



# **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2013

## **LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL**

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**Fifth Day**

**Friday, March 8, 2013**

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*The House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Day, First Regular Session on Friday, March 08, 2013, at 9:17 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

*The Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Speaker of the House, presided.*

*A moment of silence was observed.*

### **ROLL CALL**

*The Clerk called the roll and all twenty members were present.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Under Public Comments, if anybody in the gallery wishes to make a comment regarding anything on today's agenda, you may do so now. If not, ready to move on to the next item on our agenda. We go down to item III, Adoption of Journals, Clerk?

### **ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

*The Clerk announced that there are no journals for adoption.*

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

#### ***House Bills:***

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We move down to item IV, Introduction of Bills and before I call on the first Representative to introduce their bills, there were several request for bills that are not yet numbered, but will be introduced today. So I ask the Floor Leader to please offer the proper motion to suspend the pertinent rules to allow for the introduction of these unnumbered bills. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning everyone. Today I would like to move that we amend today's agenda to include all unnumbered bills for introduction. I also ask that we do a roll call on this.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded to amend pertinent rules to allow for unnumbered bills to be introduced on today's Order of Business. Under discussion, Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: On the motion to suspend for introduction, do we have a specific number of unnumbered bill that we are going to introduce and who? Maybe perhaps just a show of hand. So we have only one?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There are at least two Representatives, I do not know how many total bills, but this is just for introduction we cannot act on them today.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: I understand that Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement that we refrain from doing this suspension of rules just for introduction. I know we have the option to do that, but I believe the more appropriate suspension of rules would be if we are in an emergency situation. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: So noted. Further discussion?

*Several members voiced "ready".*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If there are no further discussion, Clerk please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to amend the day's agenda to include unnumbered bills with the following results:*

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogunmoro	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Richard B. Seman	yes
Representative Mariano Taitano	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	present
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	present
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 18 members voted “yes” and 2 members are “present.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: With a vote of 18 “yes” the motion to suspend pertinent rules is hereby adopted. Moving on to Introduction of Bills, I recognize Representative Seman for introduction of House Bill 18-25.

Representative Richard B. Seman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is “To add a new Chapter 9 to Division 3 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code to authorize the Division of Fish and Wildlife to develop a system for the assessment of fees on non-residents visiting Marine Protected Areas in order to better invest in the Marine Resources of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**H. B. NO. 18-25**

To add a new Chapter 9 to Division 3 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code to authorize the Division of Fish and Wildlife to develop a system for the assessment of fees on non-residents visiting Marine Protected Areas in order to better invest in the Marine Resources of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**REP. RICHARD B. SEMAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1, (*for himself*)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Seman. I will refer this bill to the Committee on Natural Resources. Representative Camacho.

Representative George N. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to formally introduce House Bill 18-26, “To prohibit the solicitation of donations along and in public ways and intersections, and for other purposes.” Thank you.

**H. B. NO. 18-26**

To prohibit the solicitation of donations along and in public ways and intersections, and for other purposes.

**REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Camacho. I will refer House Bill 18-26 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (JGO). Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Officially introducing House Bill 18-27, “To reorganize the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management and unify and create the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.” Introduced by myself, thank you.

**H. B. NO. 18-27**

To reorganize the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management and unify and create the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)  
**(Moved to Bill Calendar)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Are there any further request Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We did have a meeting with the Governor last week and because of the urgency of this bill, I would like to make a motion to suspend Rule 7, Section 9 and Rule 9, Sections 8, 9, and 10 so we may place House Bill 18-27 on today's calendar for action, so move.

## **RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY**

### **Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents**

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action."

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House.

## **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

### **Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and no other amendment shall be in order until all committee amendments shown in the Committee Report are disposed of, except that such committee amendments shall themselves be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule.

(b) If a bill passes First Reading, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(c) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

### **Section 10. Second Reading of Bills**

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that further amendments shall be in order without regard to whether or not they are proposed by the committee reporting the bill.

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered to place House Bill 18-27 on today's Bill Calendar, discussion? Let me just add under discussion that we have heard that there is a likelihood that federal grants may be jeopardize if the Office of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office is not acted on to merge. This bill was introduced in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, it did go through, the scrutiny of being referred to committees – I believe public comments were solicited because it did go through the proper review by both Houses and this is

almost an identical piece of legislation with just a minor amendments. It warrants going directly to the Bill Calendar. Floor Leader, I believe there was a deadline that if action was not taken by March 15 that we could potentially lose or jeopardize the loss of federal grants. So are there any further discussions before we vote on the motion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There were no further discussion and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 8, 9, and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: House Bill 18-27 will be on the Bill Calendar. Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to formally introduce House Bill 18-28, “To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017 for the filing of delinquent returns under Title 4, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Act of 1982, as amended, and the payment of delinquent taxes without imposition of penalty and interest, with certain exceptions and for the waiver of penalty for failure to obtain a business license; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **H. B. NO. 18-28**

To provide an amnesty period to expire on January 1, 2017 for the filing of delinquent returns under Title 4, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, Division 1 of the Revenue and Taxation Act of 1982, as amended, and the payment of delinquent taxes without imposition of penalty and interest, with certain exceptions and for the waiver of penalty for failure to obtain a business license; and for other purposes.

**REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Anthony T. Benavente, Rafael S. Demapan, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. I will refer House Bill 18-28 to the Committee on Ways and Means. I now recognize Representative Leon Guerrero.

Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to formally introduce House Bill 18-29, “To amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow Outdoor Shooting Ranges, Skeet shooting developments offering competitive rifle competition and skeet shooting and to amend the Customs Violations provisions to accommodate Outdoor Shooting Ranges and revision to correct technical errors.”

#### **H. B. NO. 18-29**

To amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow Outdoor Shooting Ranges, Skeet shooting developments offering competitive rifle competition and skeet shooting and to amend the Customs Violations provisions to accommodate Outdoor Shooting Ranges and revision to correct technical errors.

**REP. CHRISTOPHER D. LEON GUERRERO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Antonio R. Agulto, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, and Ramon A. Tebuteb)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Leon Guerrero. House Bill 18-29 will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Before we go to House Local Bills, are there any unnumbered bills that anyone wishes to introduce? I recognize Representative Santos.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These bills that I am going to introduce are all numbered bills it is just that I did not meet the time when the agenda was disseminated to the members. So with this Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce House Bill 18-30, "To amend 3 CMC §4525, work force participation by citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents; and for other purposes." This particular bill has been co-authored by my colleague from Tinian as well as the Minority Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**H. B. NO. 18-30**

To amend 3 CMC §4525, work force participation by citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents; and for other purposes.

**REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*, Representatives George N. Camacho, and Trenton B. Conner)

**(Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Representative Santos you said you have three bills, you can go ahead and introduce all three.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a resurrected bill, which the House passed during the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, House Bill 18-31, "To amend Title 4, Article 3, Pawnbroker Licenses, Fees, and Related Matters; and for other purposes." Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going further the last one is House Bill 18-32, "To amend 3 CMC, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 4 to include a new §1144 to create the Faloma and Maleina Parent Notification Act of 2013; and for other purposes." Mr. Speaker and members this also has been passed by the House, thank you.

**H. B. NO. 18-31**

To amend Title 4, Article 3, Pawnbroker Licenses, Fees, and Related Matters; and for other purposes.

**REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means)**

**H. B. NO. 18-32**

To amend 3 CMC, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 4 to include a new §1144 to create the Faloma and Maleina Parent Notification Act of 2013; and for other purposes.

**REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Education)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Santos. Clerk, since these have been numbered, were copies made and passed to the members?

Clerk: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also introducing a recycled bill. This is an unnumbered House Bill, “To re-establish the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners as an autonomous public agency; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

**H. B. NO. 18-33**

To re-establish the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners as an autonomous public agency; and for other purposes.

**REP. TRENTON B. CONNER** of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)  
**(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. Are there any further House Bills that members wish to introduce, if not, we move on to House Local Bills and I recognize Representative Seman.

***House Local Bills:***

Representative Richard B. Seman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Local Bill 18-10 is “To amend the Saipan Zoning Law by repealing Saipan Local Laws 16-6, 17-2, 17-10, and 17-12 and enacting the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013; and for other purposes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**H. L. B. NO. 18-10**

To amend the Saipan Zoning Law by repealing Saipan Local Laws 16-6, 17-2, 17-10, and 17-12 and enacting the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013; and for other purposes.

**REP. RICHARD B. SEMAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1, (*for himself*)

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Seman. I recognize Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am introducing House Local Bill 18-11, this is “To establish a Tinian medical assistance review board for screening and verification of medically assisted patients; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

**H. L. B. NO. 18-11**

To establish a Tinian medical assistance review board for screening and verification of medically assisted patients; and for other purposes.

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

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. Are there any further House Local Bills that any member wishes to introduce? If not, are there any House Legislative Initiatives anybody wishes to introduce? There being none, we move on to item V on our agenda, Introduction of Resolutions.

***House Legislative Initiatives: None***

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: House Resolutions, House Joint Resolutions, House Commemorative Resolutions, House Concurrent Resolutions, ready?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: We move on to item VI, Messages from the Governor, Clerk.

***House Resolutions: None***

***House Joint Resolutions: None***

***House Commemorative Resolutions: None***

***House Concurrent Resolutions: None***

## **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, we only have one item, Governor’s Communication 18-12.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any comments from the members on Governor’s Communication 18-12?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Alright, we move on to item VII, Senate Communication, Floor Leader.

*There were no discussions for the following Governor’s Communication.*

GOV. COMM. 18-12: (3/1/13) **Executive Order 2013-04** – Declaration of a State of Emergency: CHC’s Imminent threat of disruption of critical medical services in the Commonwealth and the danger that such a condition poses to the public because of the great increase in otherwise preventable deaths that would result.

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under item VII, Senate Communication, I would like to make a move that we accept all Senate Communications so they may become property of the House.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There is a motion on the floor to accept Senate Communications so that they become the property of the House, motion has been seconded, discussion.

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There were no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 18-8 to 18-13 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the urgency, I would like to make a move to place House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2 reference to Senate Communication 18-12 and House Bill 18-12 reference to Senate Communication 18-13 on today's calendar for action, so move.

SEN. COMM. 18-12: (3/6/13) Returning H. B. 18-2, HD1, (To repeal Title 4 sections 1971 and 1972 of the Commonwealth Code which were originally enacted as Public Laws 17-29, 17-58 and 17-75 in their entirety and to amend Title 4 sections 1803 and 1502(a) to increase the Hotel Occupancy Tax.), which was passed by the Senate with amendments in the form of **H. B. 18-2, SD2.** [For action on Senate amendments]  
**(Moved to Bill Calendar)**

SEN. COMM. 18-13: (3/6/13) Returning H. B. 18-12, (To amend Public Law 17-82 to clarify those provisions necessary to expedite the refunds and prevent any further frustration of the process.), which was passed by the Senate with amendments in the form of **H. B. 18-12, SD1.** [For action on Senate amendments]  
**(Moved to Bill Calendar)**

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered and seconded and just to clarify House Bill 18-12 is in reference to Senate Communication 18-13. House Bill 18-2 and 18-12 will be placed on the Bill Calendar. A motion has been offered and seconded, discussion on this motion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There was no discussion and the motion to place House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2 and House Bill 18-12, SD1 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: I would like to call a short recess.

*The House recessed at 9:35 a.m.*

*RECESS*

*The House reconvened at 9:44 a.m.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Continuing on under item VII, Senate Communications a motion was offered and seconded and adopted to place House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2 on Calendar as well as House Bill 18-12 on today's Calendar. For the members information, there are three other Senate Communications that require action. The Chair will be referring them to the proper committee. First is Senate Communication 18-9 reference to Senate Bill 18-11 and that would be

entitled “To transfer the administrative functions of the Government Life and Health Insurance Program to the Department of Finance by amending the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Act; and for other purposes.” Senate Communication 18-10 would also be referred to committee transmitting for House action Senate Bill 18-12, entitled “To amend 1 CMC §2902 regarding executive appointments; and for other purposes.” Lastly, Senate Communication 18-11 reference to Senate Bill 18-13, entitled “To amend 1 CMC §8282, 6 CMC §1434(b), and 6 CMC §2208; and for other purposes.” There is no further discussion on item VII, we will move on to item XVI, Floor Leader.

SEN. COMM. 18-9: (3/1/13) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 18-11, entitled, “To transfer the administrative functions of the Government Life and Health Insurance Program to the Department of Finance by amending the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Act; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on February 28, 2013. [For action]

**(Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means and Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

SEN. COMM. 18-10: (3/1/13) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 18-12, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §2902 regarding executive appointments; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on February 28, 2013. [For action]

**(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

SEN. COMM. 18-11: (3/1/13) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 18-13, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC §8282, 6 CMC §1434(b), and 6 CMC §2208; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on February 28, 2013. [For action]

**(Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations)**

*There were no discussions for the following Senate Communication.*

SEN. COMM. 18-8 (3/1/13) Returning H. J. R. 18-3 (To request assistance from United States Ambassador Gary F. Locke in repatriating Mr. Jing Zhi Quian to his home country due to CHC’s inability to provide further care.), which was adopted by the Senate, *without amendment*, on February 28, 2013. [For info]

## HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

## MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

None

**BILL CALENDAR**

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under item XVI, Bill Calendar – Mr. Speaker, before we act on any of the bills, I would like that we move to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 8, 9, and 10 for the passage of all bills on today's calendar, so move.

**RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY****Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents**

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action."

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House.

## **RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

### **Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions**

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and no other amendment shall be in order until all committee amendments shown in the Committee Report are disposed of, except that such committee amendments shall themselves be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule.

(b) If a bill passes First Reading, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(c) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

### **Section 10. Second Reading of Bills**

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that further amendments shall be in order without regard to whether or not they are proposed by the committee reporting the bill.

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 13 of this Rule.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered by the Floor Leader to suspend pertinent rules to allow this body to act on the following bills, it has been seconded, discussion?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

*There were no discussions and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 8, 9, and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First on our Bill Calendar, I would like for the passage of House Bill 18-27, so move.

**H. B. NO. 18-27**

To reorganize the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management and unify and create the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered to adopt House Bill, can you repeat the motion, please.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: For the passage of House Bill 18-27, so move.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. Motion has been offered to adopt House Bill 18-27 and just for the record I will read it out. House Bill 18-27 is a bill “To reorganize the Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management and unify and create the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.” It has been moved and seconded, discussion, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a floor amendment.

*Representative Rafael S. Demapan offered the following Floor Amendment.*

**FLOOR AMENDMENT**

**To:** **House Bill 18-27**

**Offered by:** **Representative Rafael S. Demapan**

**AMENDMENT:**

To replace the term “Director” and “Deputy Director” as they appear in House Bill No. 18-27 with “Special Assistant” and “Deputy Assistant” respectively throughout House Bill No. 18-27.

Consistent with the intent of the foregoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: March 8, 2013

/s/ Representative Rafael S. Demapan

Reviewed by:

/s/ John Cool  
Legal Counsel

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. An amendment has been made by the Floor Leader and has been seconded. Floor Leader, do you have copies ready for the members.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: I believe copies have been distributed already to the members.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Discussion on the floor amendment by the Floor Leader and this appears to be a straightforward and simple amendment to basically replace the term “Director” and “Deputy Director” with “Special Assistant” and “Deputy Assistant” respectively throughout the bill.

*There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the Floor Amendment offered by Representative Rafael S. Demapan was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: There floor amendment offered by the Floor Leader is hereby adopted. Clerk, this will then be House Bill 18-27, HD1?

Clerk: Yes.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you. For the main motion now, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the passage of House Bill 18-27, HD1, so move.

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: The main motion has been made for the passage of House Bill 18-27, HD1 it has been seconded, discussion. Again, for the record to clarify that this bill was introduced in the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature, it did go through and was passed by both Houses, it went to the Governor for signature and I believe at that time there were some problematic provisions, which required the House to recall that bill and Floor Leader you can correct me if I am mistaken, we recalled that bill on the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislature and that is why it was not passed. I believe this time you had already consulted with the respective agencies and the Governor's Office and those problematic areas were addressed in this bill now House Bill 18-27. So with that, there being no further discussion, Clerk please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-27, HD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Richard B. Seman	yes
Representative Mariano Taitano	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of 20 to 0 in the affirmative, House Bill 18-27, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the final passage of House Bill 18-12, SD1 so move.

*The motion was seconded.*

SEN. COMM. 18-13: (3/6/13) Returning H. B. 18-12, (To amend Public Law 17-82 to clarify those provisions necessary to expedite the refunds and prevent any further frustration of the process.), which was passed by the Senate with amendments in the form of **H. B. 18-12, SD1**. [For action on Senate amendments]

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: A motion has been offered for the adoption of House Bill 18-12 and Clerk please correct me if I am wrong, this would be House Bill 18-12, HD1, SD2. I am sorry for clarification, the motion passage is for House Bill 18-12, SD2. The motion has been seconded, discussion, Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 18-12 is to address some of the current questions before the court in regards to the pending refunds by members who have elected to terminate their membership from the DB plan and this is a legislation that attempts to clarify some of the current issues that is holding up the long awaited refund of the members contributions. Aside from the elements of the bill that attempts to do that, the bill also removed the proposed amendment in regards to the DC plan members in the initial legislation amendments as adopted by the Senate and I think in our discussion, my concern with this issue is well known. I believe it is also important to let the public know that due to the concern in the interest of not delaying the attempted resolution of the pending refunds, we have somehow reached a consensus or a compromise in addressing the concerns regarding the DC plan and its members in their concerns. So just for the record, it is my understanding with all parties concern that a pending bill would be forthcoming to address the issues regarding the DC plan removal from the current bill. So with that Mr. Speaker, I ask colleagues to put their support behind the bill and hopefully bring a quick resolution to the impending refund issues that have long been awaited by the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. I recognize the Vice-Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo the sentiments of Representative Sablan and I wish to also express to the public, most especially those that are under the Defined Contributions plan. When this House Bill was initially introduced it had included DC plan members aside from the DB plan for the early withdrawal without penalties and the retention of their employment in government, however, this was stricken out for the DC plan members. After thorough consideration it is quite clear that there is no provision or there is no uncertain provision that if a DC plan member withdraws and decides to go back into the DC plan, the government in the provision is not clear whether the government would still have to pay the 4% DC plan contribution and that is what is lacking in this legislation. Although in the interest of time and in the interest of cooperation at least for the benefit of DB plan members to begin getting their withdrawals, I pledge to immediately work on a legislation that will authorize the DC plan members to also withdraw their contribution with a provision that does not authorize the government to continue paying the 4%. The Administration at this time believes that in order to minimize its liability, it is to give the opportunity to both DB plan members and DC plan members to withdraw their funds. So again, in the interest of the DB plan members, I do not wish to oppose this legislation as amended by the Senate and again, I inform the DC plan members that I will work diligently in coming up with a separate legislation so that their request to withdraw can be authorized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Vice-Speaker. Any further comments?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: If I may, just to clarify the Vice-Speaker's comments. We will be asking also the Vice-Speaker as the main author of this legislation to work with the Chairman on the Special Committee on Retirement and also the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Retirement to work together to draft the separate bill to accommodate DC plan members. I think there was one other concern that was raised in our discussion yesterday that needed to be addressed and that is the ASC who handles the DC plan, does have provisions that require separation from service and that members who elect to separate to withdraw their contribution have to wait 60 days. So that is another concern that needs to be worked out and I think we have to check with ASC to ensure that those members are protected. With that, there being no further comments? Chairman Taitano did you have a comment, you are recognize.

Representative Mariano Taitano: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, today we are suppose to work on the bill with my counterpart at the Senate with Senator Yumul unfortunately Senator Yumul is tied up with his session as well. As soon as he becomes available we will start cranking out that bill that is all, with the assistance of the Vice-Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Taitano. Any further discussion, I recognize Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we had adopted the Senate Communications so that it becomes the property of the House. I am not quite sure what the Chair's intent on Senate Communication 18-9 and that is relative to Senate Bill 18-11. The difference between Senate Bill 18-11 and House Bill 18-12 is that House Bill 18-12 is an administration proposed retirement resolution and so what had transpired in the Senate on House Bill 18-12 is now in front of us for discussion and some of the concerns raised are very legitimate. Although there was a committee report by the House Special Committee on Retirement, the Senate Bill 18-11 is a joint understanding as the Chairman has sent out the communication on the joint efforts between the Senate ad hoc and the House Special Committee on Retirement. I was wondering Mr. Speaker along with the discussion at hand on House Bill 18-12, SD1, what is the course of this body on the joint effort on Senate Bill 18-11?

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Tebuteb. To clarify, when we were under Senate Communication I had informed the members, without objection, I would be referring the following communication to their respective committees and I did mention that I would be referring Senate Communication 18-9 relevant to Senate Bill 18-11 to the respective committees to review. I understand that this is a product of the two committees from the Senate and the House on Retirement, but the Chairman of Health and Welfare and perhaps even more importantly the Chairman of Ways and Means, does need to review this committee a little bit further because it will have an effect on the upcoming budget deliberation and formation. So it has been referred to committee, Representative Tebuteb. We are under the Bill Calendar and discussions have been made regarding House Bill 18-12, SD1, are there any further comments on this bill? Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 18-12, SD1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes

Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	yes
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogumoro	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Richard B. Seman	yes
Representative Mariano Taitano	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. With the vote of 20 in the affirmative, House Bill 18-12, SD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last bill for action on today's calendar is House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2, so move.

SEN. COMM. 18-12: (3/6/13) Returning H. B. 18-2, HD1, (To repeal Title 4 sections 1971 and 1972 of the Commonwealth Code which were originally enacted as Public Laws 17-29, 17-58 and 17-75 in their entirety and to amend Title 4 sections 1803 and 1502(a) to increase the Hotel Occupancy Tax.), which was passed by the Senate with amendments in the form of **H. B. 18-2, SD2.** [For action on Senate amendments]

*The motion was seconded.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Motion has been offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2 a bill for an act “To repeal Title 4 sections 1971 and 1972 of the Commonwealth Code which were originally enacted as Public Laws 17-29, 17-58 and 17-75 in their entirety and to amend Title 4 sections 1803 and 1502(a) to increase the Hotel Occupancy Tax.” Discussion, Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 18-2 attempts to increase the hotel occupancy rate by 5% and the revenue generated will be used as the bill says to enhance recreational and tourism opportunities in support of improving our tourism industry. Basically two amendments made by the Senate and first part is a minor amendment to the proposed legislation and that it provided amendments to the definitions of more significant amendment is the second part to the bill made by the Senate, which is incorporated on page 4, line 6 which included the following language, “the Secretary of finance may withhold up to 2.5 percent of the funds deposited pursuant to this Section for the purpose of funding revenue and tax personnel to enforce the provisions of this Act and other Commonwealth tax laws. The tax personnel shall

include at least one FTE for Tinian and one FTE for Rota.” Again Mr. Speaker in our discussion, my concern with this particular provision is while I have no problem with the section on the 2.5% language, my concern with that is that it is earmarked toward the funding of Revenue and Tax personnel. My concern with this is that this is something that should be included in the appropriation process when we act on the upcoming budget. The language specifically mentions FTE’s, again I believe in these times where the government is struggling with its financial resources, I believe something like earmarking for personnel should be all required to go through the same process, which is the budget process, the appropriation. We intend to bring in departments and discuss their budget submission to establish justifications for needs and as well as the justifications for cuts where necessary. This type of legislative action is a clear bypass of that particular process and for accountability purpose, my concern is that this type of provision in any legislation where it earmarks revenue for employment should be incorporated in the appropriation process. However, it is my understanding from all party concern that this particular provision would be address in the near future and I intend to ask the support of the members that this particular provision be made part of our discussions in the appropriation process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. I recognize Representative Santos.

Representative Teresita A. Santos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed that the Senate made an amendment on page 4, lines 9 and 10 to include personnel for at least one full time employee for the First and Second Senatorial District. With that Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the Senate for making this amendment because I too, see the need or the importance of having a full time employee on the First and Second Senatorial District for the full enforcement or implementation if this bill is enacted into law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Santos. Further discussion Representative Tebuteb.

Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opposite of Representative Santos’ statement on that specific line amendment, the tax personnel shall include at least one FTE for Tinian and one FTE for Rota is a voodoo amendment. I respectfully agree with part of Representative Sablan’s point, although I am in full support of the 1.2% for the Department of Finance so I also applaud Representative Sablan and ask the members to support this bill. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Further comments? If there is no objection, I would like to inform the members with some relating to this amendment made by the Senate. This amendment was made by the Senate supposedly by a request from the Secretary of Finance. I consulted with the Secretary of Finance this morning and received clarification that although they are asking for support to provide enforcement personnel, they do not agree with the manner in which it was done through this amendment. So even finance is not comfortable, they understand that normal process for providing either FTE’s or funding for any agency is through the budget process, the appropriation process in accordance with the planning and budgeting act and just for the members’ benefit there was great debate during the leadership to the point where this bill was almost rejected. For the record, I ask the members to support this bill because of the April 1<sup>st</sup>

timeline that the tour operators are operating under. Brochures have already been printed and distributed and we need to pass this so that it becomes public law, that being said let the records show that we do intend after this bill becomes public law, immediately to offer an amendment or to introduce a bill to amend this bill when it becomes public law to strikeout this provision. I have informed the Senate and the Administration that we do not agree with this and that it is an improper circumvention of the law, but because of the importance, the priority and especially the deadline we will be supporting it. Furthermore, I did receive communications from the Marianas Visitors Authority that they too found this provision problematic, but in the interest of time they are willing to live with it for now and rest assured Mr. Tenorio that we will be acting on it after it becomes public law. With that any further discussions? Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for record purposes and for informational purposes for the public out there. One of the concerns that was brought up in the leadership meeting that was no mentioned in this session is that this is an open ended funding source, which is not appropriated by budget and it is something of concern that we have discussed and we are looking at avenues in how we are going to look at preventing this type of activity from occurring. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Vice-Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment that the Senate made, I am sure that we are all aware that this does not mandate the Secretary of Finance. In other words the word “may withhold” is discretionary on the Secretary of Finance’s part. In other words she does not have to withhold anything at all for that matter. We are again, merely cooperating with the amended version of this legislation. So just to clarify, this in no way gets the Secretary of Finance to withhold 2.5% more or less. It is up to the Secretary of Finance whether to withhold this with the two FTE’s or other FTE’s or to give it all to the MVA and that is just to clarify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Vice-Speaker. Any further comments?

*Several members voiced “ready”.*

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Clerk, please call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for passage of House Bill 18-2, HD1, SD2 on First and Final Reading with the following results:*

Representative Antonio R. Agulto	yes
Representative Anthony T. Benavente	yes
Representative Roman C. Benavente	yes
Representative George N. Camacho	yes
Representative Trenton B. Conner	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Christopher D. Leon Guerrero	yes
Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita	no
Representative Felicidad Taman Ogunmoro	yes
Representative Antonio P. Sablan	yes

Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Teresita A. Santos	yes
Representative Richard B. Seman	yes
Representative Mariano Taitano	yes
Representative Ramon A. Tebuteb	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes
Representative Ralph N. Yumul	yes
Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, 19 members voted “yes” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before I ask the Floor Leader to offer a motion to adjourn subject to the call, there is one announcement. Members there is an invitation, I believe there is a groundbreaking of a proposed hotel at the airport immediately west of the old MVA building, I think it is the Forest Hill Hotel or something to that effect. Members are invited to attend the groundbreaking it is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. so we still have time. I ask and encourage every member to please attend. I recognize Representative Conner.

Representative Trenton B. Conner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to mention this under Miscellaneous Business. I believe all of the members here have received an email from Mr. Long pertaining to Sherman Consulting requesting for an EB5 Regional Center, if you would kindly support that endeavor and at least provide him a letter from the kindness of your hearts then it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Conner. Representative Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to invite the members who wants to cosponsor House Bill 18-28 that I have just introduced, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Kagman community and on behalf of my colleague Representative Antonio Agulto, we kindly invite each one of you to join us this coming Sunday to celebrate the Santa Soledad Fiesta and mass is at 10:00 a.m. and recession will follow and then lunch will be served. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Deleon Guerrero. Representative Taitano.

Representative Mariano Taitano: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to announce some VIP in the chamber. I would like to recognize the presence of our Department of Public Safety (DPS) Commissioner. Thank you Mr. Commissioner for keeping the community safe as well as Mr. Tenorio, hopefully Commissioner Deleon Guerrero you can also keep our tourist safe from the tourist site. Thank you that is all.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Any further comments or announcements, if not Floor Leader for a motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. Before I recognize the Floor Leader, for the last time Representative Antonio Sablan.

Representative Antonio P. Sablan: Mr. Speaker with all due respect, I just want to add on to my colleague here, I think he inadvertently left out recognizing our former Lieutenant Governor in the gallery, thank you.

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Representative Sablan. While we are at it just to cover all the basis, I would also like to recognize our former Secretary for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Mr. Tom Tebuteb, thank you and welcome. Floor Leader for the motion.

## ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot has been said already so now I move for adjournment subject to the your call.

*The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.*

*The House adjourned at 10:26 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Venetia A. Sanchez  
House Journal Clerk

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## APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

**FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. No. 18-9

To amend and to re-appropriate the fund balances from Business Units 3748 (Saipan Local Law 15-11) and 3752F (Saipan Local Law 17-16) for various development projects in Precinct V; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan) on February 26, 2013.

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. No. 18-5

To amend 10 CMC 2472 for the purpose of establishing a fee for every visitor who rides on roads in a tour bus or van, uses beaches for snorkeling and scuba tours, and who utilizes all-terrain vehicles on or within the Second Senatorial District of Tinian and Aguiguan. Introduced by REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on February 11, 2013.

H. L. B. No. 18-7

To amend and to re-appropriate the fund balances from Business Units 3381 (Saipan Local Law 14-7) and 3374E (Saipan Local Law 17-4); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*) on February 11, 2013.

H. L. B. No. 18-8

To amend and to re-appropriate the fund balances from Business Units 3739 (Saipan Local Law 14-14), 3394B (Saipan Local Law 17-6), and 3752B (Saipan Local Law 17-16); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*) on February 11, 2013.

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on 2/26/13:*

H. B. No. 18-17

To amend Public Law 17-8 Section 2 to include necessary changes to finalize projects associated with the original intent of the reprogramming of the One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) as appropriated under Section 2(b) of Public Law 13-56; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-18

To repeal and re-enact 1 CMC §8392, Ambulance Fee Account; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. TRENTON B. CONNER of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-19

To establish a safety measure for instances where a vehicle overtakes a bicycle on a public road or highway; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-20

To allow the Department of Public Lands (DPL) to grant revocable consent without fees to individuals, businesses, or organizations to construct and maintain certain structures on public property such as driveways and sidewalks; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. No. 18-21

To provide a tax credit for business entities that hire United States citizens. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-22

To establish and clearly define the authority of the Department of Public Works to promulgate rules and regulations within the Rights of Way (ROW). Introduced by REP. GEORGE N. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. No. 18-23

To provide a tax incentive for individuals and businesses that purchase renewable energy devices. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. No. 18-24

To authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to advertise disconnection dates on the local newspapers rather than sending out notices to its rate payers; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, Trenton

B. Conner, Antonio R. Agulto, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Mariano Taitano, Roman C. Benavente, and Anthony T. Benavente) on February 26, 2013, was referred to the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

H. L. B. No. 18-9

To amend and to re-appropriate the fund balances from Business Units 3748 (Saipan Local Law 15-11) and 3752F (Saipan Local Law 17-16) for various development projects in Precinct V; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan) on February 26, 2013.

H. R. No. 18-5

To recognize and commend Florie Nadine Manglona Mendiola for receiving her Doctorate Degree in Education with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, CA. Introduced by REP. TERESITA A. SANTOS of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself* Representatives Edmund S. Villagomez, George N. Camacho, Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Janet U. Maratita, Richard B. Seman, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Roman C. Benavente, Trenton B. Conner, John Paul P. Sablan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Anthony T. Benavente, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 26, 2013.

H. R. No. 18-6

To respectfully request and encourage the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA), Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands (HANMI), Korean Community of Saipan and other business establishments in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to extend the privilege of honoring our senior citizens (55 years old and above) to avail for discounts at their establishments. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013.

H. R. No. 18-7

To respectfully urge the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to solicit lending institutes to avail residential home owners and/or businesses with loans for the sole purpose of renewable energy. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013.

H. J. R. No. 18-3

To request assistance from United States Ambassador Gary F. Locke in repatriating Mr. Jing Zhi Quiang to his home country due to CHC's inability to provide further care. Introduced by REP. ANTONIO R. AGULTO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013.

H. J. R. No. 18-4

Requesting that the Attorney General and the Governor take the necessary actions for the extradition of former Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham. Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on February 26, 2013.

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*House information on deadlines for override: None*