

Workers from Black Mountain
intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and As Lito Roads.

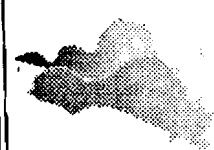
terest of the public," said Borja.

tional, and international media,

For a story that appeared on the front page of the Honolulu Advertiser last month with a recent press release from the Office of the Special Agent in Charge of the Drug and Substance Abuse Administration. The story, carried by the Honolulu Advertiser July 21

Continued

Weather Outlook



Partly cloudy

If ConCon insists on a six-member Senate

'One senator per island is better'

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

IF THE Third Constitutional Convention is to reduce the membership of the Senate to six, it might as well lower it to three, a leading member of the Senate said yesterday.

Rota Senator Paul A. Manglona in an interview said he could find no justification for the recently-approved constitutional proposal to get rid of one Senate seat for each of the Commonwealth's three senatorial districts.

He said the move could be counter-productive and may re-



Paul A. Manglona

sult to further legislative deadlocks.

"In my opinion, the current make-up of the Senate is ideal — three senators from each island. But should they insist on two, then I'd rather that it be decreased to one from each island so we don't see an even number of seats," said Manglona.

"By having one senator for each island, we would have a three-member Senate. At least that's odd-numbered and one way or another, any voting will be decisive," he added.

Manglona said he would come up with a letter asking ConCon

delegates to reconsider the proposal.

He added that if the motivation behind the proposal is to cut costs, he would rather see the delegates address that concern through a reduction of the legislature's budget.

Under the proposal passed by the Constitutional Convention last Tuesday, the membership of the Senate and the House of Representatives would be lowered to six and 13 members, respectively.

Currently, the membership is nine and 18.

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8/1/95
Hawaii's Variety

ConCon bids for easier recall of elected officials

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

IT WOULD become easier to recall elected officials who renege on their duties if amendments to the recall provision approved by the Constitutional Convention is ratified.

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention approved last Saturday a proposal to allow a recall bid provided that 20 percent of the voting population signed a petition to this effect.

Delegate Joaquin Villagomez argued that bad-performing elected officials do not have business keeping their positions.

If (the officials) aren't doing their jobs, we should throw them out. Why should the people have to wait until two or four years to get rid of somebody who is doing a bad job?, Villagomez asked.

Under the proposed amendment, 20 percent of the entire voting population of the Commonwealth shall sign for the recall of a Commonwealth official such as the governor. For a locally elected officials such as a senator, representative, mayor or municipal council member, the recall petition requires 20 percent of the voters in the senatorial district.

The recall petition would be

then submitted to the Attorney General for verification.

After the Attorney General's certification, the actual recall proceeding will be done through an electoral exercise within 90 days.

If a majority of the electorate voted for the recall of the official, then his office is vacated.

The current provision, enacted in 1976, requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the qualified voters. This rule, according to Villagomez "made it impossible to use the (voters') recall power."

Let's suppose that there are 1,000 qualified voters. Then you have to get 661 votes for the recall petition. What happens if only 600 people vote? Then you lose," said Villagomez who sponsored the amendment proposals.

The provision for the replacement of a recalled official has also been amended.

The current Constitution provides that the ousted governor shall be replaced by the lieutenant governor. Under a change approved by the Convention delegates, the lieutenant governor who takes over the governor's seat will name his successor.

Currently, the senate president replaces the removed lieutenant governor.

Convention delegates explained that the amendment "is designed to keep the offices in the hands of the same political party."

In the case of a senator or a representative, the vacancy shall be filled through a special election if the legislator concerned has yet to complete more than half of his term at the time he is recalled.

If the recalled legislator has less than half of his term remaining, he shall be replaced by a defeated candidate who got the largest number of votes in the last election.

A vacancy in the office of mayor is also filled by special election if more than half the term remains.

Convention delegates, however, decided to retain the provision which states that no elected official can be challenged during the first six months in office.

Furthermore, the recall move may not be initiated against an official more than once.

This provision, the delegates explained, was aimed at protecting incumbent officials from any political "harassment" by opponents.

Mariana Variety 8/01/95



Joaquin Villagomez

Demapan bill on C

SENATE President Juan S. Demapan yesterday announced plans to sponsor legislation to require that at least one member of the Commonwealth Judiciary be of Carolinian descent and fluent in the Carolinian language.

"Carolinians represent more than one-fourth of the local indigenous population and should be represented in all branches of the CNMI government," President Demapan said.

A seat should be reserved, at least in our Superior Court, for our first Carolinian judge."

The commonwealth Superior

On local gov't powers

ConCon opts for status quo

DELEGATES to the Constitutional Convention have decided to keep a strong central government by retaining the governor's power over local government officials, a summary of convention proceedings said yesterday.

In effect, the convention has set aside Rota Delegate Benjamin T. Manglona's proposal to further strengthen the local government's autonomy provided under Amendment 25 of the Constitution which was enacted in 1985.

In deciding to keep the 1985 language untouched, delegates invoked the Inos vs. Tenorio doctrine which affirmed the Commonwealth governor's power to control local officials' authority to execute Commonwealth laws.

Manglona walked out of the Executive Branch and Local Govern-

ment committee hearing last Thursday, sensing the likely rejection of his proposed amendment seeking to grant mayors the power to execute Commonwealth laws. He felt his pleas have not been understood and appreciated.

Tinian Delegate Joey San Nicolas, who has displayed his own displeasure by boycotting Friday's meeting, tried to reinforce Manglona's bid.

"We are just being cautious. This is very important to our islands. We want to make no mistake," a news release from the House of Representatives quoted him as saying.

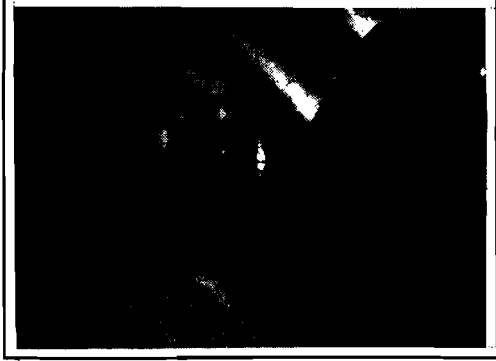
A similar incident has been averted during last Saturday's proceeding after the Saipan-dominated convention agreed to meet halfway with Manglona and San Nicolas.

Under the compromise, a local



Benjamin T. Manglona

government executive may carry out the Commonwealth services. But his execution of such functions must be in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the governor or



Joey San Nicolas

any of the department heads in Saipan, "otherwise the governor would take back the powers that have been delegated."

Manglona did not protest further, stating that it has always been his belief that "the governor is stronger than the mayor."

"Rota and Tinian are not independent states. Mayors carry out laws made by the central government," he added.

But while the Convention delegates refused to strengthen the power of local chief executives, they moved to beef up the functions of the municipal councils and clip the powers the legislative delegations. The latter would lose the power to enact local laws.

In the proposed amendment, the municipal councils may pass ordinances concerning purely local matters that do not affect any other island.

They have also been granted the power to approve or reject any budget proposal or appointment made by the mayors.

And if the amendments in the Constitution are put to effect, local governments will be financed totally from local taxes within five years.

PSS class opening schedules