

THE SENATE • TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS



Senate
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SJ 20-24

 Fifth Special

 Thursday, December 14, 2017

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Arnold I. Palacios, issued a session call on December 11, 2017, that the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and pasted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, pasted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.gav.mp.

The Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Special, Second Regular Session, on December 14, 2017, at 10:08 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, President of the Senate, presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

President Palacios: We'll be starting our session in a few minutes. Before we do that, I would like to welcome many of the distinguish members of our community that are here to join us this morning. I wish to recognize, Mrs. Nadine Sablan, who is here to join us and Mr. Aguon, former Mayor George Sablan, and two SAA's, Mr. Tebuteb and Mrs. Fleming, and same honorable members of our community.

The Clerk called the roll, all nine members are "present."

President Palacios: With nine members "present" we've establish a quorum to conduct today's session. We are now going to agenda Item B, Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: The Chair now invites any member of the public who are present here this morning to be able to provide public comment on any of the issues appearing a today's calendar. I wish to ask that you state your name and the organization that you represent, and the particular agenda item that you will be speaking about. Thank you.

Mr. Manny M. Pangelinan: Good morning, Mr. President and members of the distinguished Senators of the Twentieth Commonwealth Legislature. My name is Manny M. Pangelinan. I am the

Director for the Division of Fish and Wildlife. I am here in support of House Bill No. 20-69, HS1. On behalf of Secretary Anthony T. Benavente and I, extends our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to stand before you in support of House Bill No. 20-69, HS1. DLNR and DFW has been pursuing a legislation to enable DLNR and DFW to collect green fees from the end users within our conservation areas. This journey takes us back to the 18th, 19th and now the 20th Commonwealth Legislature. And 18th Legislature, the House successfully passed similar bill but was voted down by the Senate. On the 19th Legislature then Senate Vice President Arnold I. Palacios introduced a more enhanced bill and was unanimously voted by the Senate but did not move at all at the House Natural Resources Committee. Now, in the 20th Legislature the House Natural Resources Committee and its general members which was introduced by President Palacios was passed by the House as HB 20-69, HSI, with minor amendments. The same bill which was introduced by President Palacios is now in front of this distinguished body for deliberation. The following are the two minor amendments made to SB 19-66, SS 1: It provides a provision to regulate the harvesting and take of an indigenous plant call "Pemphis" locally known as "Nigas"; and It increases the percentage amount to be allocated to Rota and Tinian from 10% to 15% of the total revenue collected for each fiscal year. DLNR and DFW are in support of these two amendments. On August 08, 2000, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law House Bill No. 12-162, CSI, now known as Public Law 12-12. It gave the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) the exclusive authority to manage marine conservation areas for the enjoyment of future generations of the Commonwealth residents and visitors alike. The management programs to be put in place shall ensure that the conservation area continue to exist to provide protection for safe habitats for fish and other marine life to exist and propagate for the continued use and enjoyment for the people of the Commonwealth and its visitors and for the generation to come. The protection and preservation of the land and water resources, flora, fauna, and marine life that are found in the conservation area shall be carried out through strict regulatory enforcement. Public Law 12-12 also provides for a guaranty funding to enable the DLNR and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to carry out and enforce the mandates of the Act. Year after year the guaranty funding pursuant to P.L. 12-12 is not appropriated by the Legislature or allocated to DFW since the enactment of the law in August 2000. DLNR and DFW recognized that to implement and enforce P.L. 12-12 as is, will create problem with the current marine recreational activities that are authorized by the Coastal Resource Management and the Division of Public Lands under the Special Recreational Concession Agreement for Mañagaha Island that allows for in water motorized and non-motorized marine sports and recreational activities within the Conservation Area. The increase influx of tourist, swimming around the surrounding water of Mañagaha Island have caused and will continue to cause substantial damage to the corals but no one wants to take ownership of the damage and no one wants to contribute voluntarily to assist in the restoration of the damage corals. However, everyone is ok to profit from the in water marine sports and recreational activities that are causing damages to the marine resources and ecosystem. In order to improve the effectiveness of P.L. 12-12 and to achieve its intended purposes an amendment is necessary. We believed that the amendments incorporated in H.B. 20-69 will strengthen P.L. 12-12 which will enable DLNR and DFW to promulgate the necessary regulation to effectively manage the marine conservation areas and to enforce the regulation of marine conservation area and at the same allowing for controlled marine recreational activities to co-exist within the conservation areas while addressing the adverse impact to the marine resources. We believed that the imposition of a marine conservation fee to be paid by tourist entering marine conservation areas is a reasonable, necessary, and worthwhile means to generate the necessary management funds to assist in our conservation efforts of our marine protected areas. Without

sufficient funding to pay for effective management, there is a great risk that our marine conservation areas will be greatly impacted from averse by visitors. Without constant monitoring, enforcement and putting in place good conservation measures, we will diminish our pristine marine ecosystem and fisheries resources. Financial marine conservation is not a new concept. The source of funding for a marine conservation comes in many different financing mechanisms, such as this legislation direct from government budget, grants and donations, Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), tourism revenues, conservation trust funds, protected area entry fees, airport passenger fees, and cruise ship fees, taxes and fines and many more. What better way to get your source of funding is to assess minimal fees to tourists (the end user) since their use of the marine resources is directly impacting our conservation areas. Like SB 19-66, SS1, HB 20-69, HS1, provides explicit authorization on how the conservation area management revolving fund is to be expended. If you notice all authorize expenditure is directly related to marine protected area management. This provides for expenditure accountability. To ensure that the conservation management and enforcement activities of Rota and Tinian marine conservation areas are not overlooked and are address, Section 1637 (c) (1) (i) (ii) allocates ten percent (10%) of the total revenue collected for each fiscal year to the First and Second Senatorial Districts. A bill without enforcement, remedy, and penalty clause is a law without authority to enforce it. Section 1636 of the bill provides a provision to fine any person who knowingly violates any provisions of P.L. 12-12 or regulations. The fine is for not less than \$500.00 but not more than the total cost of damaged assessed by the division of Fish and Wildlife. This is an important provision since it is difficult to put a value of damaged corals. Sometimes we will need to hire experts to ascertain the value of the damage. HB 20-69 also gives the Conservation Enforcement Officers the direct responsibility for the enforcement of P.L. 12-12. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is about 95% federally funded. For the past years, the Division is receiving less than \$10,000 for its annual appropriation for operation. This amount is very limited to carry out a single project, pay for a full year enforcement activities or aide in research activities within the Marine Conservation Areas. Receiving federal grants is great but it has limitation. Federal grants always came with caveats of allowable and disallowable cost or activities. Therefore, we are limited to the conditions of the grant. Sometimes, granting agency would pose conditions to the grant that are restrictive for us to manage our MPA the way we see fit. Having a reliable, continue and sustainable funding sources will enable us, Saipan, Tinian and Rota to freely manage our marine conservation areas the way the management, the people and leaders of the CNMI see fits. Without a reliable, continue and sustainable funding source we are subjecting ourselves to the grantor of our marine conservation projects which consequently we may end up losing the rights for the CNMI to freely manage our marine conservation areas the way we see fit. Based on the above reasons DLNR and DFW jointly in support of HB 20-69. We respectfully ask your committee members and the 20th CNMI House of Representative for their favorable support as well. You hold the power and the votes to make the difference. The state of our marine resources for future generation to enjoy is in our hands. Thank you and we stand ready to meet with you should you have any question.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Pangelinan, for that extensive testimony and comment. I would like to ask that you please hand over your written comments so it can go into the legislative record. Thank you. Are there anymore comments on any of the agenda items appearing on today's calendar? I would like courteously and respectfully ask that we limit our comments to five minutes if you can. Thank you.

Mr. San Nicolas: *Hafa Adai yan* good morning, honorable Senators. *Ti baihu na gos atman este sa' hutungaha na bula* items *gi agenda*. *I na'an-hu si Eric Henry Cruz San Nicolas*. *Residentin Tinian yo' batodat Tinian yo'*. *Mato yo' pago na' ogan para biahu tistigu* in our position, *kontra este i Senate Bill No. 20-79*. *I testimony yan i palabras-hu pago tiha* single-out *uniko na Senadot guini pat ahe'*. *I spiritun este na bill dangkulu iyoña* repercussion *este CNMI wide*. *Guaha guenao siha kulan la'meggai na ti' na'komprendi gi san hiyong na para Tinian-ha pat para Luto-ha pat para Saipan-ha, lao este na bill ha' afekta tododo Marianas*. *I timing i bill sa esta ihot i tiempon politika mampos klaru ya' yanggen para proteksion impliao para guini gi ma'mala guaha maas siña ma'chogue na bill ni siña hufan prininitehi impliao*. *I timing guini lokkue obvious, yanggen sakasu ma bota este ya ma'pasa guini, ma'pasa guato pues ma'fitma ni Gobietno, ya' yanggen matulakai i mayoria guini gi Senate ya i bill ilelekña i Senate parahu nina preba parahu konsenti i appointment hayi na mayot yanggen sakasu less than half i tetmino so'sobla, yanggen matulaika i mayoria ya' let say, pot hemplo, mayot Luta bumakanti, ya dumaña i Senadot Saipan yan Tinian, kumeke ilekña na i Senadot Tinian yan Saipan parahu dinisponi botadot toatoa Luta hayi next in line parahu mayot*. *Parehu-ha talo yanggen sakasu Saipan na mayot bumakanti ofisinaña ya' mandaña i Senadot Luta yan Tinian, kumeke ilekña na Senadot Luta yan Tinian parahu dinisponi batodat Saipan*. *Parehu ha talo yan Tinian*. *Sa yanggen un atan kulan ta' a'amot i bos i toatoa guini*. *Klaru-ha lokkue gi gaseta todo i justification kao i author i bill pat i commentories i ploggers* would have *los kuantos*. *Prisisu este siha na klasen* propose legislation *uma baba ya hufan halom lokkue i publiko ya hu'fangentos*. *Malaga yo' lokkue baihu gagao si Senator Paul Mangloña, un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase pot humuyong-hao lokkue gi gaseta ya' un'na klaru enao*. *Hu' gagagao hamyo tododo ni man gaigi guini ya' hutungo-ha na buenti gi bandan* party lines *buenti esta guaha disision guini*, I am holding on to hope that is not the case. The intent of the bill really takes away the voice of the people and I hope that whoever reads it, whether you are republican, independent or what not, we realize the repercussion of this bill, it is not just on Tinian, it is not just on Rota, it is not just on Saipan, but it is holistic. If we intent to take away the voice of the people who voted in the previous election that is gross negligence as far as representing the people. I am not trying to point fingers to any particular Senator in this Chamber, I respect everyone here you are all elected by the people. But, I ask you in good conscious to really evaluate this bill because the repercussion of Senate Bill 20-79 goes way beyond a single municipality. It takes away the voice of the people who decided to vote whether it is the next in line or what not, and it gives that voice to Senators that are not from the municipality. *Piliguru enao na klasi*. I think history can teach us, when the state comes in and takes away the voice of the local municipality or the voters themselves is never good to take that part away. If anything be centralization to provide the voice of the people as stands that is more important. So, I urge every single member of this Senate Chamber to really evaluate whether a vote will be make today or what not. I know their petition is being circulate simply seeking this bodies permission and action to allow for public hearing so the intent the spirit so called of the bill can really be discuss amongst the voters of the respective municipality. Again, with all sincere respect to all the Senators, I thank you for your time, I hope that if there is a call for a vote on this bill today that you will vote on the basis of representing every single municipality and consider the repercussion of this in itself. *Intre' maas, un sen dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase para i tiempon miyo*.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. San Nicholas. The Chair would exercise his prerogative because we have several resolutions to present, Mr. Farrell, hold on please, because there are members of the public that are here, the two recipients of the resolutions that we will be presenting, if there's no

abjection by the members, I'd like to first go to the presentation of these two resolutions and then we can go back to the Public Comments to receive public comments.

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: I would like to recognize, Senator Quitugua, at this point to articulate the two resolutions that are going to be presented this morning.

Senator Quitugua: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, I would like to suggest that we go first with Senate Resolution 20-15. Mr. President, with utmost honor to read Senate Resolution 20-15 in summary due to its lengthy contents on behalf of the 20th Senate members. This Resolution was introduced by the Committee of the Whole, that is, all the members present during the introduction are sponsors of this resolution. Senate Resolution 20-15 is "To Recognize and Congratulate the 2017 Northern Marianas College graduate, Mr. Mathew Quiambao on passing the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses". Mr. Quiambao has demonstrated that he has obtained the necessary knowledge and skills expected of him in his nursing career field. This legislative body is proud to recognize residents of the Commonwealth such as Mr. Quiambao, for pursuing a career in nursing which provide our people hope in the future that aim in providing immediate care during times of pain, discomfort or trauma. Mr. Quiambao is the 8th NMC May 2017 graduate in nursing that passed the NCLEX exam. This resolution is adopted on November 21, 2017 and certified by Senator Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President and attested by Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Senate Legislative Secretary. Congratulations Mr. Quiambao, on behalf of the Senate members, and Mr. President, the Senate is ready to present Senate Resolution 20-15.

President Palacios: Sergeant-At-Arms, would you please escort Mr. Quiambao. Let us take a very short brief recess for the presentation.

The Senate recessed at 10:29 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. The Chair now recognizes, Senator Quitugua, for the next resolution to be presented this morning.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, with sincere honor to read Senate Resolution 20-17 in summation due to its very lengthy contents on behalf of the 20th Senate members. This Resolution was introduced by the Committee of the Whole, that means, all the members present during the introduction are sponsors of this resolution. But, before I go further in reading the resolution, Mr. President, I would be remised if I do not acknowledge some of the members in the audience, the wife of the late Henry I. Sablan and the family, and also the siblings of the late Henry I. Sablan and families. And also, Mr. President, a very important person, Mr. Joaquin Aguon. He was one of the members of the Board of Education that hired the late Henry I. Sablan to be the Superintendent of Education, and also several members in the gallery, Mr. Vic Cepeda who was the

principal at that time at Marianas High School. Mr. Tom Tebuteb was the Social Studies Coordinator at that time. Mr. Felix Nogis in Food Services. The former Mayor Jose Sablan, is in the Vocational Educational Program, and Esther Fleming was handling the testing program, and there are others outside the gallery also that once upon a time were employees of DOE during the time of the late Henry I. Sablan. Also, one important division in PSS which is the Media Room and we have two employees that I see that work hard in the media room which produces a lot of media products for DOE which is Joe Atalig and Ben Matagolai. And, I believe there are others outside the gallery, so good morning and welcome to the Chamber. Senate Resolution 20-17 is "To commemorate and memorialize the life and memory of the late Henry Iglasias Sablan for his tremendous contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his services to the CNMI Department of Education now known as Public School System and to express a heartfelt condolence to his bereaved family on their loss." The Late Henry I. Sablan was a learned, vigilant, visionary leader, trailblazer for what education must be for every child, insightful, understood the signs of time and responsive to those signs for change, risk-taker, willing to take daring initiatives and relentless search for what the greater good should be for our children of the Commonwealth. He understood that in order for the Department of Education/Public School System to do its utmost responsibility and commitment for our children, he created sustainability system that is built to last by building local capacity, grassroots and relationships, structures that fits the vision. Among the many things are: and I would only read the major things that he accomplished during his time. He receives his Bachelor Degree in: A. Educational Background: Received his BA Degree in Bilingual-Bicultural Education from University of Hawaii, Manoa; Pursued graduate study in Cultural Anthropology at the California State University, Sacramento and received numerous scholarships and awards. B. Services: Head Start teacher, Chamorro Orthography instructor, remedial English teacher, Chamorro Bilingual Curriculum Writer and Coordinator, Adult-Basic Education teacher, Pacific Trainer/Coordinator for Cultural Resources Center (Dept. of Anthropology, California State University), and Chamorro Language instructor for UOG Extension Program; Was highly involved in public service on different capacities including elected offices; such as the Municipal Council BOE member; Was the Superintendent of Education/Commissioner of Education, 1983-1989; C. Changes: The making of DOE into an autonomous agency in the 2nd Constitutional Convention, which is known as Amendment 38 and its implementation through PL10-66, known as "The Education Act of 1988"; and the Planning was foremost with its 5-Year Strategic Plan, and 7-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Transportation for our students, Food and Nutrition Services, and also initiated Trash Collection at schools by a private vendor; D. Human Capital: He believes in Training and professional development for teachers, leaders, staff with NMC, UOG, and San Jose State University - requiring that teachers and leaders must have a college degree, various trainings for all employees; Also initiated state-level recognition day for all educators, which we now called "Education Day" celebration, and currently PSS is still celebrates this event; E. Instruction and Programs: Standardizing and unifying adoption of instructional materials for all programs, courses; Instructional materials procured and trainings for effective implementation was provided for all teachers; Undertook the development of the NMI History textbook, currently used in our high schools, and continued development of Chamorro and Carolinian curriculum and book and other resource development; Expanded the Vocational Programs both at the junior high and high school level; Initiated Physical Education in all schools and Interscholastic Sports competitions after school and Special Olympics participation in Guam; F. Accomplishments/Contributions/Publications: are Ineyak Utugrafihan Fino' Chamorro, Chamorro Orthography Workbook Chamorro Language and Culture Today, Issues and Concerns; a Book of

Readings, Lepblon Mangge' Atfabeton Fino' Chamorro, Chamorro Addition and Subtraction Workbook, Chamorro Animal Names Workbook, i tano'ta/Falawash Park Chamorro and Carolinian; CNMI Hawaii Medical Referral Study and the Praxis II, Content Knowledge in Chamorro for PSS which is now being used to determine whether the Chamorro teachers are highly qualified. The Late Henry I. Sablan voiced strongly that students should always be the center of all decisions. It is about selfless and steadfast service, leading and inspiring one another to be a catalyst for change, and being proud, passionate of who we are and what we do for our children. This legislative body is really proud to recognize residents of the Commonwealth such the late Henry Iglasias Sablan for his numerous achievements and contributions to the people of the CNMI. This resolution is adopted on November 21, 2017 and certified by Senator Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President and attested by Senator Justo S. Quitugua, Senate Legislative Secretary. Mr. President, I apologize that I missed Bob Coldeen during the recognition and he is one of the people that also work at PSS Central Office as the Federal Programs Coordinate who always tries to get additional money for the Public School System. Mr. President, the Senate is ready to present Resolution 20-17. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Quitugua, for that extensive eloquently put articulation capsulation of the resolution that we will be presenting this morning. With that, Sergeant-At-Arms, I would like to ask you that you escort Mrs. Sablan to the podium for presentation and family members at this time. We take a short recess.

The Senate recessed at 10:29 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our plenary session. We left off in order to present those resolutions so we left off under Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palacios: And so, we will continue to receive public comments on any of the agenda items appearing in today's calendar. We will now open it again and please step forward to the Chamber, state your name and specific agenda item that you will be speaking on. Mr. Farrell?

Mr. Don Farrell: Thank you very much, Mr. President. My name is Don Farrell. I am a voting resident of Tinian. I would like to make a very brief comment on a bill that has been pushed on to final reading today without a referral to a committee or without a public hearing and that is Senate Bill 20-79 which purports to take the voice away from the electric and give total power over appointing successions to the mayorships to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas who ever that might be at whatever time in the future assuming that this bill will survive one legislature if it is acted on today. I would ask you please to not act on this bill today but to give the people of Tinian, Rota and Saipan and the people of the Northern Islands the opportunity to voice their concerns about this bill in an official public hearing that would be recorded and properly stated in the committee

reported that can be read by the general public. Bill 20-79, will take away the voice of the people as was previously stated here by Mr. Eric San Nicholas who is also a voting resident of Tinian. And put their decision of who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of an island or island crew into the hands of the Governor should the Mayor of Tinian fail to complete his office either due to health or for other reasons. So, briefly stated it's my position I think that the people of Rota certainly deserve an opportunity to be heard on whether or not they agree that should something happen to their Mayor than instead of having the person who received the second highest votes in the previous general election would succeeded that office to give the total authority to the Governor to choose any one of his selection to replace and become the new Mayor of the island of Rota, same same Saipan, same same northern islands, same same the municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. So again, I would ask you to please not vote on this bill today give it its due opportunity in front of the people through the correct procedures of public hearing and allowing the people to speak their opinion on this bill before you take action. Thank you very much, Mr. President and members of the Legislature.

President Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Farrell. Any other member of the public present here who wish to speak. Thank you. Please state your name and the organization and the particular item you will be speaking on.

Ms. Amberlynn Mendiola: Hi, good morning everyone, members of the Senate and of the community. My name is Amberlynn Mendiola. I am the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Coordinator under the Division of Public Health. I am here today to talk to you and provide information on Senate Bill 20-82. Currently, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation has approximately one hundred and twenty patients on Dialysis. According to the patient counselor at the CHCC dialysis center, it cost about ninety thousand dollars per patient. That means that annually the cost is about ten point eight million dollars to serve these patients. Now, please don't forget that some of these patients may not have insurance and so the CHCC actually has to shoulder those costs because of the fact that CHCC doesn't turn anybody away. As you all know, most of these patients on dialysis are where they are at now because of having develop diabetes, hypertension or risk factors related to Non-Communicable Diseases. These are all preventable diseases. Even though the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau under the Division of Public Health receives federal funds, there are restrictions to these funds that create gaps and challenges to providing comprehensive prevention and control programs. The burden of NCD's just keeps getting higher and we're out of point where we're seeing children as young as eight years old developing type 2 diabetes, as young as nine years old developing hypertension and as young as seventeen years old undergoing dialysis treatment. Having a comprehensive prevention and control program that is supported from all branches and sectors will not only save the CNMI and obscene the amount of funding and money, but will ensure the reduction of all of these Non-Communicable Diseases that are hurting and killing many of our own people. When I was a little girl I remember being about five or six years old and seeing my great-grandmother, I am now a new mother of a beautiful baby boy and I am so thankful and blessed that my grandparents are alive to see and hold and love my baby. But because of Non-Communicable Diseases most families in the CNMI don't have that fortune of having four generations altogether some don't even have the fortune of having three generations altogether. NCD's do not discriminate and can very much be prevented. Remember that an ounce of prevention can equal to a pound of cure. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other member? Thank you. Please state your name and the particular issue that you would be speaking off.

Mr. Bradwell Batallones: Hello, my name is Bradwell Batallones. I work for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program under the Division of Public Health. Today, I would like to speak on Senate Bill 20-82. A quick search on the CDC website shows that smokers are 30% to 40% more likely to develop type 2 diabetes than non-smokers. Furthermore, people with diabetes who are also smokers are more likely to have trouble with insulin dosing, which helps control their disease. According to the Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factor Hybrid Survey report of 2016, the current cigarette-smoking prevalence rate among adults show that 34.3% are Chamorro, 64.9% are Carolinian, and 56.2% are of "other Pacific Islander" descent. So what does that mean for you and I, and for the community? We know of the burden that Non-Communicable Diseases, such as Diabetes and Hypertension, has: one, being that healthcare costs are becoming increasingly costly. For smokers, they are at a greater risk for developing these diseases and they will have a harder time managing NCD's. Looking at the bigger picture, we do see the need for better management and control. If we are able to help these individuals, we could greatly improve their outlook and quality of life. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Ms. Katelynn Nices: Good morning. Thank you for inviting us up today. My name is Katelynn Nices, I am here on behalf of CEO, Esther Muña. She wishes she could be here today. She sends her deepest regrets she couldn't make it this morning because of urgent matters at the hospital but she does send a letter of support. This is for Senate Bill 20-71, SS1, "To establish a Nursing School Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes." The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is very excited for this it is a forward thinking policy to ensure that we have the adequate nursing workforce that we need on the island. It is an investment in young people on the island, it is an investment on the healthcare workforce, and it is an investment in our local community college, Northern Marianas College. We are very excited to support this bill, and thank you for hearing our comments on the bill last week. Thank you for thinking of our workforce and continuing to invest in healthcare. Thank you very much.

President Palacios: Thank you. Sergeant-At-Arms, could you take the written comments? Are there any more? Please, join us, state your name and the particular agenda item you will be speaking off.

Ms. Rosa M. Tudela: *Hafa Adai, Tirow* and Good morning, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, Senator Justo S. Quitugua, who is the Chairman for Standing Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, committee members and all the Senate members of this Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. Before I testify on Senate Bill 20-71, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Rosa Masga Tudela. I am a Practicing Registered Nurse for good thirty-three years. And, of this thirty-three years, seven years I am the current Department Chair of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Program. So, the NMC Nursing is in full support for the passage of Senate Bill 20-71, "To establish A Nursing School Professional Scholarship; and for other purpose." We did submit our written comments. I would just say that in reviewing Senate Bill 20-71, in the form of Senate Substitute 1, the NMC Nursing department whole heartedly appreciated the committee in taking into

consideration all of our recommendations. Second, just on student perspective through myself as a Department Chair, is really challenging and it's really hard to go to school and not have any financial assistance. I apologize, I get very emotional on this issue because I am very passionate. But in this particular student, he worked fulltime at the hospital and then he finished work 6:00 a.m. and then takes a two-hours power nap in the parking lot of NMC so that he can go to school at eight o'clock in the morning for my class and so I asked him, why do you do this? Why do this to your body? And his said, "Ms. Tudela, I really have to work to pay for my school." In going through nursing training, myself as an undergraduate, I also had to work, and this is what, how many years ago? In my experienced, in my own personal testimony, I will say, that we will do anything to pay our tuition and fees to get to meet the educational goals that we have set for ourselves. So in this bill, I truly appreciated that it also looked at tuition and fees; and also, room and board and other things. Because it is very expensive to go to a nursing school, nursing program even anywhere in the area of health services. In my experienced, where I went to school in Minnesota, they have this donor list for the Blood Bank. So, any college student is welcome to sign-up for this donor list and so as a college student we're always broke, right, because we always try to have ends meet. A group of us went to the Blood Bank and we went through what we call a "Type and Cross Match" so that we know what is our blood type. It's so happened that that's when I knew what is my blood type was, I am type AB+. This blood type is not common in the U.S. and its found mostly in South America, Asia and the Pacific Islands. I was kind of highlighted on the list of donors so then every three months you can donate blood and they will take one pint of blood for sixty dollars. As college students we say, "wow, that sixty dollars for grocery." We will go there every three months because it takes three months for your body to produce one pint of blood. Then, as I go on, I said, "wait a minute here, I am from Saipan this blood type that I have is not common here so what am I doing?" What if, I get sick who is going to donate blood to me? But then, through my education I learned that type AB+ is a universal recipient. I can receive any type of blood but it is best that you receive your own type to avoid any complications. So, I really feel for my student who has to sleep like power-nap for two hours in the parking lot of NMC. And I feel really, Senate Bill 20-71, is awesome. I think the deliberation that the committee has gone through to make it where it is in its amendment or in its Senate Substitute 1. I am so grateful and I truly thank you all for considering this scholarship. Because, I wish when I was an undergraduate I had this. So, if I am going to start all over I will go for this one. I would be catalyst for all my students to please study hard because you guys up here in the Senate who make laws for us are continuing to think of us. Thank you very much, Senate President, and all members of the Legislature. I apologize I got emotional.

President Palacios: No problem with that. Thank you. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and your passion. Are there anymore comments from the public? There being none. We are down to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of Journals. Floor Leader?

READING AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the adoption of Senate Journal No. 20-21, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is being offered to adopt Senate Journal 20-21, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Journal 20-21, is hereby adopted. We move on to agenda Item D, Messages from the Governor. Clerk?

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk voiced Governors Message Nos. 20-192 to 20-201.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any members wishing to make comments or statements on this communications? The Chair recognize, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. This is in reference to Governors Communication No. 20-200, I'd like to commend the honorable Governor and Lieutenant Governor for expeditiously acting on this so call law, affected Rota employees can be retroactively and prospective pay from this source of revenue. Similarly, are dialysis and terminally ill patients can also be provided with the necessary funds to procure their medicines and other related needs. Furthermore, let the record reflect that the Mayor of Rota was twice requested to submit comments on House Local Bill 20 -38, D1, and according to our Delegation Clerk has twice failed to submit the same to the Legislative Delegation. And nevertheless, our good Chairman, who is our Senate Vice President, took the initiative to immediately send out the noticed after learning that our Rota employees have not being paid. Calling for emergency session does appropriating and approving such funding for our affected Rota employees. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Santos. Any other comments on any of the communications? Senator Mesngon, recognized.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. Just in line also on Governors Communication 20-200. I would just like to thank the Governor and Lieutenant Governor also for acting expeditiously with our needs for the municipality. At the same time, I would like to thank all of the delegation members from Rota, that I called this emergency session due to the action needed for our municipal employees and our dialysis patients. With that, we requested as Senator Santos stated earlier, and due to the none respond from the Mayor's Office or the Mayor itself, we took the initiative as the delegation members to act on this expeditiously and I thank the Acting Governor that time who signed this into local law. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other comments on the communications? There being none. We skip agenda Item E, there is no communication. Agenda Item F, Communications from Heads of Executive Department. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Clerk voiced Department Communication No. 20-54.

President Palacios: Any comment on that particular communication? There being none. We move to agenda Item G, Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Clerk voiced House Communication No. 20-146.

President Palacios: Thank you. Are there any comments or statement? Please, note that this particular legislation is in the Bill Calendar for today's discussion. We move on to agenda Item H, Communications from the Senate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Clerk voiced Senate Communications Nos. 20-139 and 20-140.

President Palacios: Thank you. Any comments? Ready? There being no communications from the Washington Congressional Delegate. None, Unfinished Business. We move on to agenda Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

COMMUNICAITONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. We do have two resolutions and two senate bills appearing on our calendar. Now, the floor is open for the authors of the resolutions and the bills to officially introduce their resolutions and bills.

President Palacios: The Chair now recognize, Senator Santos.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I'd like to officially introduce Senate Resolution No. 20-18. If there is no objection from the members, it's going to be introduced as the Committee of the Whole, "Recognizing Ms. Eterina Aldis Calvo for her outstanding achievement in been chosen as the Sinapalo Elementary School 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year and commending her for her over 20 years of dedication and commitment to her students." Again, Mr. President, if there is no objection, I am introducing this as the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: No, objection. Clerk, that would be introduced by the Committee of the Whole. The Chair now recognize, Senator Mesngon.

Senator Mesngon: Thank you, Mr. President. In line with the resolution, I would like to officially introduce Senate Resolution No. 20-19, this is "To congratulate and acknowledge Ms. Antenille Mendiola Santos on her recognition as the 2018 Teacher of the Year for eskuelan Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School and to recognize her for outstanding contribution to her students and the CNMI Public School System." And if there is no objection also, Mr. President, I would like to introduce this as a Committee as a Whole. Thank you, Mr. President.

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: Clerk, please have this reflected as introduced by the Committee of the Whole. Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. In response to your request from our constituents for peace and tranquility, with respect to our small type community, I am introducing Senate Bill No. 20-84, "To restrict political campaign activities beyond 8:00 p.m. at night on public lands; and for other purposes." Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. I have one bill to introduce this morning. Senate Bill No. 20-83, "To empower and define the authority of Community Supervision Officers and Compliance Officers in treatment courts; and for other purposes." And, I ask any member of the Senate to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation. We move on to agenda Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions.

INTRODUCTIONS OF BILL, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President Palacios: Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. In recognition to promote healthy families and to also support in directly our labor pool in the CNMI and for government savings an automation and efficiency, this is to introduce Senate Bill No. 20-85, "To establish a 30-hour standard workweek and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. workday for non-essential government employees; to mandate the Departments

of Finance and Commerce to establish online systems for filing documents and making payments; and for other purposes.” Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored to formally introduce Senate Bill No. 20-86, and gladly co-sponsored by my two Senate colleagues from Tinian, Senator Borja and Senator Cruz. The bill is, “To rename the port of Tinian/Tinian Harbor, the “Honorable Jose Pangelinan San Nicolas Commercial Port of Tinian; and for other purposes.”

President Palacios: Thank you. Any other unnumbered bills to be introduced this morning? There being none. We move to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees. Floor Leader?

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. There are five Standing Committee Reports appearing on our calendar. However, with the request of the Chair, Standing Committee Report No. 20-66, we will be differing action today until the next session. And if there's no objection from the members, I would like to immediately move to Standing Committee Report No. 20-64. I know the nominee is here so that we can at least get rid of this Standing Committee Report so that we will be able to go back to work or go back home.

There was no objection raised.

President Palacios: Thank you. No objection. Go ahead.

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-64 from the Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation reporting on the appointment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing representing the Second Senatorial District, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-64 relative to the appointment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro to serve as a member of the Board of the Professional Licensing for the Second Senatorial District it has been move seconded, discussion on the motion? Senator Cruz, recognized.

Senator Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing begs leave to report as follows: Pursuant to Public Law 14-95, §3102, as amended by Public Law 15-77, Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro was nominated by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres on September 21, 2017 to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing and this is to represent the island of Tinian. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its

advice and consent to the appointment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents submitted relating to Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro's overall credentials. In addition, your committee took into account all written and oral testimonies presented during the public hearing. After much deliberation and base on the overall assessment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro's credentials, experiences, testimonies and other relevant issues considered, your committee is convinced that Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the Board of Professional Licensing. Public Hearing was conducted on November 28, 2017 on the island of Tinian at Tinian Court House. Several testified in support of the appointee and no one opposed the appointee. Therefore, your Committee concludes that the appointment of Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro meets all the necessary requirement pursuant to Public Law 14-95, §3102, as amended by Public Law 15-77. Furthermore, Mr. Gregorio Q. Castro has submitted all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Senate Rules. So I ask the full body of the Senate to kindly support Senate Standing Committee Report No. 20-64. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other comments or statements by any members? Are we ready to take a vote? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” the Senate hereby confirmed the appointment of Mr. Castro to the Professional Licensing Board. Congratulations, Mr. Castro. Let’s take a short recess to congratulate him in the Chamber. Ms. Fleming you can join as up here and the wife.

The Senate recessed at 11:29 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We left off on Standing Committee Reports, Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-54 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-51, “To amend 1 CMC § 8602 by establishing a zero tolerance one strike rule for any law enforcement in the Commonwealth who test positive for drug use; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion offered by the Floor Leader is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report 20-64 that motion has been seconded, discussion?

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President?

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to express my appreciation to Chairman Mesngon, although, I am not part of your committee chair. I certainly appreciate taking into account some of the concerns being raised both by the AG’s office and also the agencies that have responded to the impetus of this bill. Mr. President and members, it’s the ongoing efforts CNMI wide in making sure that the very people that are protecting us 24/7 are in compliance with the intent of this bill. I quote, “one of the Commissioners that personally requested to consider this bill for introduction set it very eloquently, like, as a constituent, how would you feel if the person that comes to the aid of your needs, especially, if you’re dying and the person that is administering your resuscitation to survive is not all there because of being influenced by something that’s illegal?” So, that kind a hit it directly, Mr. President, as well as the efforts again by the CNMI Governor, as well as Mayor San Nicolas on Tinian. I appreciate the support from the members. *Si Yu’us ma’ase.*

President Palacios: Thank you. I know that the issue is due process was raised was that addressed in the Committee Report, Chair, Senator Mesngon?

Senator Mesngon: Yes. According to the AG’s recommendation as well. The Committee came back to fine tuning and we eventually make the recommendations from the counsel. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Anymore discussion? Ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 20-54 please say, “Aye.” Oppose say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-54 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-65 from the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs reporting on Senate Bill No. 20-71, “To establish a Nursing School Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-65, has been seconded, discussion? There being no discussion. Ready for the question? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Oppose say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Standing Committee Report No. 20-65 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: On the last Standing Committee Report, for the adoption Standing Committee Report No. 20-67 from the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs reporting on House Bill No. 20-96, “To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and the functioning of the Public School System,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion offered is for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 20-67 has been seconded, discussion? Ready for question? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Clerk, please ensure that Standing Committee Report No. 20-66 remains on the calendar for next session. There be no item on Reports of Special/Conference Committee. We move to Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader?

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Floor Leader Borja: We do have two Senate Resolutions on calendar. I move for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-18.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-18, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 20-18 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 20-19, so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to adopt Senate Resolution No. 20-19 it has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the adoption motion offered please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. Senate Resolution No. 20-19 is hereby adopted by the Senate. We now move to agenda Item P, Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

President Palacios: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Mr. President, we do have eleven bills appearing on the calendar for Final Reading, however, one bill will be deferred until the next session. For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-79, “To amend 1 CMC § 5103 to authorize the governor to appointed a qualified person subject to the advice and consent of the Senate when there is a vacancy in the office of the mayor and less than half of the term of the mayor remains; and for other purposes,” so move on the motion for passage.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-79, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Mr. President, I offer an Amendment to Senate Bill No. 20-79.

President Palacios: Please proceed.

Senator Hofschneider: And that is in reference to page 1, line 13, Section 2, is amended to read as follows: Amendment to 1 CMC § 5103 that is in reference to Public Law 4-32, Section 2. Amendment. If a vacancy should arise in any office of the mayor, and less than half of the term of the mayor remains, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing a person qualified for the office from the island or islands involved with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall have fifteen days upon a vacancy of a Mayor to appointment a qualified candidate for the office and the Senate shall act upon the appointment within thirty days afther the date of the Governor's appointment. If the Senate act upon the appointment within the thirty-days, the Governor’s appointment shall be deemed confirmed.” So move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider, do you have the Amendment available? Let's have a very short brief recess please.

The Senate recessed at 11:48 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our plenary. We take a short recess and we left off with Senator Hofschneider offering an Amendment to Senate Bill No. 20-79, I believe everybody has been provided a copy of the amendment as offered. Do I hear a second to that motion?

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: That motion has been seconded, discussion on the Amendment offered by Senator Hofschneider? Ready? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered by Senate Hofschneider please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: The Amendment is hereby adopted. We're now back to the main motion Senate Bill No. 20-79, SD1, for passage, discussion? Further discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess on the main issue here I wish that the Senate would have call for public hearing on the bill. My concern on this, I told the sponsor and some members that, I'm just kind of worried, Mr. President, that in the future you have a Governor, we don't know who he or she is, making a decision on who your Acting Mayor will be for Rota or Tinian or Northern Islands or Saipan for that matter, and then, I guess one of the witness that was here, Eric, explain it eloquently, I don't know how to explain it better. The Governor appointing somebody from a municipality that the majority of the people disagree with the appointment, I have a real concern on that. I just wish an amendment for example, that says, if there is a vacancy the Chairman of the Municipal Council would be the Acting Mayor. The reason why we are making a change from what is in the book now is we're trying to say that we want to see a smooth transition down in the future should there be a vacancy so we're trying to make it convenient, less costly, less political, less anything down the future. So, while we are trying to answer that we might be creating a bigger mess and it is for that reason that I have concern. If the Amendment for example, were to make the Chairman of the Municipal Council, I'll have less of a concern there because the Chairman of the Municipal Council was elected from that municipality and it would seem that that person would be the next person. Just like, recently, when there was a vacancy in the Office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor moved up then the Senate President of the Senate becomes the Lieutenant Governor. There's a smooth transition and there's less question as to why that person assume that office? So, if there's concern about the Municipal Council Chairman, maybe down the road more people will be running for the

Municipal Council and we can give more responsibility to the Municipal Council if that is the concern. But for the Governor to just hand pick somebody out there that we might not know, there is no requirement for that other than being a qualified candidate. I have concern on that and I guess the sponsor and the committee have looked at this, Mr. President. I am sorry I have to vote “no” on this bill just because we did not conduct a public hearing, No. 1. And, No. 2, we will be talking about this in the future should this become a law and it does not work one way for us or the other. I just wish that, for example, the Chairman of the Council or the Chairman of the Delegation becomes the Acting Mayor that will seem that there's a line in there that we thought out properly. I know that this bill would be pass, I know the numbers but I know also that in the future legislature, future politicians would be changing this and making amendments again on this. This is not the end of it, because now, we put our finger on it, play with it, this is not going to be the end of it, there will be other changes in the future. But is this good for us, or our government or our municipality? I am not sure about that. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I certainly appreciate Senator Mangloña's comments. And at this junction right now though, Mr. President, to go back to making a decision for the best interest of the people, I feel that just as much as the electorate electing us in the Legislature whether in the Senate or House as much for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor, or the Municipal Council for that matter, it is our primary mandate that we do our best to pass policy that would stabilize the community as much as possible. I understand that not all purpose and findings can be agreed by one or the other and that understood, that's part of us being in a democratic form of government. I do however, want to say that to the Constitution of the CNMI provided us that authority as members of the Legislature to look at issues that potentially that may happen, I am not going to say that it happened as a matter of fact it did happen. Just less than a year ago where by unfortunate incidents, whereby one sitting Mayor unfortunately got called and the current statute prevails. And what happened is, it creates instability to some of those people that were being asked to work under that the mayor it created its stability. So, the author of the bill, I'm sure that that is part of his intend is that, if there is less than half remaining there's a provision in the law in the Constitution that otherwise as provided by law so this is part of the process of us doing such action. And I, too, would like to see that if you look at it whether be it political or what? I have responsibility also to provide stability to the people that I represent, people of Tinian. To provide them comfort so that in the event that the Mayor passes away, more than half of his term remaining or less than half his term remaining there's a guiding principle as far as this is concern. And everybody knows in here that in terms of appointments and for Senate's confirmation we have that dialogue with a sitting Governor, it doesn't matter if we are at the same party. I know that this is a very sensitive issue but as member of the Delegation from Tinian, I also would take it very seriously that having to provide stability and comfort to those people that have depended on us is my primary duty. *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.*

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Santos, recognized.

Senator Santos: Thank you, Mr. President. Although the intent of Senate Bill 20-79 may reflect some merits as ventilated in the bill such as perhaps securing the continued employment of municipal employees in the event of the resignation or the stepping down or the death of the sitting mayor, the

sentiments of the majority of our people from the First Senatorial District have its own competing influence. And so, with that said, as there are legitimate arguments or a balance of arguments on both sides of the equilibrium, I may resort to casting a vote of abstainsion on this particular legislation. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. The floor recognized the author, Senator Borja.

Senator Borja: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President. Kumo i author este na bill, I guess, esta ginen hu latgos gi media i hafa i intent and purpose pot este na bill. Malago yo' baihu repiti na este na bill i intention i parahu protehi i man gaigi siha i man present na impliao yan lokkue u guaha continuity gi hafa gi present na mayot ha chochogue, gi hafa lokkue i impliao implieao gi kada ofisinan Mayot, sina ilekna politika, both side man'politika-hit, ya ma mensiona lokkue na kulan ta ignore i bos i taotao guini gi last election. Tihu tungo lao anman bota yo' gi last election para mayor man bo'bota yo' para hufan gana. Ahi, ti'man bo'bota yo' para hufan halom i mapedi. Enagau klaru enao gi disision taotao manman bo'bota para hunafan gana hayi malagon-niha na mayor. Taya mona'halom i ma'pedi pot i lai. I lai enao uma'allow ya etyo gue na gaigi yo' guini parata tulaika i lai. Ti'i hulat kumonprende enao na taotao ni ma'reject parahu halom ya' guiya parahu run i administrasion. Different i ofisinnan i Mayot Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Saipan, ti parehu na fetsa i Mayot ha gugot yan i Rota yan Tinian. Gi Tinian yan Luta, i Mayor, kana todo'do' i appropriation guiya i expenditure authority. Guiya mu'apupunta siha i cabinet members. Ya' yangen gotpi ha' este sa pot i guaha sinisedi gotpi ha' ma'tulaika, dangkulu este na impact para i implieao niman gaigi gi ofisina, estague i intent ni parata protehi. Ma' mensiona na guaha way parata convert to civil service. Tihu tungo hayi na politician malago parahu na civil service impliao-na. Ya' yangen civil service lokkue impliao-na Tinian, kana one hundred and fifty, kuantu guihi na high school graduate para hufan qualify gi civil service? Etyogue na mainly, i ofisinan mayot, i community service meggaiña etyo siha na taotao i timan ma'gradua siha. Para ta' yutu ya' tanafan civil service todo ya' siha para mano siha guato? Guaha siha deparamento na' a'hire siha civil service, tihu hulat kumomprende na' ofisinan political office parahu nafan civil service? Pat baihu halom para biahu Mayor ya' pururu etyo siha impliao-hu kumontra yo'? Tododo etyo siha na impliao tima aksesepta hafa planu'? Ta' nisisita impliao nu etyi consistant yan i hafa ma'supopota gi hafa i mayot malagoña yan planuña. Para un'pega taotao gi civil service ni etyi tisiña manman hosgi gi hafa i planumu. Ileko na ti propio enao para hunafan civil service i impliao ofisinan pulitika, buenti ni mano enao na tano ni guaha nu enao. Pues, este ha hu'fafaisin i gurupu na sombras este ha' i rumors-ha na para hu'resign gui i Mayor. Esta etyu gurupu manmapedi lao man mimiting, taimano i cabinet, hayi para i cabinet, hayi para uma'impleya'? Enague nai, impact enao. Sombras etyu-ha i rumors parahu resign gui man worried todo impliao Mayot, sa para mano siha? Etyugue na rason na'hu introdusi este, parahu guaha protection. Dinanchi-ha si Senator Paul Mangloña, na in the future siempre uma amenda este, enague che'chota nai, enague che'cho Legislature. Yangen un'atan i yota lai, guah etyi des biahi lao ma'ame'menda. Sa, sina mama che'cho pago otro biahi ti mama' che'cho' then we amend the law, enague che'cho'ta. Ta ame'menda i lai para ta' accommodate i hafa i situation. Pues dinanchi ha' etyo na maybe next Legislature ma' amenda talo ya' ma'bira tati uma amenda ya' pago na biahi i Senadot para hufan apunta'. Tita tungo lao enague i prerogative i Legislature. Public hearing, taya lai ha'require na debi hu'guaha public hearing. Taya lokkue rules gi Senate na' todo i bills hu' guaha public hearing. Kumo sabies' yo' ya' sina baihu taitai i future, ya' sina hu' taitai kada mayot i hinason-ña buenti ileleko polu yata*

public hearing. Lao, ti sabies yo' ya' ti' comfortable yo' na baihu siga-ha mu'delay ya' yange hafa ma'susedi manma'miresi i taotao. Etyugue na, taimano-ha ileleko ti sabies yo' ya' etyugue na malago yo' tana chatdik este kosaki i protection emplace yangen hafa guaha na sinisedi. Este ha', Mr. President, bula criticism ya' atdit-na etyo anai hu'bota i casino bill na criticism ki pago, lao sobres etyo hu'survive, sa i taotao ti'ma kompre'prendi i hafa hu'ke'ke'cho'gue. Todo tiempo i intension-hu i hafa para minaolek i taotao. Taya ni mato yo' para baihu na tailayi i publiku. Etyu ha sumesenti i para hu'fan tailayi etyu i man'malago. Man malago niman ma'pedi man halom ya' siha hu'dictate i nuebu na politika, politika-ha lokkue. Lao, ada' parahu fan'comfortable etyu i manna bota, esta ta' reject-hao, hago para hun'halom. Ya' bula-ña i man'gogongon guini, taimano-ha ile'leko, pulitika lokkue sa man'malago na para hufan man'gu'ud political power ya' debi ta'atan sa bulaña etyu man'gogongon ginen i tiempo man'mañeñebi lao esta manaigui. Yahu na uma'komprendi nu' i taotao na maseha controversy siah lokkue na bill hu'supo'pota esta pago gagaigi-ha yo'. Kumeke ilkena i publikon Tinian ma' agradesi yan ma'akse'septa i hafa hu'ke'ke'cho'gue. Pues enao ha' para i'minaolek i taotao Tinian este hu'cho'chogue. Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Cruz, since you ask for a short recess, just two-minute.

The Senate recessed at 12:07 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:17 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. We are under discussion on Senate Bill No. 20-79, Senate Draft 1. Are there any further discussions? Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to further make an amendment on the bill same context of the Senate Draft as earlier read, and a new language to read, "The Governor shall have 15 days upon a vacancy of a mayor shall appoint a qualified candidate for the office and so forth," that is a motion.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: It's almost a technical. There is a motion to further amend Senate Bill No. 20-79, as a minor amendment offered by Senator Hofschneider, and that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the amendment motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. We're back to the main motion we're now, deliberating on Senate Bill 20-79, SD2, further discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Thank you, Mr. President. *Talo, baihu ripiti-ha tana kekeguaha este na akto sa para ta' ke'address i situasion gi i'manma'mala' para tana siguru na libiano maas i disision yan i transition i impliao yan todo siha ta'ke'ke'protehi. Hu'hahasu i situasion taiguihi gi First Legislature giya Marianas anai Governor gui si Governor Camacho ya' tihu ma'danchi yan i Senate. Hafa mohon para huma susedi kumu bakanti i Mayot ya i Gobietno ha'tanchu' kualifikao na resident i para hu' acting Mayor ya i Senate ha reject kada thirty-days, hafa siempri huma susedi guenao na situation? Ha' tanchu i Gobietno taotao para hu' acting Mayor, i Senate ha'reject within thirty-days, otro biahi man'nanchu talo i Senate ha'reject, I don't think na siempre guaha guini estableness or ta'alok, ti' ta'tungo hafa ma'susedi guini siempre sina un ano taya Mayor, sa, guaha requirement na' i Govenor para hu'tanchu, i Senate para hu'confirm yangen tiha confirm i Senate back and forth for twelve months, tihu tungo hafa parahu ma'susedi. Estague etyu ileko na' guaha na'biahi, guaho lakkue enague hagas este na probision ha' stodba i lu' I yanggen sakasu Mayot este, malom i ma'pedi. Gi Senate, hu'susedi enao, malom yo' dos biahi lao i Senate ti gof parehu sa' ti'meggai impliao-na ya' ti'meggai na impact, lao, este Mayot, piot Luta yan Tinian ya' kunto Saipan maas ki' sentu na impliao taotao-na, yanggen sakasu tihu ma'danchi i Gobietno yan i Senate siempre taya mayor kana two years sa tihu ma'danchi i dos, sa i uno ha'tanchu ni'ha require thirty-days pues i otro hafa talo yanggen ma'nanchu i Gobietno nu' etyo ilekna qualify lao actually ti'qualify. Puest, etyu gue etyo i yoku point, na guaha na biahu este i acting mayor ti' nisisario na huma'confirm esta ta' tungo ha' esta hayi giguon guaha matai or guaha sina tiha' kompli' tetminuna or automatic. In fact, etyu guih maas problema anai guahu hu'malom guih ya' tima tanchu yo' right away ya' i Senate ti' mu'session right away, pues buma'kanti i posision etyu guih siha problema i ti'nahong diriksion ya' i intension para ta' refill right away lao ya' i lai tiha kompli enao ya' enague ma'susedi gi Senate, anai para baihu halom guih kana sais mesis yo'. Lao atan'ha i Gobietno yan i Lieutenant, un minute-ha, less than one-minute man halom esta, sa' hafa? Klaru i lai na' guaha bakante etyu gue sigi'dadas hu'malom. Pues estague, duda yo' kao insigidadas este hufan halom sa tinaka kinsi dias pues yangen ti'hu ma'fakcha yan i Senate ma'reject. Maulek yangin todo i tiempo man siguru-hit na i Gobietno yan i Senate para hu' parerehu-ha mona sinentin niha lao yange ti' parehu dangkulu este na problema. Yan i otro, para hafa basta tita pega i Senat confirmation yanggin uyu, basta ya i Gobietno-ha hu'tanchu hayi uyu ya' kosaki esta hu'klaru na' hayi i Goietno ha' tanchu. Lao, sombras enao nai, back to i original na yoku concern, yangen tihu ma'danchi lakkue i Gobietno pulitika-na yan etyu na municipal siempre uma'nahe i otro. Pues i yota gaol ni para ta' protehi i impliao taigue siempre sa siempre-ha i Goietno ha' tanchu kontraru ya' pues manma' stodba i impliao. Pues, hu'tungo ha' hafa si Senator Borja ha' keke'chogue, ha'keke na' siguru na' menus impact lao, guaha na'biahi yangin ti' ta'atan maulek sina lakkue ti'taiguenao i sinisedi nai siempre. Pues, etyu ha' yo' mu'stodba ya I wish that I have the language, tihu tungo i language lao hu'sangan gi tu'tuhun na kumo ta'hasuyi maulek dididi-ha tiempo-ta sina ta'alok, kao i Chairman i Council or kao i Chairman i Delegation ya' para hafa i confirmation esta automatic-ha kao tana'i ya' i council yan i delegation hu'fan'nanchu uno ya' esta etyu-ha automatic. Ta' li'e' guini gi nigap-na matai i Mayor San Francisco, i Board of Supervisors man'dana ya' ma'tanchu-ha esta taotao right away taya esta problema'niha sa klaru na' the Board of Supervisors shall appoint an Acting Mayor. Lao, guini gi yota, ti gof klaru este sa yangen man'anchu i Gobietno, tiyana i Senate sina one year pues, maolekna buenti an idea, polu ya' i council yan i delegation of that municipality shall appoint. Ya' esta makpo-ha nai taya esta pot confirmation huma'nana-ha mona tinanchu-niha kao fifteen-days upon a vacancy the municipal council and the delegation voting in a joint meeting shall appoint, ya' esta makpo-ha,*

para hafa confirmation. Pues etyu gue etyo ilelekho nu' kumo ta' studiaye dididi, ta hekonguk dididi gi' taotao pues ta' choggue hafa maolek ya' tana dinanchi ones and for all yahu fakpo-ha enao. Enao-ha, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Mangloña. Anymore discussion? There being no discussion, last chance. Clerk, please call the roll. We are voting on the passage motion offered on Senate Bill No. 20-79, Senate Draft 2.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	No
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Abstain
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Abstain
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, six (6) members voting “yes”, one (1) “no” and two (2) “abstainsion.”

President Palacios: With six members voting “yes” for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-79, Senate Draft 2, is hereby passed by the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-145, “To appropriate \$22,000,000.00 set aside in the Casino GRT Account for the payment of the 25% of the Settlement Class Members full benefits and payment of a Bonus for all retirees,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The motion offered is for the passage of House Bill No.20-145, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President, I am in full support of this legislation my only concern, Mr. President, here again the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Legislature, is passing another appropriation from the Business Casino of Gross Receipt Tax, again, I want to keep repeating myself, I’m going to keep saying that whenever we make appropriation we always have to be concerned about the constitutional amendment that was passing 2014 and that is to give the 25% of all revenue. And I know, that this is an earmark funding because of Public Law 20-10, I believe that is the correct number. We’ve made it an earmarked funding and now we’re saying that PSS do not deserve 25% from this funding, nonetheless, this is coming from the same source and prior to 20-10, we have made appropriations \$20,000,00.00 under Public Law 20-04, for land compensation, 7.129 under Public Law 20-9 for Settlement Fund and on under Public Law 20-16, \$1,417,000.00 for the Step 12 Frozen Employees but there is still zero for PSS this year. There is still zero and I know, we hear every week,

every other week the House is going to pass appropriation for PSS. If we don't have exhort I guess more pressure or what PSS continue to wait and if somebody were to come in today and say, ok, how much have we passed this year under Casino Gross Receipt Tax and how much have we given the hospital and PSS? We going to tell them zero, they are going to say, "What?" You passed twenty million dollars, seven million dollars, one point four million dollars and you didn't give the hospital \$1.00 or PSS? Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* This is just for the information of all the Senators here. I met yesterday with the Chairman on Ways and Means in the House and we've agreed including PSS, they were down in the House, and the next appropriation that is coming to the Senate which has been introduced already in the House, \$12,000,000.00 was allocated to PSS and seven million dollars was allocated for CHCC, and including funding for Tinian and Rota, which were not actually under the earmark programs. So, that's the information that I would like to deliver during this session that, yes, we have not forgotten PSS, we have not forgotten the hospital, and we have not forgotten other agencies or institutions that need money. And, as a matter of fact, the nine million dollars that was supposedly to be allocated to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, most of the money there will be going to CHCC. And a House Local Bill has been introduced to address more of CHCC needs particularly on equipment sides. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. The House will be taking up that appropriation legislation, I believe on Monday. What is the number of the pre-filed House Bill, do you have that information? For everybody's information Senator Mangloña, also, House Bill 20-147, so we will be acting on that shortly.

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President?

Senator Mangloña: Yes. My concern for example, is unless the numbers are not correct but there's about seven million dollars that the Governor has identified and we don't really need to wait for the House, we can just make a floor amendment and appropriate seven million dollars, if you want to do today, but I know that we don't want to delay that bill and wait for the House to get it and accept our amendment, but I remember there was some an original \$28,000,000.00 made in March 2017 of that the balance is around seven million dollars, and so it is just sitting there and that could have been used since March and now its December. That's all I'm saying, that we don't have to wait for the House since it is already identified the money is there we could have just amended it and include the seven million dollars use it and give it to whoever. Thank you.

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider, are you ready for the question? That seven million dollars for information is part of House Bill 20-147. Any further discussion on the passage of House Bill No. 20-145? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll for the passage of House Bill No. 20-145.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja

Yes

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-145 hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-51, SD1, “To amend 1 CMC § 8602 by establishing a zero tolerance one strike rule for any law enforcement in the Commonwealth who test positive for drug use; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-51, Senate Draft 1, it has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-51, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading Senate Bill No. 20-71, SS1, “To establish a Nursing School Scholarship for students admitted into the nursing program at Northern Marianas College; and for other purpose,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-71, Senate Substitute 1, it's been seconded, discussion? Senator Santos?

Senator Santos: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I would be remiss if I don't put anything on record with respect to this legislation. I fully support the intent of Senate Bill No. 20-71 in that to establish a nursing school professional scholarship for several reasons. First, the CNMI's ability to provide a nursing scholarship would open a great opportunity for our children who poses an infinite amount of potential in the field of nursing but lacks the Financial Resources to pursue this endeavor. We must also help build our local workforce and provide them with the necessary resources to successfully graduate in the field of nursing, and, this was echoed earlier by Ms. Tudela, who is the Director of Nursing at NMC. Secondly, the CNMI as we all know, is at a critical crossroads with the uncertain state of our CW program, and what that will mean for our future work force, and therefore, we must take proactive steps to ensure regardless of the CW spending future that critical areas in the CNMI, like our public hospital would not lose critical professional positions. We must recognize the vital role that nurses play in the CNMI Health Care System which involves to expand access to care, improve quality and reduce cost. And more importantly, it is incumbent upon us as public servants or leader of the Commonwealth to pay immediate attention to our Health Care professionals to ensure that the survival of our public clinics and hospitals are still pretty much intact. We must also encourage our students to enter the field of nursing and alleviate the huge financial burden because we must face reality that our current pool of nursing professionals is insufficient to keep the doors open to our hospital if and when the CW program ends. With this said, this legislation before us is extremely critical and requires immediate attention. I close by asking each and every one of the members to please give your full favor in this legislation so that our Healthcare System would not be compromised. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you, Senator Santos. Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I understand that we all are fully aware of the intent of this bill, but I just like to offer the sections of this bill that I believe is specifically important which addresses the public comments that we received earlier. Under §1611 it provides funding for our students and it also provides support for the nursing program at NMC, and if I may just read this: "The amount allocated for each scholarship shall be up to \$8,000.00 per annum for students attending the Northern Marianas College for a period after two years." I just wanted to stress that part the amount of eight grant and that the students must attend NMC so it supports our college here in our community. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. There being no more comments? Senator Mangloña, recognized.

Senator Mangloña: Yes. I hope it is okay with the Chairman, but I would like to offer an amendment on Page 3, line 5, this is with regards to agree to work as a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, for a period of two years. My concern here, is with the scholarship that they provide to our students, is that sometimes our students work at a private medical clinic, private hospital, in the future, you know the guest workers do work also in the private clinics. I know, that the CNMI Scholarship you don't have to work for the government to be forgiven you can

actually work in any company in the CNMI to be forgiven. So, I know that we want to encourage them in our government hospital, but we can make it may be three years for each scholarship if it's at a private. So that, we can also take care of the needs for local nurses, not only in the government but in the private hospitals. If there is no objection, I would like to offer an amendment to read, on line 13, after the word "Scholarship Assistance" to say something like or at a private –

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña, what page?

Senator Mangloña: Page 3, line 13.

President Palacios: Ok, proceed please.

Senator Mangloña: After the word, "assistance, or at a private medical clinic for a period of three years for each year scholarship assistance," and then continues on. And this is, if they work at the private they need to work three years for every year, in government its two years for every year. So, I so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Amendment motion offered by Senator Mangloña, it's been seconded. Is everybody clear on the short Amendment? Discussion? Ready? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered by Senator Mangloña, please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. With that amendment, we are now entertaining Senate Bill No. 20-71, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1. Ready for the question? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With nine members voting "yes" Senate Bill No. 20-71, in the form of Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-82, “To amend 3 CMC § 2177(a) to include the CHCC Diabetes Care and Control Center as a program recipient of the Tobacco Control Fund; and for others purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of Senate Bill No. 20-82, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” Senate Bill No. 20-82, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-101, HD1, “To amend 1 CMC §8364, as amended by Public Law 15-70, to allow annuitants to enroll in the Commonwealth government health insurance program; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-101, HD1, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes

President Arnold I. Palacios

Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-101, House Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of House Bill No. 20-118, House Draft 1, on Final Reading, “To generate funding for the repair and maintenance of CNMI roads and highways by increasing fees for registration and licenses and establishes a Temporary Operators License category; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-118, HD1, it’s been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, do you have any --? Ready for the question?

Senator Hofschneider: Ready.

President Palacios: Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Yes
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-118, HD1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage of House Bill No. 20-135 on Final Reading, “To amend Public Law No. 20-11, Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriation Act to reflect the revise Fiscal Year 2018 Operations Budget for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-135, has been seconded, discussion? Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* Mr. President, I would like to offer a Floor Amendment to House Bill No. 20-135, the written copies are being passed out by our Sergeant-At-Arms.

President Palacios: Please proceed, read the Amendment.

Senator Quitugua: On Page 2, line 5, insert a new Section 3 to read as follows and renumber the remaining subsections accordingly: Section 3, Amendment. Section 710 Schedule A of Public Law 20-11 are hereby amended as follows: (a) Section 710 is amended by adding a new subsection (1) to read as follows: (1) The expenditure authority for the funds appropriated to the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation shall be the Executive Director of the corporation. And (b) The appropriation for Micronesian Legal Services Corporation as shown on page 5 of Schedule A is amended as follows: (1) Operations: \$155,476 and (2) Total \$155,476," so move. Thank you, Mr. President.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The Amendment motion offered by the Senator Quitugua has been seconded, discussion? Everybody clear on this? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered by Senator Quitugua, please say "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voice, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. House Bill No. 20-135 is now HB 20-135, Senate Draft 1. We are back to the main motion for the passage of House Bill No. 20-135, SD1. Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: *Si Yu'us ma'ase, Mr. President.* I have another Floor Amendment to House Bill No. 20-135, SD1, copies being circulated and passed out.

President Palacios: Go ahead, proceed reading.

Senator Quitugua: Page 2, line 10, insert a new Section 4 to read as follows and renumber the remaining sections accordingly: Section 4. Amendment. Section 802 Public Law 20-11 is hereby amended by adding a new subsection (c) to read as follows: "(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, \$200,000.00 shall be used for the CHCC Diabetes Care and Control Center. The expenditure authority shall be the CHCC CEO," so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: So, we just passed a bill that authorize the funding we are now doing the appropriation, am I clear on that? Senator Quitugua, recognized.

Senator Quitugua: The bill that we passed, Senate Bill No. 20-82 is to include this program under the Tobacco Control earmarked funds. If that bill becomes law, then every year this program will be entitled for some funding on the Tobacco Control Funds. For information of the members, Mr. President, what generated Senate Bill No. 20-82 and also this amendment that I just offered, Public Law 11-31. And, Public Law 11-31, on Page 4 Section 7, it says, “The Legislature shall authorize annual funding of not less than \$300,000 for the research patient education and community outreach programs of the center.” This Public Law created the diabetes care and treatment center with CHCC, but the Legislature never actually appropriated funds for this program. So, therefore, I just offered an amendment to fund this program for this fiscal year to help out with the mandated activities that are required by Public Law 11-31. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you for the clarification. Senator Hofschneider, you have an Amendment here. Let us dispose of the Amendment motion offered by Senator Quitugua. Ready for the question? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered by Senator Quitugua, please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. We are now on House Bill No. 20-135, in the form of Senate Draft 2. The Chair now recognize, Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Also, I would like to offer further Amendment, what you have before you, which you guys have copies, it actually says, “Amending Section 3, of Page 2, in this case Page 2 of the original bill, but since there were two earlier Amendments, so that should read Section 5. Can I please, Mr. President, if there is no objection from the members, I would like to ask the Clerk or the Legal Counsel, to make sure that this is enumerated accordingly. And my Amendment is, Section 606 (a) of Public Law 20-11, is hereby amended: “(a) The expenditure authority of the Solid Waste Revolving Fund shall include the payment of hazardous work in accordance with NMIAC § 10-20.2-350(a); for the qualified Solid Waste employees of the First, Second and Third Senatorial districts who are assigned to the designated solid waste landfills, facilities, dumpsites, and transfer stations. This provision shall apply retroactively to October 1, 2017,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: The Amendment motion offered by Senator Hofschneider, has been seconded. Everybody have their copies of the Amendment? Ready? Those in favor of that motion please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. The Floor Amendment offered by Senator Hofschneider, is hereby adopted. We are now on Senate Draft 3 the Chair will exercise his prerogative, we will have one more Amendment to this legislation. Senator Igisomar, recognized.

Senator Igisomar: Thank you very much, Mr. President, for allowing me to be the last one to amend. In line, I have a Floor Amendments also, Mr. President, similarly this Amendment was made prior to the other Amendments. If the Counsel may insert accordingly, if approve by the whole members: “To amend Section 5. Amendment. Section 713(c) Public Law 20-11 is hereby amended to read as follows: and I believe everyone has a copy now, “(c) Commonwealth Worker Fund, within that Section 713(c), it is provided that the Northern Marianas Trade Institute shall be allocated not less than \$1,000,000.00 of the total CW Fee Funds,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Everybody clear with the Amendment? The motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Hofschneider, recognized.

Senator Hofschneider: I want to ask the author because it's currently administered everything is under the Scholarship Office and it's allocated to NMC, would this be detrimental to the program itself as far as the shifting of allocation?

Senator Igisomar: If I may, Mr. President. Chairman, we met actually with the Scholarship Office and NMTI on this matter we've discussed it along with the Chairman of the Education Committee and this will not be detrimental. As a matter of fact, it is a recommended language and it will help support all the other entities that are qualified for CW-1 fees.

President Palacios: Thank you.

Senator Hofschneider: Ok, Mr. President. Mr. President, because in the original budget which we are discussing right now, the Governor's proposal should have the Scholarship Office.

President Palacios: It will not have any impact. It is still with the Scholarship Office. But, it is an appropriation instructing the Scholarship office at least out of the \$1.9 million that is what, I think we're attempting to do here. Senator Quitugua, recognized since you had the public meeting.

Senator Quitugua: Yes, Mr. President and thank you. This is necessary because during our meeting with the Scholarship Office and NMTI, if this language is not inserted, they might not offer the auto tech classes in Tinian and Rota, because the way the scholarship is allocating the funds. So, to protect the programs extended to Rota and Tinian, we need to put an appropriation amount that will guide the scholarship office. Instead of just giving the scholarship office the sole discretion to allocate what it wishes to NMTI or NMC or other education institutions. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. Senator Igisomar?

Senator Igisomar: Thank you, Mr. President. Just for clarification, this move and request with respect to the discussion of the Scholarship Office and NMTI, as we all know, there were GAO reports from the U.S. Congressional Office with respect to the need of how we allocate our CW-1 Fees. We have current high crisis issues on CW-1 issue were our Governor is trying to push agenda in the United States Congress. NMTI, in our discussion they need a lot more than what we're proposing right now,

but based on what we have this is what we're hoping that can assist them to push these programs. To open up these programs so we can facilitate the immediate and quick entry of our local workforce to provide support to the absence of any CW-1, if it fails in U.S. Congress. And also, as Senator Quitugua had mentioned, they have plans for Tinian and Rota but it's really lacking funding and this will really help push and help that support as well. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. For the last time, Senator Hofschneider, we need to move on.

Senator Hofschneider: For sure, Mr. President, thank you. I am not objecting to the intent, I had a conflicting schedule that day that is why I didn't participate, otherwise, I would have probably flush my question then. But, I certainly appreciate the inclusion of both other island's and as we move to engage in another form of assistance to train our people that are interested in trades we certainly are looking into that as well. I, thank you, Senator Igisomar for the clarification. Mr. President, I am ready to vote on the measure. Senator Cruz, I will give you the last.

Senator Cruz: Thank you. Just to commend and appreciate, Senator Quitugua, for bringing that up and for the amendment. I remember, I raised that during the meetings with the Scholarship's Director and Boards along with the NMTI and I ask the body whether there is a program to be extended down to Tinian and Rota, I believe they mentioned about funding issue. Senator Quitugua, I appreciated your amendment, thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Palacios: Thank you. Let me just ask if there's no objection, that the Clerk and the Legal Counsel provide the technical Amendments because we have four Amendments with numeric. So, without objection, we will allow the Legal Counsel and the Clerk to make sure that the numbering and the sequencing of the Provisions that we have amended are in order. No objection?

There being no objection raised.

President Palacios: We will be voting on House Bill No. 20-135, Senate Draft 4. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting "yes."

President Palacios: With nine members voting “yes” the Senate hereby passes House Bill No. 20-135, in the form of Senate Draft 4. Floor Leader?

Senator Igisomar: Mr. President, can we just call for a quick recess I want to clarify something?

President Palacios: Ok. We are going to give you two-minutes.

Senator Igisomar: Yes.

The Senate recessed at 1:03 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

President Palacios: We are back to our session. For the record, Senate voted to pass the Amendment offered by Senator Igisomar, this is for the record purposes, House Bill No. 20-135, SD4, is being passed by the Senate. Floor Leader, we are down to the next bill.

Floor Leader Borja: For the passage on Final Reading House Bill No. 20-69, HS1, “To amend 2 CMC §§ 1631, 1634, 1636, 1637 and 1644 to authorize the Division of Fish and Wildlife to regulate marine sports and activities within the waters of conservation areas and sanctuaries, and to impose and collect conservation areas management fees by regulations; and for other purposes,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-69, House Substitute 1, that motion has been seconded, discussion? Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President, I just have some concern here regarding the Revolving Fund, as we always do in almost all Revolving Funds we require them to submit a report. I guess in the case of the Cancer Fund I think it is every quarter but at least to have an annual report on the Revolving Fund since this does not require further appropriation doesn’t have fiscal year limitation. I just wanted to offer an Amendment that says, on Page 9, line 22, the last sentence there on line 22 to read: “The expenditure authority listed herein shall submit to the Presiding Officer of the Legislature 30 days from the end of each fiscal year an annual fund status report.”

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Everybody clear with that Amendment motion offered by Senator Mangloña? That motion has been seconded, discussion? Those in favor of the Amendment motion offered by Senator Mangloña please say, “Aye.” Opposed say, “Nay.”

All members voiced, “Aye.”

President Palacios: Motion carries. House Bill No. 20-69 is now in the form of House Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, further discussion on the main motion? Ready? Clerk?

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Aweer (Yes)
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine Senators voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-69, HS1, SD1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader, do you want to continue?

Floor Leader Borja: Yes, Sir, final bill for passage on the calendar. For passage House Bill No. 20-96, SD1, on Final Reading, “To amend 1 CMC §2264 to ensure that the Board of Education members receive compensation for committee meetings, which are vital to the development of policy and functioning of the Public School System,” so move.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is for the passage of House Bill No. 20-96, Senate Draft 1, has been seconded, discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll:

Senator Francisco M. Borja	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Sixto K. Igisomar	Yes
Senator Paul A. Mangloña	Yes
Senator Steve K. Mesngon	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Justo S. Quitugua	Hunggan (Yes)
Senator Teresita A. Santos	Yes
President Arnold I. Palacios	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all nine (9) members voting “yes.”

President Palacios: With all nine members voting “yes” House Bill No. 20-96, Senate Draft 1, hereby passes the Senate. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Borja: That’s it on the Bill Calendar.

President Palacios: Thank you. We are down to agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk voiced Miscellaneous Communications Nos. 20-210 to 20-216.

President Palacios: Are there any comments or statements on these communications? Ready? We move on to Miscellaneous Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

President Palacios: Senator Mangloña?

Senator Mangloña: Mr. President, thank you. I will just make it short. I understand the issues before us as far as the CW are very concerning. I am just going to respectfully ask you, Mr. President or the Chairman of FRIA, if we can somehow get together with Congressman Kilili? I understand that he might be coming for the holidays, and so, with him as well as the business group that are in Washington, D.C., today, if they get back to set up a meeting so we know what is the status and what the Senate and the Legislature can do to help in the coming weeks. Thank you.

President Palacios: Thank you. I took it to, I guess draft a letter to the Governor and the Business Group in discussion with the Chairman on Federal Relations and we’ll be doing that and we’ll be advising and notifying every member if there is a meeting been confirmed. We will make every effort to do that in coming weeks. So, I shall continue to instruct the Chairman of the Federal Relations, to please follow-up on that and get together. Thank you. Are there any other Miscellaneous communications? Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Palacios: Senator Hofschneider?

Senator Hofschneider: I know this is kind of like a parenting question, but would we be having another session before 25th?

President Palacios: Don’t leave the island. We have couple of urgent legislations coming from the House relative to the appropriations for PSS and CHCC. I believe the House will be having a session

to act on that legislation. If there is no objection, maybe the Chair can schedule a session for Tuesday or Wednesday.

There was no objection raised.

Senator Hofschneider: I was just making sure, Mr. President. So now, I am going to hold my holiday greetings to you. Thank you.

President Palacios: No announcements. Floor Leader, I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Flair Leader Borja: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion has been seconded.

President Palacios: Motion is to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. Those in favor of that motion please say, "Aye." Opposed say, "Nay."

All members voiced, "Aye."

President Palacios: Motion carries. The Senate hereby stands adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Senate Journal Clerk