



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2017

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

3rd Day, First Regular Session

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

The House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Third Day, First Regular Session on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, at 1:42 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. Before we begin, let me just make a short announcement. Right after the roll call, the Speaker will call a Committee of the Whole so that we can allow presentation to Mr. Joe Ayuyu and also to receive Mount Carmel sixth-graders to make a short Q&A before the House of Representative. So with that Clerk for the roll call.

ROLL CALL

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

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. With all twenty members present we do have a session for today. So with that let me go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader to make a motion – move to dissolve into the Committee of the Whole.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that I move to dissolve into Committee of the Whole. So move, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to dissolve into Committee of the Whole was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The House dissolved into Committee of the Whole at 1:44 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House reconvened in plenary session at 2:21 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Now, I ask the Floor Leader to rise back to our plenary session.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to offer a motion to rise back to our plenary session. So move.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to reconvene in plenary session was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Now back to our plenary session. Before we go further, let me ask the Floor Leader again before we get down to item II, which is the Public Comment. Can I ask the Floor Leader for a motion to suspend rules.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) so that the House amends its agenda to include unnumbered bill, resolutions and communications. So move, Mr. Speaker.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Section 4. Format of Bills and Resolutions.

(d) Bills and resolutions for introduction may be pre-filed with the House Clerk for formal introduction at the next session, provided that it is pre-filed in sufficient time to appear on the session agenda as required under Rule III. The 72-hour notice and agenda requirements may be dispensed with for Special Emergency Sessions and Sessions called by the Governor in accordance with Rule III.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 20 members voting in the affirmative, motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 4 (d) so that the House amends its agenda is hereby adopted. Thank you, we will now move down to item II, which is the Public Comments. So any of the public wishes to comment on any of the items on today’s agenda you may proceed to the podium. I ask that you state your name before you proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Herman Villagomez
 Mr. Robert Reyes
 Ms. Mami Ikeda
 Ms. Alfreda Camacho
 Mr. John Demapan
 Ms. Yvette Sablan

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Any other person? Appears to be none. So with that we will go ahead and go down to our next Order of Business, which is the Adoption of Journal, Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal for adoption:

Second Day, First Regular Session Journal - January 31, 2017

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Floor Leader for the motion.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that I would like to offer a motion that we adopt the Second Day, First Regular Session Journal dated January 31, 2017. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Second Day, First Regular Session Journal – January 31, 2017 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Moving forward on item IV, the Introduction of Bills. I now recognize Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-38

To transfer the licensing and regulatory functions of the Department of Finance in respect to poker, pachinko and electronic gaming machines to the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Ivan A. Blanco, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-38 to the Committee on Gaming and recognized Representative Edwin K. Propst for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-39

To amend Section 4 and Section 5 of Public Law 19-83 to remove the salary increases for elected officials.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representative Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-39 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-40

To amend 4 CMC § 51420 (b) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish and promulgate reasonable registration and permitting fees through adopted regulations; and for other purposes.

REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-40 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-41

To establish requirements for vehicle rental businesses; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Glenn L. Maratita, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-41 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill:

H. B. NO. 20-42

To amend 4 CMC, § 1302 (a), Tax on Agriculture Producers and Fishing to include Artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-42 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-43

To clarify and define the Attorney General's duties and responsibilities in the promulgation of rules and regulations, in reviewing contracts and in representing the Commonwealth government or its executive departments; and for other purposes.

REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, John Paul P. Sablan, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-43 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-44

To amend 8 CMC §1202(a) to establish separate marriage license fees for residents and non-residents; and for other purposes.

REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-44 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-45

To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.

REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Edwin K. Propst, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-45 to the Committee on Transportation and recognized Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero for the next introduction.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-46

To authorize the Division of Parks and Recreation in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife to charge a Grotto user fee; and for other purposes.

REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-46 to the Committee on Ways and Means and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-47

To vest the Office of the Governor with the management and disposition of the former Far East Broadcasting Center property in Marpi as the site for the government's substance abuse rehabilitation treatment centers; and for other purposes.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-47 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. B. NO. 20-48

To amend 4 CMC § 5565 to prohibit any person under the age of 18 years of age to serve any alcoholic beverages at any on-sale establishment; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

The Chair referred House Bill 20-48 to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Is there any other bills to be introduced? None. We will move down to item b, the House Local Bills. Recognize again Representative Lee Pan Guerrero.

House Local Bills:

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following House Local Bill and welcomed the members to coauthor the bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-6

To amend Title 10, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 3 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new §3135 by enabling a prohibition provision for gross laden weight vehicles between 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM from the Beach Road and Micro Beach Road Intersection to the Beach Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection.

REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative Glenn L. Maratita for the next introduction.

Representative Glenn L. Maratita officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-7

To appropriate \$15,000.00 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-8

To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the Second Senatorial District under Public Law No. 18-30 as amended; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative Edwin P. Aldan for the next introduction.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 20-9

To appropriate \$160,000.00 from the local license fees collected for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan for the next introduction.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following House Local Bill:

H. L. B. NO 20-10

To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 20 of 29, rezoning several lots from “Village Residential to “Village Commercial” Zoning District.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Vinson F. Sablan for the first introduction.

House Legislative Initiatives: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Vinson F. Sablan officially introduced the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-6

To respectfully request the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to preserve and designate Lot No. 034 A 01, approximately 48,000 sq. m. of public land, in Marpi, Saipan for the future site of Saipan’s Off-Road and Motorsports Park.

REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself, and Representative Edmund S. Villagomez*)

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection I would like to share a little information. I am sure you will assign this to committee. This information will be vital to the committee’s action.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Can you repeat again.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: If you allow me just to share a little information – the information I am about to share will be vital to the – if you are going to assign this to the committee so that it could aid in their expeditious response.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Sure. You may proceed.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I am sure you will place this under a specific committee. I do have correspondences from DCCA as well as DPL. I follow the history of the cow town properties so I would just like to share that. I will be affording that to whichever committee you place this on. Also, I know you have met with the group of auto enthusiast and motorsports enthusiast. I would just like to share also with the members and committees that the Governor is in full support as well of this recreation. So with that said, as soon as you place this resolution in a committee, I will communicate with that committee with all the information that I have gathered some background information that will aid the expeditious response of this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair referred House Resolution 20-6 to the Committee on Natural Resources and recognized Representative Francisco C. Aguon for the next introduction.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution and welcomed the members to coauthor the resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-3

Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Lau Lau Bay Road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes.

REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao)

The Chair referred House Joint Resolution 20-3 to the Committee on Transportation and recognized Representative Ivan A. Blanco for the next introduction.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-4

To respectfully urge the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Anti-Money Laundering and other Financial Crimes Enforcement Task Force to prevent any violations relevant to money laundering and related crimes in the Commonwealth.

REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Angel A. Demapan, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.)

The Chair referred House Joint Resolution 20-4 to the Committee Judiciary and Governmental Operations and recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan for the next introduction.

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Angel A. Demapan officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and requested that the resolution be introduced as Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 20-1

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Mayor Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan and to acknowledge his service and countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Also if there is no objection placing the Commemorative Resolution 20-1 on today’s Resolution Calendar.

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Commemorative Resolution 20-1 is placed on today’s Resolution Calendar.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita for the next introduction.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and requested that the resolution be introduced as Committee of the Whole:

C. RES. NO. 20-2

To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as we celebrate the contributions and achievements during the month of March 2017 as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8, 2017 as International Women’s Day.

REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*)

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Vice Speaker. Having said that and without any objection that unnumbered Commemorative Resolution has been introduced as Committee of the Whole. Recognize Chairman Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Also no objection to placing it on the Resolution Calendar, but I know we cannot act on it today. So no objection to be placement only.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Deleon Guerrero. Without any objection placing it on the Resolution Calendar. No objection?

Several members voiced “no objection”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: So without any objection, unnumbered Commemorative Resolution is placed on today’s Resolution Calendar. Moving forward, item VI, which is the Messages from the Governor. Recognize the Clerk.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 20-14: (1/27/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-141, HD1, SS1, (To amend 4 CMC §5559(b) and 6 CMC §3110(b) with respect to the I.D. Card requirements; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-84** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-15: (2/6/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. NO. 19-22, (To establish a new public highway, Route 205, on the island of Tinian; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-85** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-16: (2/6/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. NO. 19-110, (Mandating the Division of Customs to conduct K-9 unit drug detections for all inter-island commuter flight entries and seaport entries in the effort to combat drugs within the Commonwealth by amending 6 CMC § 2304 to add a new subsection (d); and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law 19-86** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-17: (2/8/17) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. NO. 19-213, (Amend Public Law 19-75 re: To name parties covered by payment of judgments). Became **Public Law 19-87** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-18: (2/6/17) Requesting the 20th NMCL for a joint session for 31 March 2017 to deliver the State of the Commonwealth address. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-19: (2/15/17) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Michael L. Ernest, Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth Casino Commission, at the Office of Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$78,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 20-20: (2/15/17) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Cindy Ann Nesbit, Assistant Public Defender, at the Office of the Public Defender to receive an annual salary of \$58,500. [*For info*]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any comment or discussion on Messages from the Governor? Recognize Chairman Guerrero.

Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know everyone is tired of hearing me Mr. Speaker, but on Governor's Communication 20-19 seems like here is another Assistant Attorney General that is milking the pot of gold. Apparently – I know for a fact that the Casino Commission is being charged for service rendered under this Assistant Attorney General and now here is the Attorney General giving a hefty salary increase and when you compare 20-19 and 20-20, I feel that I am obligated to defend the Public Defender knowing that they probably only have four Public Defender – they are serving together higher salary than fifty-eight five. So with that Mr. Speaker, I hope that this is something that the Governor would closely look and monitor because somehow the AG has been very vindictive with the Legislature in terms of all issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Chairman Lee. Any other member wanted to comment? Ready. None. We will go ahead and move down to item VII, Senate Communication. Let me now recognize the Floor Leader for the acceptance on Senate Communications.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 20-2 to 20-6 so that they may become property of the House.

SEN. COMM. 20-2: (2/15/17) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. No. 20-2, entitled, “A Senate Joint Resolution to call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address.”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 15, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-3: (2/24/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-12, SD1, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §§ 4308 and 4345(e), to authorize the Department of Public Lands to waive requirement that the homesteader must construct a home on the homestead upon a showing that the construction permit cannot be obtained because of the lack of power, water, or waste water infrastructure; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on February 23, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-4: (2/24/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-14, entitled, “To amend 6 CMC § 2253, to limit the number of shooting gallery and shooting range; amend section 2256(a)(10), shooting gallery and shooting range operation time; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on February 23, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-5: (2/24/17) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 20-16, SD1, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §§ 2112 and 2122 by adding new definitions providing a grant of power to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in the Commonwealth Ports Authority Act and to amend 1 CMC § 2806(g) to define industrial port use and port related operations to lease public lands for legitimate public purpose related to their agency’s mandate; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on February 23, 2017. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 20-6: (2/24/17) Transmitting for House action S. J. R. No. 20-1, entitled, “A Senate Joint Resolution authorizing the Marianas Visitor’s Authority to set a new compensation and wage salary scale for its employees pursuant to 4 CMC § 2124(g).”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 23, 2017. [*For action*]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: It has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 20-2 through 20-6 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: All Senate Communication becomes property of the House. Can I ask the Floor Leader to effectuate a motion relative to Senate Communication 20-2 placing that Senate Communication on today’s Resolution Calendar for action.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to move to place Senate Joint Resolution 20-2, entitled “A Senate Joint Resolution to call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address.”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 15, 2017 that we place it on our Resolution Calendar Mr. Speaker for action. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to place Senate Communication 20-2 relative to Senate Joint Resolution 20-2 on the Resolution Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Relative to Senate Communication 20-3 that communication will be referred to natural Resources. Senate Communication 20-4 that communication will be referred to JGO. Again, I ask the Floor Leader to effectuate a motion on Senate Communication 20-5 to place it on today’s Resolution Calendar. Senate Communication 20-5, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker, can we have a short recess please.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Short recess.

The House recessed at 3:05 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:21 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to our plenary session. Before we get into recess the floor is on the Floor Leader. You may proceed.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Upon clarification, at this time I would like to make a motion that we place Senate Bill 20-16, SD1, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC §§ 2112 and 2122 by adding new definitions providing a grant of power to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in the Commonwealth Ports Authority Act and to amend 1 CMC § 2806(g) to define industrial port use and port related operations to lease public lands for legitimate public purpose related to their agency’s mandate; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the Senate on February 23, 2017. Mr. Speaker, I move that we place it on our Bill Calendar for action, so move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

There was no discussion and the motion to place Senate Communication 20-5 relative to Senate Bill 20-16, SD1 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Again, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Senate Communication 20-6, we have Senate Joint Resolution 20-1, entitled, “A Senate Joint Resolution authorizing the Marianas Visitor’s Authority to set a new compensation and wage salary scale for its employees pursuant to 4 CMC § 2124(g).”, which was adopted by the Senate on February 23, 2017. Mr. Speaker, I move that we place Senate Joint Resolution 20-1 on our Resolution Calendar. So move.

The motion was seconded.

There was no the motion to place Senate Communication 20-6 relative to Senate Joint Resolution 20-1 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: That would take care of the Senate Communications. We will go ahead and move down to item VIII, which is the House Communication. Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 20-21: (1/31/17) From Representative Dela Cruz, PUC Chair, submitting amended composition to the Public Utilities and Communications Committee, restructure of composition appointing Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero as Vice Chair. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-22: (2/14/17) From Representative Attao informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth beginning Wednesday, February 15, 2017 on personal matters and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. Furthermore, Representative Attao officially authorizes Representative Villagomez to introduce his legislations on his behalf. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 20-23: (2/9/17) From Representative Angel A. Demapan, W&M Chair, appointing members to the House Standing Committee Ways and Means. [For info]

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Any comment under item VIII? None. We will go ahead and move down to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees. Recognize the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced that there were several Standing Committee Reports ready for adoption.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Clerk. Now recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-1: Reporting on H. J. R. NO. 20-1 entitled: "A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2017, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018, and \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes." *Your Committee on Transportation recommends that the House adopt H. J. R. NO. 20-1 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-1 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-2: Reporting on H. J. R. NO. 20-2 entitled: "A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes." *Your Committee on Transportation recommends that the House adopt H. J. R. NO. 20-2 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-3: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-15, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, CNMI Drug Court, and establishing a special account.” *Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-15, HD1.*

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. A motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize the Minority Leader.

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you. I just wanted to ask the Chairman Representative Angel Demapan. Yesterday, I received two emails, one from the Gaming Commission and PSS. Are we going to include this as part of the – I mean I know it is on for action. Basically I wanted to ask if you did receive these emails.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Villagomez for the response. Recognize Chairman Angel.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response, I received one of the two. I have received the communication from the Casino Commission only.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Further?

Representative Edmund S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Minority Leader. Further discussion. Recognize Chairman again.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as the mover of the bill and Chairman of the committee that worked on this bill, I just wanted to point out some of the highlights of marking this bill up for the sake of the members that are not in the Committee of Ways and Means, but mainly some of the important parts that warrant the attention to mark up this bill and ask the support of the members is one to create the casino gross revenue tax account that would make these accounts separate from the general fund so that we can take care of the entities that are listed in subsection 2308 as it is being proposed to be amended. Second, we also looked at the retirees pension issue, so we included provisions here to ensure that when there is a shortage in the 25% reduction in retiree benefits that this particular section can be used to cover any deficiency in funding needed to make that 25% reduction pension payments in whole. Third, we also realize when the developer or the licensee on this case first executed their license agreement with the government they paid upfront casino license payment for the first and fifth year. The fifth year is coming up as we know because they paid for it ahead of time, we are not expecting any payment in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars for the fifth year and in anticipation of that we also included provisions to reserve Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars from the casino gross revenue taxes collected for the years 2017 and 2018 and those funds equaling Fifteen Million Dollars will be used for the intended purpose for the license fee to take

care of the 25% portion of the retirees pension. So in addition to adding a few more recipients to the eligibility list these are the three important highlights of the bill that warrant our attention and as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means after working with the membership of the committee I ask for the support of the members in adopting this committee report and furthermore the support of the members when we get to the Bill Calendar. In further response to the Minority Leader, I did receive the communication from the Casino Commission, however that communication was just received yesterday if I am not mistaken so the committee did not have a chance to entertain that request. As Chairman just from my cursory review of that communication, I believe that we can entertain the request in other legislations particularly the upcoming annual budget. The Casino Commission has submitted their budget request for the new fiscal year and they have included the same funding needs that that they are identifying in their communication regarding casino gross revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Chairman, just to clarify because you have mentioned about using the number Seven Thousand is that a correct figure or \$7.5 Million?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand - \$7.5 Million is the correct figure. Thank you very much.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Further discussion? None.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-3 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 20-4: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-8, entitled: “To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes.” *Your Committee on Public Utilities and Communications recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-8, HSI.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 20-4 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: For the last committee report Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-5 –

S. C. R. NO. 20-5: Reporting on H. B. No. 20-23, entitled: “To define industrial port use, port related operations and to amend 1 CMC §2806 (g), Public Lands: Fundamental Policies; and to allow government agencies on the islands of Tinian and Rota to lease public lands, conveyed to them by Public Lands, for legitimate public purpose related to

their agency’s mandate.” *Your Committee on Natural Resources recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 20-23, HDI.*

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader, if I may sorry to interject. I believe as we did discuss this during our leadership and through the request of the respective Chair to hold on to this. Can I get further clarification on that? Representative Chairman Edwin Aldan.

Representative Edwin P. Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the members this bill is almost the same as what Senator Jude – that we are going to entertain that we just placed on the Bill Calendar and what we wanted to do was pass that first and see from there and then put this on the committee status because we do not know the AG’s opinion on this one because we did seek for an opinion – the Senate did seek for an opinion and there was no response for this. So I request that it would be placed on hold on committee until such time we see what is the outcome of the AG’s opinion on this one.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Chairman. So having said that we are going to go ahead and keep it on the Standing Committee Report item. So with that Standing Committee Report 20-5 still remains on the Standing Committee Report. Moving forward to item XIII, Reports on Special and Conference appears to be none. XIV, Unfinished Business – now move to...

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Chairman Frank Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Are we then referring Standing Committee Report 20-5 back to the Committee on Natural Resources and if so, I believe that we need to make a motion to do just that. It is already on the floor and we are basically deliberating on the Standing Committee Report. So if we choose to have it in the committee, we need to refer it back to that committee because right now it is on the floor. I hope that is correct Counsel if I am not –

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. I believe the intent here and maybe the Counsel can come in and – the intent here is to just leave it on the Order of Business, which is the Report on Standing Committee and not refer it to the committee. Did I clarify that? Alright. So with that we will go ahead and go down to item XV, which is the Resolution Calendar and I now recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-4

A House Resolution to amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 9, 2017; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. A motion has been seconded, discussion? Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a technical error that needs to be fixed and if I can refer to Legal Counsel on a omission that occurred during the deliberation in committee to state that the intent is to have fifteen members in the Committee of Ways and Means instead of the fourteen that is reflected in the committee report.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Any objection to that technical?

Several members voiced "no objection".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Further discussion? Recognize Chairman Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Before we adopt the motion which we will adopt our House Rules, I just wanted to point out for the benefit of the members. One of the things this rule does is clarify how bills get to the calendar and get passed. If you do not mind me kind of talking about that. You know I have always had this – it is always unclear despite how many years in this House what constitutes First Reading, Second Reading and Final Passage. As our Legal Counsel has stated different legislatures do it differently. Our House Rules right now, First Reading is when the bill gets to calendar and the motion is offered to passed that would be our First Reading. If it passes – if the motion would be to pass it on First and Final Reading. Once on calendar an amendment is made it cannot be passed that would have to be – it will have to stay on the calendar and in the next legislative session it will read be read as Second Reading. If there are no further amendments then it would pass in the Second and Final Reading. If we amend it again on the Second Reading then it cannot go for passage it stays again on the legislative calendar and can continue to stay. In other words, any amendments to a bill on the calendar would have to stay there one legislative day. I think the intent has been for transparency and to allow any amendments to afford anybody who wants to make a public comment or even us to properly review it. So any amendments would keep again on the calendar for another legislative day. So to me that is the big change. I think it is about time it is clarified you know when we pass it and sometimes a bill is substituted and passed. And the bill is a totally different animal, but this House Bill now the way it is currently written is – does well for transparency and for proper review. And so that is how the reading is in our rules and so I urge the members to support the rules as written unless there are other technical changes that need to be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Deleon Guerrero. Recognize Representative Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And this is just to ask question in line of what Representative Joe Guerrero mentioned. We all know that the budget does not pass for one amendment or two amendments or three amendments. So are we going to be put in a situation where we are going to make an amendment, hold another session to make another amendment, to hold another session to make another amendment? Or can we do multiple amendments and consider one amendment on First Reading. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative. Let me allow the Chair to respond to that Chairman Angel.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: I am sorry Mr. Speaker. The Floor Leader is the ad hoc Chairman. I am just a member. I yield to the Chairman of the ad hoc committee.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Chairman Angel. In response to our good colleagues question. We did review Rule IX, Section 9 and 10 to resolve that issue – one of us may offer a suspension motion to that regard so that we can act on that matter at the same day or the same calendar day. And Counsel you may chime in if you wish to.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Actually you do not need the suspension motion. On the First Reading you can have multiple amendments. The idea – this is the original rule it really has not changed we just simplified it a little bit more, but the idea is that the First Reading that is when you make your amendments and you can make multiple amendments to the bill and once it is completed it goes on to the calendar for Second Reading at the next session. The purpose is to give the public notice of the changes to the bill so that they have any additional public comments they wish to make to inform them what is going on and to apply with the provision to the Open Government Act. So multiple purposes.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Counsel. Representative Attao you wanted to?

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is just a concern because the budget bill is not like any regular bill that we are going to or any other appropriation bill that we are going to be introducing to this body. We are on a timeline when it comes to the budget and if we do have to wait till the eleventh hour and then we are going to make amendments to all of these stuff – I mean why don’t we just fix it in this specific – on our House Rules and allow at least the budget to be flexible in time. I mean we have worked here long enough to know that the budget process takes a while and the last two fiscal years almost eleventh hour. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative. Let me recognize Chairman Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to colleague Attao’s concern and also in expounding on Legal Counsel. This is not a new provision in this rule it has always been here, we have just decided to read it and so it has been here, but there is a solution when we get to times like the budget bill and that is when the Floor Leader will exercise offering

the motion to suspend this pertinent rule so that we can move on with the budget process. This is a rule that has been here so we did not take it out we just decided to honor the word of the rule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Recognize again Representative Deleon Guerrero.

Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and everybody who has talked so far is correct. I think if anything and the budget bill could be the exception where we may need to resort to suspension of rules, but for the most part I think what it also does is kind of forces members to think ahead and make motions and I did not clarify earlier. Amendments that are made on that legislative day could be one it could be twenty amendments pushes it to a second reading. So it forces the members to try to resolve any amendments in that session so that we do not have to keep pushing the bill back, but there is a way and that is to suspend the rules. I think leaving this rule here finally clarifying it so that we are all clear what First Reading is and Second and Final Reading is. In other words, the only time it can move for passage – the vote – is when it is no longer – there is no further amendments that is the big difference. As Angel said it has been in the books, we just have not been really following it to the T. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Further discussion. Recognize.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Real quick Mr. Speaker. So to the Legal Counsel, so I am reading here in the Second Reading we cannot offer further amendments. Is that – so when we come to Second Reading it is all about the vote already?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Correct. If you get to the Second Reading and you need to make further amendments you would make a motion to reconsider on First Reading and then you would move it back to First Reading, make your amendments and then it would proceed back on to Second Reading.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: So when it reflects on the agenda under Second Reading meaning that we cannot offer any further amendments and we must proceed to the vote. Is that how it is reading in the rule? If you look at Second Reading.

Legal Counsel John Cool: Yes. Unless you need to make further amendments then you would bring a motion to reconsider under First Reading so you would be moving back from Second Reading for reconsideration back to First Reading. So that is what you would do.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: John that is where I am trying to come about. It is reflecting on Second Reading on a legislative day. So in order for us to make further amendments we have to make a motion to put it back to First Reading?

Legal Counsel John Cool: Correct.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: So clarified, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan. Further discussion? Ready. Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the adoption of House Resolution 20-4 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Of course, because we are amending the House Rules it would require a threshold of three-fourths; we have met that more than enough. House Resolution 20-4 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Senate Joint Resolution:

S. J. R. No. 20-2

A Senate Joint Resolution to call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address. **[SEN. COMM. 20-2]**

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 20-2 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
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Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Joint Resolution 20-2, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Joint Resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-1

A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2017, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018, and \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes. **[S. C. R. NO. 20-1]**

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 20-1 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes

Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. With all 20 members voting in the affirmative, House Joint Resolution 20-1, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Joint Resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 20-2

A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes. [S. C. R. NO. 20-2]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Joint Resolution 20-2 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes

Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Again with all 20 members voting in the affirmative, House Joint Resolution 20-2 passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Resolution:

H. RES. NO. 20-5

A House Resolution to respectfully request and encourage 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 of discount benefits at their establishments.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 20-5 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader for the last resolution.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Commemorative Resolution:

C. RES. NO. 20-1

To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Mayor Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan and to acknowledge his service and countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion? Recognize Chairman Dela Cruz.

Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz: Just to ask, I know some of the members did not sign off on this resolution. If it can be considered penned by the whole of the members here. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Well noted.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 20-1 was carried by voice vote. There was no nay vote.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker just to clarify. I believe we placed Senate Joint Resolution 20-1 on our Resolution Calendar today?

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Yes we did.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: We have not adopted the Senate Joint Resolution.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: We have not? Can you effectuate that motion so we can act on it.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Senate Joint Resolution:

S. J. R. No. 20-1

A Senate Joint Resolution authorizing the Marianas Visitor's Authority to set a new compensation and wage salary scale for its employees pursuant to 4 CMC § 2124(g).
[SEN. COMM. 20-6]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize the Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 20-1 with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes

Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Again with all 20 members voting in the affirmative, Senate Joint Resolution 20-1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: I believe that covers our Resolution Calendar, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: That is correct. You may proceed. We will go ahead and go down to the Bill Calendar item XVI.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass House Bill 20-15, House Draft 1.

H. B. NO. 20-15, HD1.

To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, CNMI Drug Court, and establishing a special account. [**S. C. R. NO. 20-3**]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Floor Leader. Again your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call. Can we have a very short recess.

The House recessed at 4:06 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:09 p.m.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Back to our plenary session. Prior to our recess the Floor Leader has the floor. You may proceed Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I would like to restate my earlier motion and that motion is for the passage on First Reading on House Bill 20-15, HD1. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-15 House Draft 1 on First Reading with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted "yes."

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: With all 20 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-15, HD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to offer a motion for passage on First Reading House Bill 20-8, HS1. So move.

H. B. No. 20-8, HS1

To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes. [S. C. R. NO. 20-4]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Floor Leader. Again, your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced "ready".

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 20-8, House Substitute 1 on First Reading with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Clerk. Again with all 20 members voting in the affirmative, House Bill 20-8, HS1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Mr. Speaker on our Bill Calendar. I believe prior to earlier discussion, House Bill 20-23 as requested by, I believe Chairman Edwin to be held back? 20-16 my apologies. Speaker, if I may continue.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: You may.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: On our Bill Calendar – let me take that back – I would like to make a motion for passage on First Reading on Senate Bill 20-16, SD1. So move, Mr. Speaker.

S. B. NO. 20-16, SD1

To amend 2 CMC §§ 2112 and 2122 by adding new definitions providing a grant of power to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in the Commonwealth Ports Authority Act and to amend 1 CMC § 2806(g) to define industrial port use and port related operations to lease public lands for legitimate public purpose related to their agency’s mandate; and for other purposes. [SEN. COMM. 20-5]

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you. Your motion has been seconded. Discussion on that motion?

Several members voiced “ready”.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Clerk for the roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 20-16, Senate Draft 1 on First Reading with the following results:

Representative Francisco C. Aguon	yes
Representative Edwin P. Aldan	yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao	yes
Representative Donald C. Barcinas	yes
Representative Ivan A. Blanco	yes
Representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz	yes
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Speaker Rafael S. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero	yes
Representative Alice S. Igitol	yes
Representative Jose I. Itibus	yes
Representative Glenn L. Maratita	yes
Representative Janet U. Maratita	yes
Representative Edwin K. Propst	yes
Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.	yes
Representative John Paul P. Sablan	yes
Representative Vinson F. Sablan	yes
Representative Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez	yes

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 20 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: *Si Yu’us Ma’ase*, Clerk. Again with 20 voting in the affirmative, Senate Bill 20-16, SD1 passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: I believe that covers our Bill Calendar, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, members. I believe that took care of item XVI, which is the Bill Calendar. We will go ahead and go down to item XVII, the Miscellaneous Business. Recognize Madame Chair Igitol.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Alice S. Igitol: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask our colleague here, I guess by this time you receive our letter – Vice Speaker and myself, we send you a letter for the women’s month, we are asking your generous support. Please, I guess we have to rush this and deposit it to Vice Speaker’s account so that we can pay the hotel, the catering. Thank you, I thank you all.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Recognize Chairman Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same topic maybe some of us also received from the main organization the Commonwealth Women’s Association they are also asking. So the one you are asking the support from the members are you going to give it to the same association because I guess some of us are already been given a letter of request. Just for clarification.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. Let me recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Thank you, Speaker. In response to Representative J. P. Sablan. I am not sure what solicitation is that but from the CWA, but the letter that we send out to all the members this is a legislative sponsored luncheon for all the women in the Commonwealth. I believe the one from the CWA was probably the ticket for \$50.00 that is for I believe the gala. It is an event where all of you are suppose to buy a ticket, but I can confirm that with the CWA, but the letter that Representative Igitol and I send out to the members seeking your support and financial assistant is for the lunch that we scheduled for a day of engagement with all other women. We are definitely are asking for two-hundred, but I know that some of us are kind of tight but any amount of contribution is appreciated. Thank you all and if you should wish to assist myself and colleague Igitol, please you can transfer whatever amount to my account so we can make a check payable to Hyatt on behalf of the Legislature. Also please invite your women constituents, your wife, your sisters, nieces, daughters and all other women. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Let me recognize Chairman Blanco.

Representative Ivan A. Blanco: I applaud Vice Speaker and Chairwoman Igitol. I support it. I did receive a letter from CWA and they mentioned about cash donation, but they also mentioned the Women's Affairs Office. I am not sure whether the Women's Affairs Office is allowed to be soliciting cash, but the letter included both of them. So I am not sure who does the money go to. Just wanted to clarify that portion. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to ask the Vice Speaker. I do understand it is a women event, but I just wanted to ask if men are invited too?

Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: Sure. Men are invited and if any of you would like to be the MC we appreciate, we need men to be the MC for the event. And also to clarify that I will get back to you Representative Blanco regarding that letter, but nonetheless it is all for the same event. If they are seeking monetary I think they will be needing that and perhaps they did not realize that Congresswoman Igitol and I are soliciting you know because we cannot solicit outside, but I think the CW are also soliciting for the event that evening and that dinner event at the central park is coordinated by the Women's Association. So again the one that we are asking is a legislative sponsor event. Thank you.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Any further? Recognize Representative Sablan.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Speaker. This is another topic. I am just wondering what is the Legislature's action on the recent action on the Attorney General filing a lawsuit against several parties on our compensation that we receive now and I guess that is 19-3. What is the procedure? Is this going to court? We will stand in defense – I am just wondering if it has been a topic of discussion for yourself and the leadership and where does the Legislature stand on that issue or where our actions or reactions even.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Representative Sablan. As we all know that case is before the court has yet to be decided by the court. I do understand that the Secretary did manage

to get her own Legal Counsel. I have not get any information as to the status. I guess, however before that we did discuss that within our members and I ask that we hold on and allow the court to do its due process.

Representative Vinson F. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Further? Number XVIII, Announcement? Recognize Chairman Sablan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Gregorio M. Sablan, Jr.: Those of you that are not aware, I will be meeting with the OPM Director Mr. Cid Seman tomorrow. This is to get clarification and also with regards to Public Law 19-63 and then later was amended by Public Law 19-74 and then Public Law 19-75. Apparently, there is a lot of issues and concern regarding this and how it has been implemented when it came down to the Department levels. So we are just trying to get clarification. So you are more than welcome to join me tomorrow at 09:30 at OPM Office. Also in regards to Public Law 19-83 implementation and how again it is going to be implemented because there is a lot of people being affected and I know that Public Law 19-63 was considered the Salary Adjustment Act, but apparently not all agencies are implanting it and some have different interpretation so we want clarification on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Rafael S. Demapan: Thank you, Chairman Sablan for that announcement. Further? If none, recognize the Floor Leader for the adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Glenn L. Maratita: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to make a motion that we adjourn subject to your call.

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

The House adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

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. No. 20-5: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheets 03 and 05 of 29. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session
January 31, 2017:*

H. B. NO. 20-1: To amend 4 CMC §1401 and 4 CMC §1402 (a) to separate cigars from being taxed as a tobacco and establish its own tax rate; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-2: To increase the excise tax on the importation of Areca Nut (Betel Nut) into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-3: To amend and repeal provisions of the Vehicle Code to allow for e-citation implementation; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-4: To remove the limitation on the amount of funds from the MVA Trust Fund that may be distributed to the Municipalities of Tinian and Rota. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-5: To establish a graduated registration fee for pickups, jeeps, sedans and automobiles. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-6: To amend 2 CMC §7251 to require three (3) public hearings for any proposed change of district boundary, uses, or requirements; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-7: To amend 9 CMC §2107 to provide an extended time period before the vehicle registration late fee would apply; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself* and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Edwin P. Aldan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-8: To restrict the use of cellular/mobile telephones while driving vehicles; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Vinson F. Sablan) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Public Utilities and Communications.

H. B. NO. 20-9: To require all scuba dive shop operators to impose a \$10.00 surcharge per tank usage to purchase, install, operate, and maintain decompression chambers in the CNMI; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Jose I. Itibus, and Edwin K. Propst) on January 31, 2017 and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-10: To establish the Settlement Fund Revolving Fund Account. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-11: To ban the use of plastic checkout bags; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 20-12: To reform drug sentencing laws to effectuate the rehabilitation and treatment principles of evidence-based sentencing. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-13: To designate and establish Susupe Lake and its surrounding wetland as “Susupe Lake Wildlife Park” for the purpose of and in accordance with this Act. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 20-14: To improve the justice system’s response to domestic violence, and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-15: To amend 4 CMC §2308 by adding new subsection covering Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, CNMI Drug Court, and establishing a special account. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-16: To amend 7 CMC 3101(a) to mandate when a jury is impanel to hear all felonies and misdemeanors charges; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-17: To establish provisions to require the Commonwealth Government and Commonwealth Government Agencies to pay their contractual obligations in a timely manner; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-18: To amend 6 CMC §2256 (a) (10), the hours of operation for shooting galleries and shooting ranges; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-19: To amend 6 CMC §3156 (b) by requiring a hotel or resort attached to a golf course to have a minimum of eighteen (18) holes in order to be eligible to conduct electronic gaming activities as defined in 6 CMC §3156(a)(6). Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Angel A. Demapan, John Paul P. Sablan, and Vinson F. Sablan) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Gaming.

H. B. NO. 20-20: To amend Title 9, Division 2, Chapter 1 § 2104 to provide veterans a discounted benefit for the vehicle registration fee; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of

Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Jose I. Itibus, Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-21: To define “general revenues” as it relates to the CNMI Public School System. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr.) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-22: To amend 1 CMC Section 1502 clarifying the activities subject to the Occupancy Tax. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-23: To define industrial port use, port related operations and to amend 1 CMC §2806 (g), Public Lands: Fundamental Policies; and to allow government agencies on the islands of Tinian and Rota to lease public lands, conveyed to them by Public Lands, for legitimate public purpose related to their agency’s mandate. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 20-24: To prohibit cruelty and theft of animals; to provide penalties for such acts; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 20-25: To prohibit the selling and exporting of copper wire; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Vinson F. Sablan) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-26: To amend 6 CMC §2143 by adding a new subsection (c) to establish a penalty for businesses who engage in drug-related activities; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Vinson F. Sablan) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-27: To amend 2 CMC §1645 to establish a penalty for businesses engaging in the act of destroying, harassing, or removing of wildlife or marine species within Bird Island and Forbidden Island sanctuaries; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 20-28: To amend 4 CMC §§§ 2306, 2307 and 2308 (Public Law No. 18-56) to authorize, establish, and fund a Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account and CNMI Retiree Future Generation Pension Plan. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-29: To appropriate Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) from the Cancer Fund Special Account, earmarked under 4 CMC §1402(g)(2), to support and expand cancer awareness, detection and prevention programs. Introduced by REP. ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 20-30: To require all tour companies and agents to register and be issued a permit by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Donald C. Barcinas) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

H. B. NO. 20-31: To retire the CNMI deficit in a significant and consistent manner via imposition of a 5% tax on gaming revenue in the Commonwealth. Introduced by REP. JANET U. MARATITA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*, and Representative Alice S. Igitol) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-32: To amend the Developer Infrastructure Tax to bear the cost of the new and additional infrastructure needed to meet the growing demands of our economy; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-33: To amend 2 CMC § 4435(f) and to repeal 2 CMC § 4435(h) to expand the use of lease agreement payments to supplement housing assistance; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-34: To repeal in part Section 3 of Public Law No. 19-42 and revive former 6 CMC § 2222(e) and its associated definitions. Introduced by REP. VINSON F. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 4, (*for himself*, and Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-35: To amend 1 CMC §§8245-8248 to increase compensation for appointed officials and increase the salary ceiling; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-36: To amend 1 CMC §8357, to reestablish the special annuity for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan and Glenn L. Maratita) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added] H. B. NO. 20-37: To prohibit the taking and selling of certain sizes of fish species by adding a new section 5645 to Article 4, Chapter 6, Division 5 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. L. B. NO. 20-1: To appropriate up to Three Hundred Ninety Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine US Dollars \$393,279.00 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Francisco C. Aguon, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-2: To re-appropriate Seven Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred Fifty Eight US Dollars (\$799,558.00) allotted to the Second Senatorial District pursuant to 4 CMC §2307(b); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. EDWIN P. ALDAN of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-3: To appropriate funds realized under Public Law No. 18-30 for the Third Senatorial District for the construction of a temporary shelter(s) within the Third Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-4: To re-appropriate the unused funds under Business Unit No. 1605 (of Saipan Local Law No. 19-06) for the continued repair and renovations of the Northern Marianas College (NMC) As Terlaje Campus; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GREGORIO M. SABLAN JR. of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017.

H. L. B. NO. 20-5: To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheets 03 and 05 of 29. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017.

H. RES. NO. 20-2: To respectfully request the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands to preserve and designate 30,000 square meters of feasible public land on the island of Saipan for the future site of the Indigenous Cultural Center. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H. RES. NO. 20-3: To honor and commend Mr. Jose “Joe” C. Ayuyu for earning the coveted title of 2016 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEE PAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, Glenn L. Maratita, Janet U. Maratita, Edwin K. Propst, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., John Paul P. Sablan, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently placed on the resolution calendar.

H. RES. NO. 20-4: To amend the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure that was adopted on January 9, 2017; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. GLENN L. MARATITA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently placed on the resolution calendar.

[Added] H. RES. NO. 20-5: To respectfully request and encourage 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 of discount benefits at their establishments. Introduced by REP. IVAN A. BLANCO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently placed on the resolution calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 20-1: Respectfully requesting the Honorable Ralph DLG Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. James Aldan Ada, Secretary of the Department of Public Works to reserve at least \$850,000.00 from the Federal Highway Funds for Fiscal Year 2017, \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2018, and \$3,200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the A&E design and construction of roads, drainage and water catchment tanks from Capitol Hill to Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill including lateral roads; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, and Representatives Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Jose I. Itibus, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson F. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Transportation.

[Added] H. J. R. NO. 20-2: Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Kannat Tabla road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. FRANCISCO C. AGUON of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, and Representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Donald C. Barcinas, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on January 31, 2017 and was subsequently referred to the Committee on Transportation.

House information on deadlines for override: None