



Saipan Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 806, Saipan, C.M. 96950

July 1, 1985

Del. Lorenzo I. Guerrero
Chairman
Committee on Finance & Other Matters
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention
House of Taga
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Chairman Guerrero:

Thank you for inviting the Chamber of Commerce to comment on these Constitutional Convention proposals.

The Chamber's Government Relations committee has analyzed these proposals and the committee respectfully requests that the following comments be given careful consideration before adopting these proposals.

Comments

83-85 To require the election of the Public Auditor.

The Chamber believes that the present method of selecting a public auditor, that of appointment by the governor, is effective and should not be changed. The office of the Public Auditor will become too political if we start electing our Public Auditor.

50-85 To amend Section 12 of Article III relating to the appointment of a temporary Public Auditor.

The Chamber believe that under the present system of selecting the public auditor by appointment by the governor, temporarily any vacancy in the public auditor's office should be filled through the same process. That is that any vacancy in the public auditor's office should be temporarily filled by appointment by the governor. Therefore the Chamber supports this proposal.

104-85 To amend Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution relating to vacancy in the office of the Public Auditor.

The Chamber believes that in the event that the governor temporarily fills a vacancy in the public auditor's office, ninety days is sufficient time in which a qualified

permanent replacement can be found. This provision will assure that the governor makes a diligent effort to find a suitable replacement within a reasonable time frame. Therefore, the Chamber supports this proposal.

However the Chamber would like to ask the following question:

What will be done if the governor is unable to find a permanent replacement for the office of the public auditor within 90 days?

- 160-85. To expand the audit responsibilities of the public auditor to include corporations registered to be persons of Northern Marianas descent.

The Chamber believes that the office of the public auditor should devote its time to auditing branches and agencies of government. The public auditor should not be responsible for overseeing the activities of private enterprise, unless the private entity is engaged in a contractual agreement with the government. Therefore the chamber strongly opposes this proposal.

- 162-85 To prevent corruption in corporations registered as persons of Northern Marianas descent.

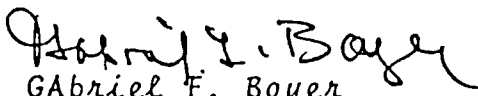
If this proposal pertains to land ownership in the CNMI; the chamber feels that there is already enough teeth in existing provision regarding 51% ownership. The chamber believes is more proper for the legislators to address this issue. Again, the chamber feels Publ Auditor should not get into private enterprise

- 186-85 To limit the authority of the legislature from appropriating funds provided under Section 702 of the Covenant.

The Chamber feels this proposal is a legislative matter, and is more proper if our legislature addresses this issue.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity you have given us to submit our comments and we look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Sincerely,


GABRIEL F. BOYER
Executive Director