

SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

SAIPAN, CM 96950

Telephone

6517/6572

Officers

Herman T. Guerrero, President
Vicente M. Calvo, 1st Vice President
David M. Cing, 2nd Vice President
Maria T. Pangelinan, 3rd Vice President
William B. Nabors, Convention Secretary
Juan T. Lizama, Floor Leader

REPORT TO THE CONVENTION BY THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Members

Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
Alonzo Iglisomar
David L. Igitol
Rita H. Inos
Benusto R. Kaipat
Estevan M. King
Luis M. Limes
Jesus P. Mafnas
Paul A. Manglona
James M. Mendiola
Aniceto H. Mundo
Felicidad T. Ogunoro
Karl T. Reyes
Joaquin A. Tenorio
Francisco Tomokane
William S. Torres
Ramon G. Villagomez
Ignacio Villanueva

Subject: Committee Recommendation No. 57

The Committee on Governmental Institutions recommends that the Convention, meeting as the Committee of the Whole, adopt the attached constitutional amendment with respect to establishment of an Office of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.

The Committee conducted a public hearing on Delegate Proposal 121-85, received favorable testimony, and amended the proposal to reflect the recommendations and concerns expressed by the witnesses.


In recommending adoption, the Committee wishes to point out that the Constitution already provides to women of the Northern Marianas a right to equal protection under the law. In this respect, the Northern Marianas is far ahead of many societies and governmental entities in recognizing the rights of women.

However, unlike most states and the federal government, the Northern Marianas lacks the legal and administrative mechanisms to insure that the rights and interests of women as recognized by Article I, Section 6, are promoted and protected. The intent and purpose of this recommended amendment, therefore, is to provide those legal and administrative mechanisms. By establishing these mechanisms through the Constitution, the Northern Marianas will not only join the federal family of states in mandating affirmative action for women, but, more importantly, it will stand proud among the nations of the world in that it will have done this through constitutional provision rather than merely through statute.

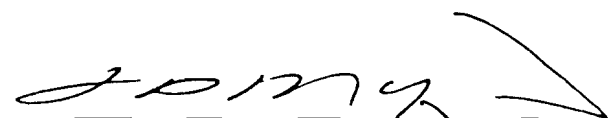
Delegate Proposal(s):

The Committee considered Delegate Proposal 121-85; it was the only proposal referred to the Committee regarding this matter. The Committee recommendation conforms fully with the intent of that proposal. Therefore, the Committee strongly urges all of the Convention delegates to support the attached recommended constitutional amendment.

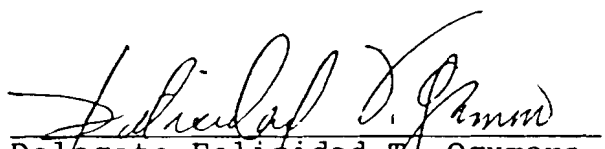
Respectfully submitted,



Delegate Juan T. Lizama
Chairman



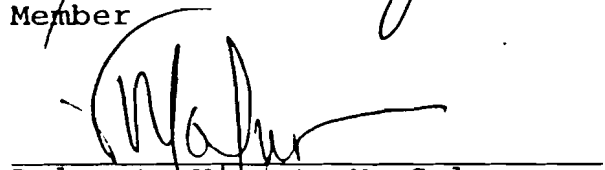
Delegate Jesus P. Mafnas
Vice-Chairman



Delegate Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Member




Delegate Benusto R. Kalpat
Member



Delegate Vicente M. Calvo
Member

Delegate David M. Cing
Member



Delegate Alonzo Agisomar
Member

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend Article III of the Northern Marianas Constitution regarding Women's Affairs.

BE IT ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

Upon ratification pursuant to Section 5 of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and Public Law No. 4-30, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is amended as follows:

1 1. Effective upon ratification, Article III is amended to add a new
2 section to read:

3 "Section _____. Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.

4 a) There is hereby established an Office of
5 Special Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs.
6 The Governor shall appoint a person, who is qualified by
7 virtue of education and experience, to be the Special
8 Assistant. The Special Assistant may be removed only for
9 good cause.

0 b) It is the responsibility and duty of the
11 Special Assistant to establish and enforce a policy of
12 affirmative action in the government and private sector
13 to help women to achieve social, political and economic
14 parity. The Special Assistant shall promote the rights
15 and interests of women, assist agencies of government and
16 private organizations to plan and implement programs and
17 services for women, monitor compliance of laws and
18 regulations by government agencies and private organizations,
19 organize community education strategies regarding the rights
20 and role of women, and recommend to the Legislature for
21 consideration legislation of benefit to women.

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c) The Special Assistant is empowered to hire staff and to promulgate rules and regulations in carrying out her responsibilities and duties.

d) The Governor shall include in the budget of the Executive branch the funding necessary to fully implement the provisions of this Section. In the event the Special Assistant determines that the Governor's budget allocation to the Office fails to meet the requirements of the Office, the Special Assistant may submit a request to the Legislature for additional funding."

Committee on Governmental Institutions

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2 section to read:
3 "Section ____ . Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.
4 a) There is hereby established an Office of Special
5 Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs. The Governor
6 shall appoint a person, who is qualified by virtue of education
7 and experience, to be the Special Assistant. The Special
8 Assistant may be removed only for cause.
9 b) It is the responsibility and duty of the Special
10 Assistant to establish and implement a policy of affirmative
11 action in the government and private sector to help women to
12 achieve social, political and economic parity. The Special
13 Assistant shall promote the interests of women, assist agencies
14 of government and private organizations to plan and implement
15 programs and services for women, monitor compliance of laws and
16 regulations by government agencies and private organizations,
17 organize community education strategies regarding the roles of
18 women, and recommend to the governor and the legislature for
19 consideration legislation of benefit to women.
20 c) The Special Assistant maybe authorized to hire staff
21 and shall promulgate rules and regulations in carrying out the

1 responsibilities and duties.

2 d) The Governor shall include in the budget of the
3 executive branch the funding necessary to fully implement the
4 provisions of this Section.

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19 ADOPTED, AS AMENDED, BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND THE
 CONVENTION, JULY 20, 1985

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Floor Amendment to CR 57

Line 11 delete "help" and substitute
with "assist" delete "to" after
women on the same line.

Lita H. Jaas

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1 1. Effective upon ratification, Article III is amended to add a new
2 section to read:

3 "Section ____ . Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.

4 a) There is hereby established an Office ~~Assistant~~

5 ~~Assistant~~ for Women's Affairs. The Governor
6 shall appoint a person, ^{acceptable to a client of the Govt. (approved by the} who is qualified by virtue of education
7 and experience, ~~to be the Special Assistant~~. The ^{incumbent} ~~Special~~

8 ~~Assistant~~ may be removed only for cause. (malfeasance)

9 b) It is the responsibility and duty of the ^{incumbent} ~~Special~~
10 ~~Assistant~~ to establish and implement a policy of affirmative
11 action in the government and private sector ^(private) ~~to develop women's~~

12 ~~social, political and economic parity~~. The ^{incumbent} ~~Special~~

13 ~~Assistant~~ shall promote the interests of women, assist agencies
14 of government and private organizations to plan and implement
15 programs and services for women, monitor compliance of laws and
16 regulations by government agencies and private organizations,
17 organize community education strategies regarding the roles of
18 women, and recommend to the governor and the legislature for
19 consideration legislation of benefit to women.

20 c) The ^{incumbent} ~~Special Assistant~~ ^{may be} authorized to hire staff
21 and shall promulgate rules and regulations in carrying out the

1 responsibilities and duties.

2 d) The Governor shall include in the budget of the
3 executive branch the funding necessary to fully implement the
4 provisions of this Section.

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6 *e) The Office for Women's Affairs shall*
7 *be under the supervision of the*
8 *Director of the Community &*
9 *Cultural Affairs.*
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19 ADOPTED, AS AMENDED, BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND THE
CONVENTION, JULY 20, 1985

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AMENDMENT

CR # 58

LINE 7 + 8

delete "Judge" AND "CIVIL AND
CRIMINAL ACTIONS FILED IN"

INSERT "Public Defender"

S. MENDIOLA