



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

CABLE ADDRESS
GOV. NMI SAIPAN

July 11, 1985

Delegate Juan T. Lizama, Chairman
Committee on Governmental Institutions
2nd Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention
Saipan, C.M. 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are submitting herewith our written testimonies relative to your Notice of Public Hearing dated July 09, 1985 on the subject of "To Establish an Office of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs."

At the outset, we would like to offer our comments and rationale on the subject.

1. The establishment of the subject office would add additional burden of "cash resources" to the Commonwealth when in fact, the Commonwealth continues to experience "cash shortfalls" since inception of our infant government to the present.
2. The subject Office if, established would meant another special assistant on top of the many "Special Assistants," thus again, bureaucracy comes in. We cannot afford to have "layers" of special assistant in view of our cash shortfalls and cost effectiveness and efficiency purposes.
3. To our knowledge, the Commonwealth has been and still serving the population irregardless of race, sex, religious, or political affiliation.

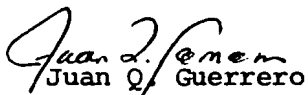
Turning to the proposed Proposal No. 121-85, we wish to offer the following comments.

1. Under Section---(a) second sentence--"a women with standing in the community". Does the word standing meant to be in the areas of educational, political, or socially acceptable to the community. How do you define standing as it relate to women's affairs? The word standing is not clear if, one has to commit in our Constitution.
2. Under Section---(b) and (c) are they meant to be the same or different? In reading both sections, we have found that the subject Special Assistant has practically play the role of a manager and law enforcer single-handedly all the duties and responsibilities of such office.
3. Getting back to section (b) on "Policy of Affirmative Action in the government and the private sector to help women to achieve the same rights and privileges enjoyed by men." In reading this line, we are totally lost as to its interpretation. Does the line meant that

currently the women in the Commonwealth are not enjoying the services and benefits of the Commonwealth in the areas of employment, programs, and services? Perhaps, the attached sheets from the Dept. of Commerce and Labor relative to Labor force Survey 1984 will shed light on why this line is not necessary to be included in our Constitution.

We hope our comments would be favorably look upon and shed light as to the reasons-of taking strong reservation in accepting to amend Article III in our Constitution.

Sincerely yours,


Juan Q. Guerrero

Acting Administrator, Office on Aging

Attachment:

TABLE 9 - NUMBER EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYED
Agriculture/Fishing	95
Mining	90
Construction	71
Manufacturing	6
Transportation/Utilities	413
Wholesale Trade	856
Retail Trade	105
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	613
* Public Administration	775
Non-Classifiable Establishments	1,731
TOTAL	4,755

NOTES:

*Includes jobs in the managerial and administrative positions.

TABLE 11 - EMPLOYED LABOR FORCE BY SEX AND BY AGE

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
Below 16 years	0	0
16 - 17 years	76	62
18 - 19 years	76	109
20 - 24 years	452	338
25 - 34 years	1,041	789
35 - 44 years	680	366
Over 44 years	537	228
TOTAL	2,867	1,888