Resolutions.

House Concurrent Resolutions:

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: We have H. Con. Res. 17-2.

Mr. Ramon Basa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution. The underlying purpose of this resolution is to approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning October 1, 2010, and ending on September 30, 2011. Although Fiscal Year 2011 is still months away, this concurrent resolution is necessary to establish an upper limit of how much the government may spend comes 2011. If you look at the resolution, based on the budget submission by the governor on April 1, 2010, the total net estimated revenue for general appropriation is One Hundred Thirty-Two Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars. (\$132,565,000). For you information, colleagues, we have been working tirelessly, diligently among the Standing Committee of Ways and Means conducting budget hearings for Fiscal Year 2011. Rest assured that we will work very hard and ensure that we come up with a balanced budget. We will send out a message that every department must live within their means that the \$132.565 is the base and that is the amount that we are going to work from. Thank you.

H. C. R. 17-2

**A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REVENUES AND
RESOURCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA**

ISLANDS, AS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 9(A) OF THE CONSTITUTION, AS AMENDED, AND 1 CMC, DIVISION 7, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2011.

Introduced by **REP. RAMON S. BASA** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Basa.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, can you place that on our Resolution Calendar also.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Yes, I am placing that for discussion on today's Calendar.

Mr. Ramon Basa: Please, I ask this Body's indulgence if we can calendar that today for action.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Let us move down to Messages from the Governor.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

GOV. COMM. 17-81: (5/3/10) Informing the House that he disapproved H. L. B. No. 17-10, D4 (Appropriation for National High School Mock Trial Competition; *Komfirensian Lengguahe*n Chamorro, Saipan Southern High School Pep Rally Competition, Precinct VI Basketball Court Repair). [*Deadline: 7/2/10*]

GOV. COMM. 17-82: (5/4/10) Informing the House that he signed into law H. B. 17-8 (Amending the Local Law Act of 1984 pertaining to appearance of local bills) [*Became Public Law 17-2.*]

GOV. COMM. 17-83: (5/4/10) Informing the House that he disapproved H. B. 17-20, SD1 (Lateral Transfer of Personnel from the Division of Immigration) [*Deadline: 7/3/10*]

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker that the House has three messages for discussion.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Any discussion? I recognize Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On GOV. COMM. 17-81, the veto message, while I certainly applaud the Administration for suggesting that part of the reason for their disapproval is because this bill fails to require any accountability in the form of reporting requirement, and also it suggested an example of the Seventy Three Thousand Dollars (\$73,000.00) appropriation from the delegation. Of course, it simply states that it shall be for personnel and operations. The message seems to indicate that the delegation action failed to submit to the accountability of what is defined for personnel and operations. It also illustrates that the personnel expenses which reads "it fails to indicate how the personnel expenses will be spent", and that it states reasons. Part of the reason at the end of the sentence is whether is it is also to supplement for any shortfall. That is very interesting. The delegation does not have any expenditure yet, and notice that the Administration is already suggesting that there may be

because it lacks accountability because of any shortfall that the delegation may incur. It is kind of ironic. The second page of the message is clear. In the first paragraph, the Governor, may upon request from the mayor or the legislative delegation from the senatorial district – alluding to the ten percent (10%). Let me remind the members that this funding at the end of the action came from Precinct 3 and Precinct 4. This funding, according to the message comes from Saipan Local Laws 14-11 and 14-15, in particular and specifically the Commonwealth Drive. The Commonwealth Drive is the stretch of road at the entrance of Taro Sue store towards the Sugar Cane Estate. I would say that is a little over a hundred meters. Let me also remind the members that Precinct 3 did in this particular instance on the Commonwealth Drive as requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW) in June 2, 2006, is that we provided the projected shortfall suggested and recommended by DPW in the amount of Twenty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000). So that is a very far off amount on this Commonwealth Drive from Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) from the \$28,000 the projected by DPW in 2006. In other words, somehow someone within the Administration provided some sort of a nice feedback to the Administration to veto this bill. I, for one, am holding a letter from the Precinct 3 representative because it is in line with what the governor's message is on the ten percent as approved by the delegation and this was in 2006. A House Resolution also 16-39, this is Mr. McGinnis Torres' measure, requested some funding from the Federal Highway Funds and the disaster funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to repair this Commonwealth Drive. I will not go further an even hint any other challenges that we have had to deal with in Precinct 3 with the Department of Public Works, in particular the museum. So it is very interesting. I am not sure who will benefit from the message from this veto. As elaborating our discussion during the deliberation of this bill from Mr. Cabrera, the intention of this appropriation is for the so-called, rainy days. Everybody other than a few members disagreed, and we have to respect that. At any rate, the bill passed, but somehow the message was sent through the Administration that it is not an appropriate bill. As you all may have received different communication within our community asking for some sort of assistance from the delegation. Be it as it may, I will not move for an override. I would suggest that we consider either somebody from the Administration to have some sort a chat with Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 representatives given that this is also coming from the rest of the other precinct representatives, in particular Mr. Cabrera to do good. Somehow, somebody question to no good. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Chair. I surprised that our good Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation did not say he was going to move for an override. I do want to weigh in on the governor's veto message as well, Madam Speaker, because I believe that either the cause of that word is unfamiliar, he is not aware of the code, the laws that govern these funds. He uses on the third paragraph justification that this legislation is in violation of the 1 CMC § 7302, and goes on to say that these funds were specifically appropriated capital improvement projects and goes on to cite the specific provision of the Commonwealth Code. That provision deals with the governor's reprogramming authority for CIPs (Capital Improvement Project). This is not a reprogramming activity. This is a reappropriation of local funds. This is a reappropriation from Saipan Local Law 14-11 coming from Saipan Local Law 11-2 which is the poker machine licensing fees. There is no limitation in terms of how those funds are going to be appropriated. We appropriate funding from the poker fees to go into scholarship and different needs every year. So, the justification that they used,

especially citing the governor's reprogramming authority has no bearing on this legislation. It is totally off the wall – it is talking about apple and we are talking about oranges. I just want to state for the record that whoever wrote the governor's veto message is way off line – 1 CMC § 7302 has nothing whatsoever to do with appropriating funds from Saipan Local Law 11-2 which is the poker machine licensing fees. The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has every authority to appropriate it whether it is for operations, for CIPs, for scholarships, or anything else it deems relevant. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Guerrero. I recognize Ms. Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on GOV. COMM. 17-83. I understand that in this particular communication, the governor has expressed his disapproval this is our good former immigration officer or good Representative Mr. Sablan's bill. About those affecting immigration officers who I recall sat in the gallery to speak on the successful passage of this bill in both houses. It is sad, Madam Speaker, that it was vetoed by the governor, of course, for various reasons, and I understand that four (4) of these immigration officers are from the island of Rota, the First Senatorial District, and ten (10) from the Third Senatorial District. This appears to be a concern, Madam Speaker. One, because these immigration officers are going to be left without any continued employment. The Governor, in his communication, made a recommendation, which says that the best solution would be for the federal government to adopt the immigration intern plan for these former immigration employees. I would not recommend an override, Madam Speaker, but I appeal to this body to assist in this matter for the sake of these present and perhaps even those former immigration employees who will be affected as a result of the governor's disapproval of our good congressman's bill. Thank you, Madam. Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Ms. Santos. I recognize Mr. Sablan.

Mr. Antonio Sablan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the start of the year, I spoke before this Body in regards to the plight of the fourteen (14) employees that have yet to be permanently assigned to the various agencies of the government. H. B. 7-20 attempted to remove the uncertainty, with the fact that a majority if not all of these employees are long-termed employees that have served the government in their capacity as protectors of our borders. Through the years, these individuals have obtained much training and skills. Like I said, they loyally get through their jobs remaining on duty to the very last day, even to the point where while they were leaving when the new CBP (Customs Border Patrol) Officers were brought here to take over their jobs were on site at the airport immigration facility. I just find it hard that while we continue to hear of new hires within the government, we received a bill that says that the bill does not limit lateral transfer to vacant positions. Who are we kidding? I have yet to see somebody from OPM (Office of Personnel Management) come straight out and say that – oh, new hires are being filled pursuant to civil service regulations which mandate that any opening for any hires be made through competitive announcements. Secondly, they say that it will not be fair to hire or bind positions within the government for these employees who have given so much to the government and its people, because it would not be fair for those that have already been placed in various agencies within the government. With the assumption that some of them will come back and complain that it is not fair for them because they received or accepted positions at reduced salary levels I have yet to contact one who have so far being officially transmitted into a new government position with a reduced salary. In fact, I have not completed information

gathering but some of those who have already been transferred have received increased pay in salary. Again, who is kidding who? I just find it hard that in this time where we are going to be entertaining a resolution that is supposed to show protection for our people, that we are pushing the buck to the federal government and say let the immigration intern program take care of these people. Sometimes we take things too easy, we sit back and we wait for something to happen and in the meantime – excuse the language – but we get the short end of the stick to all of them. These people deserve more than this. Why depend on the federal government. The government itself went to court to try to fight the Department Homeland Security in regards to U.S. Public Law 110-229. We fought to try to get our current employees hired, but Homeland stuck to its guns and said -- hey, we have a hiring policy, you are over the age limit, you cannot qualify, you cannot even think of applying. Madam Speaker and fellow members, things like this makes you wonder sometimes who is playing who. These are our people. These people have worked for us. While most of us are fast asleep, these people get up in the middle of the night to do their jobs, and now we are telling them we cannot find – what, fourteen (14) positions within this government for them? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Sablan. I recognize Mr. Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to state for the record that the citations here are confusing with respect to a section within the veto message on paragraph 3 where it states and I quote – “Assuming that no vacant positions exists, since efforts to place Immigration employees have been ongoing for many months, OPM will be tasked with placing Immigration employees into lateral positions for which the Immigration employee is qualified even if the position is currently occupied. This will necessitate OPM coordinating a Reduction in Force.” It goes on to say that since there is no limitation which agency shall receive these people, this bill will impact multiple departments within the Commonwealth. Exactly which departments will be affected is presently unknown. This was signed May 4th. We transmitted this legislation to the Governor’s Office of March 26. As we know, April 1st was the deadline for the governor to submit the FY 2011 budget, and I have actually gone through quite a number of pages of the governor’s submission of the 2011 budget and I came upon the Department of Public Health, a division, and I find one position title within the Department of Public Health for an Immigration Investigator I. The person who is here is given a salary. As I look down further, there are three additional vacancies just for this one business unit. So this leads me to conclude that there was a lot of planning in attempting to place these fourteen immigration employees to the point where it is even included in the 2011 budget. Therefore, there was ample time for OPM to look and identify positions that people are qualified. Apparently, an Immigration Investigator I fit perfectly well within the Department of Public Health. In case anyone is curious, you can ask me the page number and I will give it to you. I am looking at it as I speak. So, out of respect for these people, I will hold the page number, but I will give it to you upon request. My point here is that the reasons for vetoing the bill apparently is not strong enough because the resemblance to prove that there is enough OPM and other critical key personnel to source positions for these people.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you. I would now like that we move down further on our Order of Business to Senate Communications.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

SEN. COMM. 17-34: (4/29/10) Transmitting a certified copy of S. R. No. 17-15, entitled, “Honoring and commending His Excellency Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, whose retirement has been accepted by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI,” which was adopted by the Senate. (For info)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there was one communication from the Senate.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to House Communications.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there was no communication from the House.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Communications from the Judicial Branch.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 17-8: (5/4/10) Certification of salary to exceed \$50,000 for QuynhChi Nguyen.

JUD. BR. COMM. 17-9: (5/4/10) Certifying that the position of Law Clerk is vacant and must be filled.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there were two communications from the Senate.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Communications Departments and Agencies.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

NONE

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there was no communication from the departments or agencies.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We move on to Miscellaneous Communications.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Clerk.

The Clerk informed the Speaker Pro Tempore that there was one communication from the Senate.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there is no objection, I would like to request that we move on to Resolution Calendar.

There was no objection from the floor and the House moved down to Resolution Calendar.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

S. C. R. 17-11: Reporting on H. B. 17-28, entitled, “A Bill for an Act to empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities, and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-28 with amendments.*

S. C. R. 17-14: Reporting on H. B. 17-35, entitled, “To prohibit the cruel treatment of animals; to provide for penalties; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. 17-35 in its current form.*

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: You may proceed, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, before we proceed with our Resolution Calendar I move to suspend Rule IX, Sections 8 and 9 so that we may place a couple of resolution on the Calendar.

The motion was seconded. There being no discussion the motion to suspend Rule IX, Sections 8 and 9 was carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is carried. You may proceed Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With that, I move to place on the Resolution Calendar H. Res. 17-12 authored by Mr. Dela Cruz.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. H. Res. 17-12 was placed on the House Resolution Calendar.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Proceed, Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, I also move that we place on the Resolution Calendar H. J. R. 17-3 sponsored by the good Mr. McGinnis Torres.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. H. J. R. 17-3 was placed on the House Resolution Calendar.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Proceed, Mr. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. With that, we have four resolutions on our Calendar for action today. First of this is H. Res. 17-12 authored by Mr. Dela Cruz respectfully requesting the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to not authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to raise water and waste water rates in the Commonwealth. I move for its adoption.

The motion to adopt H. Res. 17-12 was seconded by several others.

Introduced by Rep. Francisco M. Dela Cruz of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Basa, Benavente, Cabrera, Camacho, Conner, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, Demapan, Iguel, Ogumoro, Joseph Palacios, Raymond Palacios, Sablan, Tebuteb, Tenorio, McGinnis Torres, Villagomez and Yumul) on April 30, 2010.

H. Res. 17-12

Respectfully requesting the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to not authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to raise water and waste water rates in the Commonwealth.

There was no discussion on the resolution and House adopted H. Res. 17-12 by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is passed. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the adoption of the House Joint Resolution offered by Mr. McGinnis Torres. This is a House Joint Resolution to strongly encourage the National Telecommunications and information Administration (NTIA) to proceed with due diligence and the unbiased process of awarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money in the second round of the broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

The motion to adopted H. J. R. 17-3 was seconded.

Introduced by Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis-Torres of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Cabrera, Benavente, Dela Cruz, Fred Deleon Guerrero, and Sablan) on April 30, 2010.

H. J. R. No. 17-3

To strongly encourage the National Telecommunications and information Administration (NTIA) to proceed with due diligence and the unbiased process of awarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money in the second round of the broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion. I recognize Mr. Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the members if there is no objection to have this H. J. R. 17-3 introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Is there any objection.

Several members voice "no objection" and the resolution would now include the names of all members of the House present as a co-author of H. J. R. 17-3.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you. Further discussion on the motion.

There was no further discussion, and the motion to adopt H. J. R. 17-3 was carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion is adopted. I recognize Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: I believe the Floor Leader said there are four resolutions that are on the Resolution Calendar. I recall that we suspended the House Rules to place two resolutions only.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: And the two that the Speaker placed once they were introduced today, which are the House Concurrent Resolution on the Budget and the House Joint Resolution regarding the Interior Report.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Deleon Guerrero. Proceed, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Next is H. J. R. 17-4, this is in regards to the report of the Secretary of the Interior. With that, I move for its adoption.

The motion to adopt H. J. R. 17-4 was seconded.

Introduced by Rep. Rafael S. Demapan; of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Eliceo D. Cabrera, Joseph M. Palacios, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, George N. Camacho, Stanley T. McGinnis-Torres) on May 11, 2010. Mr. Joseph N. Camacho presented verbal testimony (Appendix A) and Mr. Glen Hunter provided written testimony (Appendix B).

H. J. R. 17-4

To express the grave concern about and objection of the Seventeen Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the House and the Senate, to the Report on the Alien Worker Population in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that was prepared by the Secretary of the Interior, which includes recommendations that do not serve the best interest of the Commonwealth, that was submitted to the United States Congress without review or consultation with the Governor or the Legislature of the Commonwealth as mandated in P.L. 110-229; and strongly urging the United States Congress to reject the said recommendations until such time the Government of the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands meet together pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to formalize the DOI Secretary's Report. (and its recommendations.)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion on the motion. Mr. Demapan.

Mr. Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize earlier because I was moving too fast. I guess when it comes to protecting the rights of the indigenous I get excited. Madam Speaker and members of the this Congress, the original resolution that I authored with Mr. Frederick Deleon Guerrero is to focus more on the Report of the Secretary of the Interior which represent erroneous information and data reference to alien population and status required by US Public Law 110-229. Madam Speaker and members. I would like to state my position, in particular, how the recommendation would impact our indigenous here in the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Interior in his recommendation in this *Report on the Alien Workers Population in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* is as follows:

“(1) alien workers could be conferred United States citizenship by Act of Congress;

(2) alien workers could be conferred a permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship (per the normal provisions of the INA relating to naturalization), with the five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the United States or its territories; or

(3) alien workers could be conferred a permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with the five-year minimum residence spent in the CNMI.

Additionally, under U.S. immigration law special status is provided to aliens who are citizens of the freely associated states.”, such as:

“(1) alien workers could be granted a nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for citizens of the freely associated states, whereby such persons may live and work in the United States and its territories; or

(2) alien workers could be granted a nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for citizens of the freely associated states, whereby such persons may live and work in the CNMI only.”

And the Secretary of the Interior, in justifying to Congress his recommendations that were mentioned in this report on the alien workers’ population in the CNMI cited U.S. Public Law 97-271 as a precedent for the Congress granting long term status to nonresident workers, citing: “and the establishment of immigration policy granted the opportunity to apply for U.S. permanent residence to more than 20,000 legal, long-time (more than seven years continuous residence), alien workers in the U.S. Virgin Islands.” It is believed that these 20,000 alien workers are mostly from the Caribbean Islands and many of these aliens are closely related and or distant relatives of the Virgin Islands. Therefore, the issuance of permanent residents to these 20,000 alien workers especially that their population as of the year 2000 was 108,612. Therefore this demographic predominantly favor the Virgin Islanders, meaning they are spending or managing their political affairs beliefs and aspirations will remain strong under their own control and as such may not cause adverse economic and political impact to the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The said Report shows that there are altogether 20,859 aliens, both legal and illegal who are present in the CNMI in late December 2009. Of that figure, 2,221 have stayed in the CNMI for about three to five years and 15,816 stayed in the CNMI for five years of more. Unlike the U.S. Virgin Islands, this 20,859 aliens are not blood related to the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands and mostly came to work in the CNMI (from the Philippines, Korea and China, Thailand, Bangladesh, and other Asian countries.) The same Report recommend that the Congress considers permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a period of 65 years to apply for a long terms status under the Immigration and Nationality laws of the United States. Therefore, if the Congress approves such recommendation, about 17,000 could be conferred U.S. citizenship, or conferred permanent resident status leading to United States citizenship. At present, Madam Speaker and members, there is approximately 16,000 registered voters in the Northern Mariana Islands. Of that figure, approximately 3,000 registered non-indigenous people-non-indigenous Chamorro or Carolinian. If the Congress conferred U.S. citizenship to the 17,000 aliens, that would take the number of non-indigenous voters to 20,000 and the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians to 13,000 voters, that, Madam Speaker and members, immediately will change the demographic of the CNMI making the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian a minority in their home islands. Madam Speaker and members, if such recommendation is entertained and approved by the US Congress without any consideration of complete review and input of the CNMI Government would definitely create and immediate and adverse political and economic impact so detrimental to the livelihood of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people. And one that will rob their rights of local self-government and to govern themselves as a people of the Northern Mariana Islands as guaranteed under Article I, Section 103 of the Covenant. For your information, the U.S. Virgin Islands are part of the United Nations list of non-self governing territories. Unlike the CNMI, the Virgin Islands is an incorporated and organized territory of the United States administered by the Office of Insular Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior and functions under the *Revised Organic Act* set by the Congress of the United States. Therefore, it is understandable for the Secretary of the Interior to exercise his authority in immigration and nationality matters as it

regards to the U.S. Virgin Islands, but to the CNMI, the Secretary or any official of the U.S. Government shall abide to the applicable provisions of the Covenant when addressing any matter that concerns or may cause severe adverse economic and political impact of the indigenous people, particularly with respect to their rights of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to the Covenant. Madam Speaker and members, it shall be understood that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is not and was never a territory of the United States of America. In accordance with its political relationship with the United States under the Covenant, the CNMI is a political family of the United States and as such may be considered a state and not a territory. For all those reasons I have just presented in the interest of protecting our rights to local self-government and to govern ourselves as a people of the Northern Marianas, I urge the passage of H. J. R. 17-4, House Substitute 1.

The substitute offered by Representative Demapan was seconded and reads:

“ **Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**
In the House of Representatives
 May 11, 2010
Second Special Session, 2010

H. J. R. 17-4, HS1

A House Joint Resolution to oppose the Secretary of Interior’s Report as prepared pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229 regarding the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) which was submitted to the U.S. Congress in April 2010.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth’s right to self-government is evident in the Congressional Intent of Public Law 110-229 as set forth in Section 701, which provides that federal immigration laws shall be extended to the CNMI with special provisions “recognizing local self-government, as provided for the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America through consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth”; and

WHEREAS, Section 701 of Public Law 110-229 provides that in enacting the law, the U.S. Congress intended to extend federal immigration laws to the Commonwealth with special provisions, among other things, and to minimize to the greatest extent practicable potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing out the Commonwealth’s nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth’s potential for future economic and business growth; and

WHEREAS, Section 702 of Public Law 110-229 required the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Governor of the Commonwealth, to report on the nonresident guest worker population not later than two years after the enactment of the Act on May 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the House and Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature finds that the Secretary of the Interior drafted, finalized, and submitted the Report on the Alien Worker Population (hereinafter referred to as the “Report”) to the U.S. Congress without consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth as required by Section 702 of Public Law 110-229; and

WHEREAS, the Report further contains incomplete and incorrect data regarding the number of aliens and their legal status in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the number of years each alien has been residing in the CNMI by harmonizing different methods for counting aliens rather than using objective reliable methodology; and

WHEREAS, the Report erroneously determines the CNMI’s future need for alien workers by surveying simply ten businesses in Saipan, less than one percent of the total number of businesses in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Report recommends that the U.S. Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully been in the CNMI for a minimum period of five years to apply for long-

term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States without discussing, among other things, the social, economic, political, and cultural impact of such a recommendation and *without* consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth as required by Public Law 110-229; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior's recommendation for the U.S. Congress to permit the alien workers who have been in the Commonwealth for at least five years to apply for long-term status without a complete and thorough impact assessment study will have great effects on the Commonwealth's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Report further fails to discuss the negative consequences of the Secretary of the Interior's recommendations including, among other things, the Commonwealth's social programs such as the Nutritional Assistance Program and Section 8 housing benefits, the loss of employment opportunities for resident U.S. citizens, the increase in unemployment of resident U.S. citizens, and the increase in medical care costs for the Commonwealth government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature strongly opposes the Department of Interior's Report; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature hereby respectfully requests that the U.S. Congress direct the Department of Interior to consult the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as mandated by Public Law 110-229; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature respectfully requests that the U.S. Congress direct the Department of Interior to collaborate with the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in preparing and submitting to Congress a report that includes the Commonwealth government's position and recommendations as to the future status of the alien worker population in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to the Honorable Nick J. Rahall II, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources; the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife; the Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior; Antonio Babauta, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior, the Honorable Gregorio C. Sablan, member U.S. House of Representatives, members of the Congress of the United States; and the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. Demapan. I now recognize Mr. Frederick Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero: We have spent quite a few days drafting this legislation, Madam Speaker, to the point that – and my colleague here has made – the Department of the Interior has erred in presenting their point in what should be done about the alien population here. Although they have made their point, they have failed to get the proper input from us in violation of U.S. Public Law 110-229. At the same token, it gives us an opportunity to wake up and smell the roses and get moving. Because the alien population, although we may not prefer that they become citizens, it appears that the federal government has their own agenda, and it appears that the federal government plans to make their own decisions. Either who can stand up and fight for ourselves or we can just go, relax and just let everything happen. I, for one, would like to stand up and fight. Of course in the most peaceful as possible way, but this is really a slap in the face and I believe this is not the right thing or avenue to cross over to. What I wish had happened is proper consultation with our government, which actually has not happened. So I

urge all of you for the quick passing of this resolution so that we may go on and fight for our people. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Fred Deleon Guerrero, I will now recognize Mr. Conner.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just for a point of clarification – on page 4 line 21, I understand that this a House Joint Resolution and I know I echoed the concern earlier but for record purposes, it states there that the adoption of this concurrent resolution. I would like to clarify – is it a concurrent resolution or is it joint resolution. And if it is a joint resolution, just to amend this or correct this typographical error.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Conner. That is an error that will be taken later. I now recognize Ms. Santos.

Ms. Teresita Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I recall three months ago in one of the Committee on Natural Resources Meeting, when Mr. Iguel mentioned to the committee members that an eminent perfect storm is approaching the Commonwealth. At that time, Madam Speaker, I could not have any connection or insinuation as to what Mr. Iguel was trying to convey to the members. Now, I fully understand he was referring it to – it is concerning the Secretary of the Interior's Report as prepared pursuant to U.S. Public 110-229 and as a result of that, Madam Speaker, I would like to recommend the endorsement of H. J. R. 17-4, House Substitute 1 by all the members of the House of Representatives. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you Mr. Iguel.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Santos. I now recognize Mr. McGinnis Torres.

Mr. Stanley McGinnis-Torres: Madam Speaker, just to clarify – I read the original House Joint Resolution yesterday, and I am looking at House Substitute and it is has been watered down to fifty percent. Is that being carefully thought?

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Mr. McGinnis-Torres, H. J. R. 17-4, HS1 is the result of work of the task force, a working group that was put together to come up with a unified position for the CNMI Government to take. The one that was filed was a draft version of the joint resolution we are looking at now. So, after much work that involves representatives from the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch – the House and the Senate – this is what we have. A version that is now considered to be a substitute of H. J. R. 17-4. Further discussion. We are now discussing H. J. R. 17-4, HS1. I now recognize Mr. Sablan.

Mr. Antonio Sablan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is in regards to the report submitted by the Department of the Interior (DOI). On page 20, I find it very disturbing that while DOI can talk about the Virgin Islands and continue to say that it is a necessary and equitable to provide for the orderly adjustment of the immigration status to that permanent resident alien, their section of the report continues with the following language: "Congress also found that the immigration of family members of these workers would likely be detrimental to the Virgin Islands, and sharply limited the opportunity of family members not already long-term residents of the Virgin Islands to immigrate based upon the workers' new status." I do know, but reading

that tells me that even the federal government or somebody referring to Congress realizes the impact of giving entitlements to a mass number of people such as, permanent residency and U.S. citizenship for everybody know that there is no way around it. But when you confer entitlements or improve immigration benefits to a large number of outsiders within a small society, you overturn the political and economic situation or the political power of the indigenous people. I kept asking myself how this sentence or sentences can be put in a report when what they are attempting is exactly the concern that they have mentioned here. Again, I say -- Congress also found that the immigration of family members of these workers would likely be detrimental to the Virgin Islands, and sharply limited the opportunity of family members not already long-term residents of the Virgin Islands to immigrate...". Here, we are talking about not just contract workers, we are talking about the whole pot. We are talking about everybody that is here, contract workers, family members, and while they made the distinction or the precaution in the Virgin Islands case, I read the DOI Report and there is no such concern for the local political and culture of the indigenous people. And it continues: "Congress also significantly limited the entry of new temporary workers..." so obviously somebody recognized the impact that such an action would draw when you confer, improve immigration status, or other citizenship entitlements to a large number of people. I just thought I would point that out, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Sablan. We are still discussing H. J. R. 17-4, HS1. I now recognize Mr. Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. H. J. R. 17-4, HS1, I would like to point out that I know that Mr. McGinnis Torres had made some comments as to the original H. J. R. 17-4 and under H. J. R. 17-4, HS1, the author's focus kind of brought the issue down really the heart of the matter, which is the report that was provided by the Secretary of the Interior. I too have read through it and there are issues concerning the data that was being sourced. An issue such as this, especially of this magnitude really requires a more sound basis, factual data. We are in the middle of the 2010 Census. For me a view from once that information has been thoroughly gathered and processed we will truly have a picture of where we stand as a community, both the U.S. citizens and the non-citizens. For myself, I have also contemplated over the years that I have been in office what would be with regards to the decision that we would ultimately come to make. Even our colleagues in the Senate have mentioned that we keep putting this issue aside, some of us have also brought up today that we can no longer ignore the issue, and that we must have a position. Being in the Legislature, of course, it would be based on the majority of the members and that is to be respected. I believe that the substitute version, which had been offered today will help to provide not just the members of this legislative body, but also the communities at large in the direction as to what information are we going to use. We have the Department of Interior's Report, we have the local Department of Labor's Report, but yet we do not have a more neutral data which I believe would be within the 2010 Census. So, I am looking forward to that report so that we can go on and once and for all come up with a more sound position that is balanced and takes into account every social and economic aspect of concern. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogunoro: Thank you, Mr. Yumul. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am sure a lot has been said, I will be quite privy of what was mentioned but I will try to make it short and generalize. Just reflecting on the first part of the Resolution on the Whereas clause from line 1 to line 7. There is a myth in our

community that the “recommendation” proposed by the Department of Interior will facilitate economic progress or growth. I say the so called “recommendation” is just such myth. Miriam Webster defines myth as a legendary narrative that presents part of the beliefs of the people, or explains a practice. In fact, I believe it more like a deistical recommendation. Although the Covenant under Article 5 Section 503 is clear, the Department of the Interior fails to honor the integrity of Section 105. It is a guaranteed agreement. Section 105 limits the U.S. legislative authority with respect to Section 103, our self-determination and under internal affairs. The Department of the Interior Report fails to at least mention a hint of respect to the U.S. President’s Personal Representative, the Honorable William Hayden, who negotiated the Covenant. The U.S. side of the negotiation process initiated the idea of owning our own lands, internally. They also initiated the idea of not voting for the U.S. President. And now, this drastic turn circumcises the hidden intent of the U.S. government. Comparing the U.S. Virgin Islands is irrelevant because the process for anyone to become a U.S. citizen is there, even without these ultimatums, recommendations as they suggested. This resolution hits the issue right on the head. Our former justice, the late Honorable Ramon G. Villagomez, sums it up so simply at best, and I quote – “The best way to describe the CNMI is what it is, not what it is not. It is not a territory, it is not an unincorporated state, and it is not an organized territory of the U.S. The Department of the Interior’s Report slams the provision of the honored accord between the U.S. government and the people of the CNMI. The former Secretary of State, the Honorable Henry Kissinger in recent past clobbered our region, especially our Micronesian friends when he said, and I quote – “I don’t give a damn, history teaches us what we don’t know much about.” I strongly believe that there are members in the U.S. Congress who do give a damn. I hope and respectfully request that those individuals who do care and understand our people consider our desire for self-government. As such, I hope that we all support the resolution.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. I recognize Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am going to speak my mind about why this resolution is so important, but why the Department of the Interior’s Report touches us very deeply. I feel it has to do with the different beliefs. I do not think the Secretary of the Interior was far off line in his recommendation if you put it in the context of the American ideals and beliefs, which is one of sort of an open arms policy, if you will towards immigration – the land of immigrants, the land of the melting pot – where different people can come in and that is what made America what it is. So, I do not think we should be harsh on him for supporting a view that is really the view of the United States. But, I think the reason that we are so insulted that we were not consulted by the Department of the Interior is that we do not necessarily hold that belief. I think our position is clearly reflected in our immigration policies in the past where we welcome our workers as guest worker not necessarily to come here to be immigrants. That is reflected in our laws, it is even reflected in our CNMI Constitution as I have been told which bars this body from enacting laws that would confer permanent residency status to aliens. Now, we have to grapple with this issue, and I feel strongly, as I am sure most of you probably feel, that are we anti-American for believing the way we do? I think not. I think we are practical and we understand that our islands are just too small that our people could potentially be minorities, and we could lose our rights to govern ourselves if this type of immigration policy is imposed on us. I think Article XII – some consider Article XII as biased – where lands can only be passed on to people of Northern Marianas Descent (NMD). Some may claim that that law is nonexistent in any part of the state, territory, or commonwealth of the United States, but

rightly so because our forefathers – and thankfully so – even the U.S. negotiators realize how vulnerable an issue is such as our lands could be if we lost it. I think the same is true in this case. So here is one policy issue where we may not agree with our American bothers, but I think there is very valid grounds for that and that should be said for the record. Here is one case where I think every leader in the Commonwealth is not disagreeing with each other. We are unified in this stance, and I would like to state that for the record, Madam Speaker. Thank you and thank you members. I, too, do support this position.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. Deleon Guerrero. Let me now recognize Mr. Conner.

Mr. Trenton Conner: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with all due respect to the Department of the Interior and their Report, it is disheartening to know that a brother in the sister island of Guam would somewhat shoot us in the heart the fact of the matter that we were not consulted, especially with our honorable governor to look into the issue of our contract workers. We are not contracting or against the contract workers that are here in the CNMI. We appreciate the assistance, expertise, and the skill that they have provided over the years to our CNMI in building our CNMI. On the same token, it has been understood that the very and intent and purpose of them coming to the CNMI was to build the CNMI. And now, we are in this predicament of trying to see what the future might hold for the CNMI because of the actions of the federal government putting the intent that there is a probability that they will avail to being U.S. citizens. That was never a part of the contractual agreement that we agree upon in employing these contract workers in the CNMI. Just of the legal purpose of being employed in the CNMI now we are going to be displaced in our own homeland for that very contract in which we have agreed upon. It is not a valid and justifiable reason to allow them to be granted the status to become U.S. citizens. We have to keep in mind and the Department of the Interior should have also kept in mind the true intent of their purpose in being here. We cannot just allow the federal government to impose their will upon us as to what they have shown and done in the past taking away our northern islands to claim it as a Marine Monument because a certain select few of our brothers and sisters here in the CNMI thought was for the best interest and well-being of the CNMI. Now, we know for a fact that the eight northern islands are being surveyed for environmental impact studies for the very intent of the United States Department of Defense in probably having future plans to utilize those islands. Here we are again looking at the issue of the contract workers. Madam Speaker and Members of this Body, we brought these people in for the purpose of employment. We were chastised, we were criticized, we were characterized as a loophole in human smuggling, we were put on international news for the sole benefit of changing the intent of being employed to the intent of being U.S. citizen, to have U.S. citizen rights. Just because had mistakes in the past, misdeeds were done to the contract workers, does not give any other foreign nationality the right to come in and displace us in our own homes, in our own lands and to take away our rights as citizens of the CNMI to live freely in our islands. When they came here with the intent to provide their expertise and their skills and their neighbor they saw the freedoms, the privileges, the advantages and they sow their seeds in our CNMI. Now, they have come to grips to say that they have a right to be here, with all intents and proposes with what they have contributed. But when they signed their contracts to come here and work, that was not agreed upon for them to sow their seeds in the CNMI. But we allowed it anyway because they found us as a very open, heartwarming people treating them like brothers and sisters, and now we are being threatened by being open and friendly. Wanting to come in and displace us from our homes, wanting to come in to and displace us from our lands, wanting

to come in and displace us from our very own government in which we are trying to protect as rights of the people of the indigenous CNMI. I, too, will support this resolution, although I was not invited to the meeting by the Governor. I feel it was not right that I was not invited along with some of the other distinguished members of this body. But, I will support this resolution and I hope that with the original version that I read in regards to the 902 Talks that was to be requested that we try to establish some sort of dialogue with the federal government and we come to an amicable solution pertaining to the contract workers letting them know that we still appreciate them being in the CNMI, we still need them to sustain the economy, but not with the intent and purpose of displacing us in our own islands. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you very much, Mr. Conner. For further discussion, let me recognize Mr. Dela Cruz.

Mr. Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know that this is one of the most critical issues that the CNMI Government has ever and probably will ever face. There are lifetimes here. First of all I want to say that I am in support of the House joint resolution mainly because of the issue of consultation with the governor, which I do not believe has properly been done. U.S. Public Law 110-229 is specific that the Governor of the CNMI should be a party to such consultations. Actions have been taken such as, the Report to the U.S. Congress and then submitted to the CNMI government without any proper consultation. I always believe that consultation should always come first before action is taken, but in this case, it is probably the other way around. A lot of people of the Commonwealth are also very concerned on the issue, and they have every right to be. Whenever you think about an influx of people taking over islands, it makes for a big concern. The Report submitted by DOI indicates that there are about 15,000 to 16,000 nonresident employees that have lived here for five years or more. The Report is not specific on their last page as to what will become of these employees immediate relatives from abroad. It suggests that it will be up to the U.S. Congress to make that decision. But let us think about that for a minute. If we have 16,000 nonresident workers on island, and let us say that each worker has an average family number of three. If Congress decides to grant all of them some permanent status, immediately, there would be close to about 70,000 new permanent residents or U.S. citizens. I have heard the discussions made. Article XII of the CNMI Constitution, that is a good one. Sixty-four thousand new residents will eventually takeover the CNMI government. They will eventually introduced initiatives, whether popular or legislative – it does not matter – because by then they will have the numbers. They will introduce an initiative to get rid of Article XII so that everyone is able to have lands in the CNMI, to own lands in the CNMI whether through homesteading, outright purchase, as a gift, we do not know. If you ask me whether I am concerned, I am very concerned. But then again, we have the Covenant Agreement that we should live by. That is a sacred agreement we have with the U.S. government. And somewhere in that agreement it states that we want to have self-government, not for somebody to come in and give us government. We want self-government. That is why in the Covenant we have all these consultative processes, Section 702, Section 902, and if they cannot be resolved there is Section 903, let us take it to court, just like what the Governor did opposing U.S. immigration. I think that the public hearing in the U.S. Congress will be coming up and I hope this resolution plays a big part during that hearing. I really hope it does because we do not know what the U.S. Congress will do. We do not know whether they will take one of the five options presented by the DOI. We do not know whether they have other options. But, I think we need to make it clear that before any of those options are entertained, we need to be consulted as spelled in U.S. Public Law 110-229. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Thank you, Mr. Dela Cruz. Are you ready for the question? Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Madam Speaker, I think Mr. Demapan offered his substitute, we need to act on it first before we act on the main motion.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: We are now acting on the substitute version of the House Joint Resolution.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Correct. I believe Mr. Demapan offered an amendment in the form of a substitute to H. J. R. 17-4, and we need to act on that amendment before the main motion for passage.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: There has already been a motion on that substitute version, right?

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Right, and it has been seconded.

Several members seconded the motion to amend H. J. R. 17-4 as offered by Representative Demapan in the form of a substitute; and there being no further discussion, the amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: The motion is carried. Let us go to the main motion. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I now move for the adoption of H. J. R. 17-4, House Substituted 1 (HS1). With that, Madam Speaker, I ask for a roll call vote.

The motion to adopt H. J. R. 17-4, HS1 was seconded by Representative Santos.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Clerk, call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt H. J. R. 17-4, HS1:

Representative Ramon S. Basa	yes
Representative Diego T. Benavente	yes
Representative Eliceo D. Cabrera	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Sylvestre Ilo Iguel	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogomoro	yes
Representative Joseph M. Palacios	yes
Representative Raymond D. Palacios	absent (excused)
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio	absent (excused)
Representative Stanley McGinnis Torres	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ray N. Yumul	absent (excused)

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: The motion is carried. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is one last resolution on our calendar for action. This is H. Con. Res. 17-2 in regards to our budget and I move for its adoption.

The motion was seconded

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Discussion.

Introduced by REP. RAMON S. BASA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

H. C. R. 17-2

A House Concurrent Resolution to approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning October 1, 2010, and ending on September 30, 2011.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro: Discussion. Representative Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, I have some concerns on H. Con. Res. 17-2 particularly on page 3, starting on lines 4 thru 6, in parts. The first concern appears what I feel the Administration has chosen to not or basically allowed 4 CMC 1803(b) hotel container tax earmarking in the amount of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,800,000.00) and normally would not budget for MVA (Marianas Visitors Authority) through the appropriations process. So if we are to set this amount aside for MVA then we will definitely need to make adjustments to include their annual appropriation otherwise their annual appropriation would be in addition to this \$3.8 Million. That is my first concern. So perhaps have an amendment to remove this and return this to the General Fund pot and then budget MVA directly. This does not interfere with the court order. The court order is actually on page 3 lines 1, 2, and 3, which I do not object to. The second part of my concern is using MPLT interest under Public Law 16-7. PL 16-7 was passed during the 16th Legislature which calls for the transfer of \$3.4 Million of MPLT interest that would have gone into the General Fund. We have instead authorized MPLT to send that money in two parts, fifty percent of which went to CUC under Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010. Now, the \$200,000 that is listed here as interest, I reviewed Public Law 16-7 and page 2, lines 27 and 28 states that funds earmarked shall be available for CUC upon the transfer from MPLT to the General Fund. Funds will be continuously available. Nothing in this act says that the CNMI government is responsible for the interest because what had happened in actuality is that MPLT forwarded the full \$3.4 Million during fiscal year 2009 to CUC and expected interest payments because it was sort of an investment or loan which the CNMI government had nothing to do

with. This was a loan agreement executed directly between CUC and MPLT. Therefore, I strongly believe that CUC should pay this \$200,000 interest and that is the payment that is due and we should not be responsible for that. If there are no objections that we remove these sections, we would merely have to take the \$3.835 Million and \$200,000 add it back into the subtotal and therefore the new grand total that will be available for appropriation.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Further comments? Any particular recommended action?

Mr. Ray Yumul: With that then, Madam Speaker, I submit my comments as a motion.

The motion to amend H. Con. Res. 17-2 was seconded.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: For accuracy, please restate your motion.

Mr. Ray Yumul: My motion is on page 3, lines 4 through 7, strike that out in its entirety and to add the sums back to the subtotal and grand total to be available for appropriation through the annual appropriation process.

The motion to amend H. Con. Res. 17-2 was seconded.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Discussion on the motion. Mr. Basa.

Mr. Ramon Basa: I am not too up-beat to do that at this time. I know Mr. Yumul you are better in the legislature. This information are just information that I extracted and also information from the Acting Secretary of Finance. I would like to leave it as it is and let me do the research. I do not want to take your word, Mr. Yumul. You are also a member of the Ways and Means Committee at least to have been coming to our meetings and sharing your concerns. Thank you.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Short recess.

The House recessed at 4:32 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:32 p.m.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are back in session. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Based on discussions during recess I would like to withdraw the motion for the passage of H. Con. Res. 17-2.

Mr. Joseph Deleon Guerrero: Point of order. I think Mr. Yumul needs to withdraw his motion because it is the standing motion.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Alright, Mr. Yumul.

Mr. Ray Yumul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. After discussing with the Chairman during recess, his concurrence that we will place the resolution on the calendar so that he can further research my concern. Therefore, I am withdrawing my motion at this time.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I move now to withdraw the motion for passage of H. Con. Res. 17-2 and leave it on the Calendar for further action.

The motion was seconded. The motion to withdraw the motion to adopt H. Con. Res. 17-2 and leave it on the Resolution Calendar was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries. Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We do have three bill under the Bill Calendar that I have calendared H. B. 17-26 we are still awaiting comments from the chamber of commerce, H. B. 17-28 we have already taken action on the Senate bill, and on H. B. 17-38 the Committee on Natural Resources is actually just wrapping up on its public hearing on this matter. So with that I would like to move to Miscellaneous Communications.

There was no objection from the Floor.

H. B. 17-26

A Bill for an Act to impose an excise tax on the sale of imported bottled drinking water; and for other purposes. *[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 3/11/10 & 4/27/10]*

H. B. 17-28

A Bill for an Act to empower and define the authority, duties, responsibilities and functions of the Marshal Service Division of the CNMI Judicial Branch; and for other purposes. *[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 3/11/10]*

H. B. 17-38

A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC Title 2, Division 1 Chapter 3, § 1301 et seq., "The Nuclear and Chemical Free Zone Act of 1983". *[See S. C. R. No. 17-8]*

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: We are now under Miscellaneous Business. Mr. Tebuteb.

Mr. Ramon Tebuteb: I am not sure if this would be consider Miscellaneous or Announcement, but I would like to inform everybody that our good business from McDonald's, Mr. Joseph

Ayuyu just provided me with a Three Thousand Dollar check for functions for the all schools track and field championships which begins this Thursday. I am inviting everybody if you have the opportunity to swing by at McDonald's and on Thursday at four o'clock we will have the opening ceremony. This is for the public and private schools. For the past eight weeks we have been conducting preliminaries and now we have only the top eight athletes who will be competing in track and field events. At the same, I know that I already have some support for cold water from the Speaker's office and I want to ask each one of you, even if you provide a case, we would be very grateful.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Tebuteb. Any further under Miscellaneous Business?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Any announcement.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: Floor Leader.

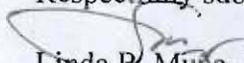
Floor Leader George N. Camacho: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Acting Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro: The motion carries, the House hereby adjourns.

The House adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda B. Muña, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. 17-17

To appropriate Ninety Two Thousand Dollars (\$92,000) from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

By REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Saipan, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

H. L. B. 17-18

To appropriate \$525,000.00 from the revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended for fiscal year 2010 and for other purposes.

By REP. FROILAN C. TENORIO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself* Representatives Basa, Iguel, Raymond Palacios, and Ogumoro)

H. L. B. 17-19

To appropriate \$196,379 from the unobligated/lapsed funds and fund balance accounts from completed and closed projects; and for other purposes.

By REP. JOSEPH M. PALACIOS of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. 17-12

To reappropriate funds from Rota Local Law 15-4 and Rota Local Law 15-6; and for other purposes.

By REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

H. L. B. 17-14

To repeal the appropriation and to re-appropriate the unexpended funds from Saipan Local Law 15-12, Section 2(f).

By REP. SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)

H. L. B. 17-15

To re-appropriate \$80,000.00 from section 2(b)(8) and (10) of Saipan Local Law 16-4; and for other purposes.

By REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representative Cabrera and Iguel)

H. L. B. 17-16

To name an existing unnamed road.

By REP. FROILAN C. TENORIO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

APPENDIX A:

MR. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO: Thank you Madam Speaker and honorable members for just a few minutes of your time to make a comment. I know that the intent of US Public Law 110-229 is to zero out nonresident workers in the Commonwealth within the next five years. I know that the Department of Labor is working hard to place U.S. citizens in those positions. One of the things that I am pleading with you is to consider a simple bill authorizing the governor or his representative a bill asking for a master list. Presently, the governor has access to positions through the Department of Labor, through WIA, but what I have in mind and what I am asking you to consider in this master list is a list of names and positions from the Department of Labor who has a listing of all nonresident workers in the private sector and some even actually in the government sector. A listing of OPM's, which has a list of all government positions, WIA, which lists those people who are seeking for jobs; the scholarship office, NMC, all the high schools in Saipan, Tinian and Rota so that we can aggressively – aggressively – and responsibly push for those people who are US citizens and looking for jobs so we can marry those positions that will be opening up pursuant to the federal law as we begin to zero out alien workers in the Commonwealth with those US citizens who are here in the Commonwealth, maybe in Guam going to school or even the mainland who have moved here to seek for employment opportunities so in the coming years we can start to marry that master list, for example, if we have an engineering position that is going to open up at the Department of Public Works, perhaps John who is taking engineering classes and will be graduating in the next few months can be sent a short communication that Dear Mr. John, there is a job that is going to be opening up at public works perhaps you can submit your application to that. Or, if there is a manager position that is opening up at the Hyatt, for example, in the private sector, we can inform Mary who is college educated, has a degree in human resources. We can marry that desire to work here in the Commonwealth and that position that is opening up here. I have this humble request for you to consider – a simple bill from you – that we need to aggressively put a master list together for our people in order to fill those jobs for coming months and years. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and honorable members.

