



The Department of the Navy has failed

On February 17, 2010, Senator vicente c. pangelinan submitted almost 50 pages filled with comments on the controversial Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as produced by the Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO). Among his comments, the senator noted that the DEIS failed to provide the specificity need for our people to make sound judgment and informed comments regarding the significant impacts of the military buildup on our community.

To see the senator's submittal in its entirety, log on to www.senbenp.com.



Sign up for the Decolonization Registry

If you are eligible to register, please do so at the

Office of Senator ben c. pangelinan.

You may call 473-4236/7 for details.



A Message from ben

Hafa adai,

In February, the people of Guam were asked to submit comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that will forever change our community. I attended stayed to the end of all of the JGPO meetings and all of the town hall meetings held by Delegate Bordallo. I am proud of this community and the thousands of people who came out to publicly testify on the DEIS, especially the youth, notably the "We are Guahan" group. The recent comments of the USEPA has drawn the most attention due to its findings that the DEIS is unacceptable and inadequate. Of greatest concern is the social and cultural impact will have on our island. We had 90 days to review a document over 10,000 pages long and although an unreasonable amount of time to review, it was important to submit comments and recommendations. Our office met the deadline and submitted our testimony. We are told that the final DEIS will be completed some time later this year. I will certainly keep you updated through our newsletter as to any developments with this critical issue facing Guam.

Since the launch of our newsletter - this is our third edition - we continue to tweak it to make it easier to read, full of articles that reflect our efforts to keep you informed on the work we do on behalf of the people of Guam. Our work is driven by the issues and concerns that many times come from you, either through visits to our Office, phone calls or meetings with me.

As we move forward with this effort, we continually seek and ask that you guide our work with your engagement with this office, your office, the "Office of the People".

As always, I invite you to drop in and talk to us, call us or write to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase

Si Senator ben pangelinan

Bills Introduced

Bill No. 317-30: As Chairman for Appropriations, Senator pangelinan receives numerous appropriation bills that address the needs for various departments to ensure the continuity of services and operations of the government of Guam. Most of the provisions in Bill No. 317 are a compilation of those appropriation bills. Senator pangelinan included other provisions that allow for interest payments due to COLA Class recipients including 72 retirees who “opted out,” thereby making them eligible for payments. The bill has had a public hearing and was passed by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and is now awaiting approval from the Governor.

Bill No. 319-30: The Guam Realtors Association met with Senator pangelinan to change existing statute that relates to the real estate broker licensing. The practice of real estate continues to evolve, and the current laws governing the practice need to be current with the level of expertise and knowledge required to safeguard the public and industry. The bill has been referred to the Senator’s Committee and is pending a public hearing schedule.

Bill No. 320-30: In the 29th Guam Legislature, Senator pangelinan introduced legislation that was passed as P.L. 29-62 which provided incentives to those residents on Guam who use alternative energy generating units. Because installation of these units requires large investments by residents, which according to GPA would also increase the cost of electricity to GPA’s entire customer base, it was necessary to amend the statute to reflect suggested language by GPA to benefit both the residents as well as GPA. The bill was referred to the Committee on Utilities, Transportation, Public Works and Veterans Affairs and is pending a public hearing.

Bill No. 325-30: Senator pangelinan introduced the Guam Corporation Business Act (P.L. 29-144). *Cont. below*



Same great website with a fresh new look

If you haven’t visited the Senator ben pangelinan’s website lately then you are missing out! The Senator’s re-vamped website has a refreshing look that is visually stimulating and very informative! Navigating through the Senator’s website is much easier than before with many links and items in plain sight. Wondering what Public Hearings the Senator will be holding? Simply click on the “Events Calendar” link on the left column of the website to see what Bills or Resolutions Senator pangelinan will be discussing.

There is so much more including a new video media page to watch Senator ben pangelinan in action, and coming soon, a new gallery page!

Senator ben pangelinan writes a weekly column in the Marianas Variety newspaper titled “ben’s pen.” Did you miss a week or two of his? Don’t fret; his most recent column is viewable on the ben’s pen page as well as his columns from previous weeks!

So what are you waiting for? Click on the link below and get started! www.senbenp.com

When drafting the Act, the senator worked closely with many attorneys on Guam whose input was substantively patterned after the Revised Model Business Corporation Act (RMBCA). Bill No. 325 was introduced to amend certain sections of the Act for technical errors and omission of certain provisions of RMBCA. The bill was referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Health and Human Services and Judiciary pending a public hearing.

Bill No. 327-30: The Department of Revenue and Taxation is tasked with the temperature compensation calibration of retail gasoline-dispensing pumps. Temperature compensation (as it relates to the sale of gasoline) is an adjustment made that assures that each gallon of fuel sold contains the same energy content. To put it simply, energy per gallon of fuel is measured at 60°F and when the external temperature is warmer, as in Guam, it causes the fuel to expand providing less energy content per gallon. Rev/Tax currently uses Metal Provers certified at 85°F. Gas stations currently use 60°F.

Bill No. 327 will close the loophole for calibration and will require all gas stations to use gas pumps equipped with automatic temperature compensation calibration apparati. The bill was referred to Senator pangelinan’s Committee and is pending a public hearing.

For more information logon to www.senbenp.com

Cont. on next pg

Did you know?

The Commission on Decolonization was never successful in calling a meeting in the last two years due to the lack of a quorum. As a result, progress at the Decolonization office² was affected. Current law states that certain boards and commissions shall be abolished after a 12-month period of not meeting. Senator vicente “ben” c. pangelinan introduced Bill 284-30 which repeals the current law.

Pangelinan Bill No. 288 Will Increase Security of Retirement Fund and Assets

Senator ben c. pangelinan (D), Barrigada is disappointed but not discouraged at his attempts to increase the investment returns of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund with Bill 288. The bill failed to pass in this past session by 2 votes. In a parliamentary move, Senator pangelinan was able to keep the bill alive and the Legislature will have another chance to vote on it in the session scheduled in March.

“The bill will expand the allowable investment instruments of fixed income securities for investment by the Fund under the same quality and exposure criteria of the current law,” stated the veteran Senator.

The current law only permits investments of the fund’s assets in domestic (U.S.) government bonds of it agencies, instrumentalities, states and territories. These bonds make up roughly half of the investment grade investment instruments in the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The performance of the index is used to evaluate the performance of the Retirement Fund’s fixed income portfolio and managers.

Under the current restrictions in law, the limitation to half of the index presents a concentration of the funds assets in the index and this presents more risk to the fund.

Bill 288 will spread the risk of the investments to the full universe of securities in the index allowing for diversification thus decreasing the risk and increasing the opportunity for greater return on investments of the funds assets.

“I will spend the next month working with the Retirement Fund’s Management and Board Members to more fully explain Bill 288 to my colleagues who voted No on the bill.

Legislative Inquiry with the Chamorro Land Trust Commission

On February 19, 2010, Senator pangelinan, Committee Chairman on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land, called forth a Legislature Inquiry regarding Chamorro Land Trust Commission (CLTC) commercial applicant The Guam Rock Inc. It was disclosed Oscar Calvo, Chairman for CLTC, administered The Guam Rock Inc. authorization to survey Lot No. 7163, Pagat Mangilao, after CLTC assured the legislature they would cease all commercial applications until the Commercial Rules and Regulation were in place.

Mr. Calvo admitted he did not comply with the Commis-



From left to right: Vice Speaker Cruz, Senator Pangelinan, Senator Ada, and Senator Taitague with members of the CLTC, Jesse Garcia and Oscar Calvo.

sion’s self-imposed moratorium and the Legislatures advice to cease all commercial applicants and he would adhere to any punishment the legislature would impose on him. Senator B.J. Cruz proceeded to request his resignation wherein Mr. Calvo rescinded his previous assertion and stated he would only resign if the Governor informed him to. Chairman pangelinan, along with his legislative colleagues, sternly instructed Mr. Calvo and CLTC Administrative Director Jess Garcia to cease all commercial applications until the Commercial Rules and Regulations have been set into place. In conclusion, the Legislature asked Mr. Calvo to rescind the survey authorization to The Guam Rock Inc. and to adhere to the advice of his legal counsel and the Legislature. Mr. Calvo stated he would comply.

Senator pangelinan request Acting Governor Mike Cruz to press for the Commission on Decolonization

Senator pangelinan wrote a letter to Lt. Governor Mike Cruz in his acting capacity as Governor to urge him to convene the Commission on Decolonization. By statute, the Governor is Chairman. In his letter, Senator pangelinan reminded Acting Governor Cruz that the time is now, more than ever for our government to activate the Commission and begin what the statute requires, which is to determine the desire of the *Chamorros* as to their future political relationship with the United States. The Senator’s office continues to register eligible *Chamorros* in his office for the Decolonization Registry.

To assist with the process, Senator pangelinan introduced Bill No. 184-30(COR) which will append Chamorro Land Trust Commission lessees to the registration roll of the Registry. Senator pangelinan asked support for Bill No. 184 and to sign it into law.



Senator Vicente Pangelinan and Senator Tina Muna-Barnes look over the winning posters for the contest for Chamorro Month.



Senator Pangelinan, Speaker Won Pat & Senator Muna-Barnes present for the kick off of "Fanachu Put I Tano" , Para I Famagu' on-ta", the theme for Chamorro Month.

Senator ben pangelinan presented Resolution No. 287-30 (LS), "Relative to recognizing the month of March, 2010 as Silibrasion *Chamoru* (Chamorro Celebration) and recognizing the Chamorro Studies Division of the Guam Public School System, the Chamoru Language Teachers and their students and all of its collaborators for all of their contributions to the promotion and perpetuation of the Chamorro Language and Culture" on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 4pm in the Guam Legislature Session Hall.

In addition to the presentation, the Chamorro Studies Division of the Guam Public School System awarded and recognized 2010 Silibrasion Chamoru Student Poster Contest Winners. In attendance at the celebration were Department of Education *Chamoru* teachers, the poster winners and their parents.

For a special feature, we were entertained by the Irensian Taotao Tano'. Refreshments were served after the ceremonies.



Senator Pangelinan presents a legislative resolution recognizing the Chamorro Studies Division of D.O.E.



Irensian Taotao Tano' performs an intricate stick dance for the kick off of Chamorro Month.

COMMITTEES

- ◆ Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land
- ◆ Member, Committee on Education
- ◆ Member, Municipal Affairs, Aviation, Housing, and Recreation
- ◆ Member, Labor, the Public Structure, Public Libraries, and Technology

HOW TO REACH US

324 W. Soledad Ave., Suite 101
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 Ph.: (671) 473-4236/7
 Fax: (671) 473-4238
 e-mail: senbenp@guam.net
 web: <http://www.senbenp.com>