



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GUAM

**Refer to
Legislative Secretary**

AUG 03 1998

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco
Speaker
Mina'Bente Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guáhan
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature
Guam Legislature Temporary Building
155 Hesler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY	
ACKNOWLEDGMENT RECEIPT	
Received By	<i>[Signature]</i>
Time	<u>3:33 pm</u>
Date	<u>8.4.98</u>

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find Substitute Bill No. 681 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD §6103.3 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 6, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD AND DISTRICT BOARDS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH THAT CLASSES BEGIN IN DETERMINING THE MINIMUM AGE STUDENTS SHALL ATTEND CLASSES IN CASES WHERE THE STARTING DATE IS ADVANCED TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS", which I have **signed** into law today as **Public Law No. 24-224**.

This legislation allows the Department of Education to use the last day of the month that classes begin as a date to determine the minimum age students are allowed to enter kindergarten. Currently, the law allows the Department of Education to only use the date of commencement to determine the cut-off date of the minimum age students are allowed to enter kindergarten.

Very truly yours,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
I/Maga'lahaen Guáhan
Acting Governor of Guam

00924

Office of the Speaker
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO
Date: 8/4/98
Time: 2:40 pm
Rec'd by: [Signature]
Print Name: Janice Mesa

Attachment: copy attached for signed bill
 original attached for vetoed bill

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown
 Legislative Secretary

MINA'BENTE KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

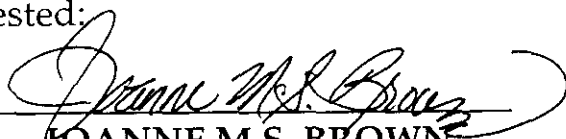
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 681 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD §6103.3 TO ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 6, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD AND DISTRICT BOARDS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH THAT CLASSES BEGIN IN DETERMINING THE MINIMUM AGE STUDENTS SHALL ATTEND CLASSES IN CASES WHERE THE STARTING DATE IS ADVANCED TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS," was on the 31st day of July, 1998, duly and regularly passed.




ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO
Speaker

Attested:



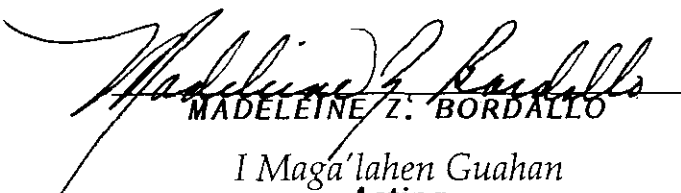
JOANNE M.S. BROWN
Senator and Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* this 31st day of July, 1998,
at 2:00 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'lahaen's Office

APPROVED:



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

I Maga'lahaen Guahan
Acting

Date: 8/3/98

Public Law No. 24-224

MINA'BENTE KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 681 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee
on Education and amended on
the Floor.

Introduced by:

F. B. Aguon, Jr.
L. F. Kasperbauer
Francisco P. Camacho
E. J. Cruz
T. C. Ada
A. C. Blaz
J. M.S. Brown
Felix P. Camacho
M. C. Charfauros
W. B.S.M. Flores
Mark Forbes
A. C. Lamorena, V
C. A. Leon Guerrero
L. A. Leon Guerrero
V. C. Pangelinan
J. C. Salas
A. L.G. Santos
F. E. Santos
A. R. Unpingco
J. Won Pat-Borja

AN ACT TO ADD §6103.3 TO ARTICLE 1,
CHAPTER 6, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 17 OF THE
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO
GRANTING THE INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD
AND DISTRICT BOARDS THE FLEXIBILITY TO
USE THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH THAT
CLASSES BEGIN IN DETERMINING THE
MINIMUM AGE STUDENTS SHALL ATTEND

**CLASSES IN CASES WHERE THE STARTING
DATE IS ADVANCED TO ACCOMMODATE
SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guahan*

3 finds that circumstances may arise which would affect the setting of the
4 starting date of classes in any given school year. Such was the case in the
5 Department of Education's decision to modify its school calendar to
6 accommodate the 1999 South Pacific Games. This makes it difficult for
7 parents of kindergarten-age children to determine whether their children are
8 required to enroll in school and plan accordingly.

9 *It is the intent of I Liheslaturan Guahan to provide the Interim Governing*
10 *Board presently, and the District Boards in the future, with the flexibility to*
11 *use last day of the month classes begin as starting date of classes in*
12 *determining the minimum enrollment age of students in any cases where the*
13 *school calendar is advanced to an earlier than expected starting date for*
14 *classes.*

15 **Section 2.** Section 6103.3 is hereby *added* to Article 1, Chapter 6,
16 Division 2 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

17 **"Section 6103.3. Option to Use Last Day of the Month as the**
18 **Starting Date to Determine Minimum Enrollment Age for Children.**

19 Notwithstanding the provisions of §6103 of this Chapter regarding the
20 beginning date of classes for each school, the Interim Governing Board
21 and the District Boards may use the last day of the month in which
22 classes begin for determining the minimum age a child shall attend
23 school in cases where the beginning date of classes in the school

1 calendar is advanced to an earlier starting date to accommodate special
2 events or programs. After the school year 1998-1999, at least three (3)
3 months notice shall be given of any changes to advance the beginning
4 date of classes in the school calendar, to include which date will be used
5 in determining the minimum enrollment age that children shall attend
6 classes.”

PL 24 1998



**TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

215-A Chalan Santa Rosa, Suite 106-F
Ada's Professional & Commercial Center
Agaña, Guam 96910

Telephone (671) 475-KIDS
Fax (671) 475-2000
e-mail lk4kids@ite.net

Senator
Lawrence F. Kasperbauer
Chairman

Senator
John C. Salas
Vice Chairman

Speaker
Antonio R. Unpingco
Ex-Officio

Senator
Thomas C. Ada
Member

Senator
Frank B. Aguon
Member

Senator
Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson
Member

Vice Speaker
Anthony C. Blaz
Member

Senator
Joanne M.S. Brown
Member

Senator
Felix P. Camacho
Member

Senator
Frank P. Camacho
Member

Senator
Edwardo J. Cruz
Member

Senator
Mark Forbes
Member

Senator
Angel L.G. Santos
Member

Senator
Judith Won Pat-Borja
Member

July 25, 1998

**TO: All Members
Committee on Education**

FROM: Chairman

SUBJ: Voting Sheet

Transmitted herewith is the voting sheet and committee report for **Substitute Bill No. 681**:
"AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §6103.3 TO TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED
RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD AND DISTRICT
BOARDS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH THAT
CLASSES BEGIN IN DETERMINING THE MINIMUM AGE STUDENTS SHALL
ATTEND CLASSES IN CASES WHERE THE STARTING DATE IS ADVANCED TO
ACCOMODATED SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS."

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE F. KASPERBAUER

Attachments



TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

215-A Chalan San Roque, Suite 106-F
Ada's Professional & Commercial Center
Agaña, Guam 96910

Telephone (671) **475-KIDS**
Fax (671) **475-2000**
e-mail **lk4kids@ite.net**

Senator
Lawrence F. Kasperbauer
Chairman

July 25, 1998

Senator
John C. Salas
Vice Chairman

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco
Speaker, 24th Guam Legislature
Agaña, Guam

Speaker
Antonio R. Unpingco
Ex-Officio

via: Committee on Rules

Senator
Thomas C. Ada
Member

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Senator
Frank B. Aguon
Member

The Committee on Education to which was referred **Bill No. 681**: "AN ACT RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE DATE FOR THE INITIAL ENROLLMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GUAM'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1998-1999, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ADJUSTED SCHEDULE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES DUE TO THE UPCOMING 1999 SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES," herein reports back the recommendation **TO DO PASS Substitute Bill No. 681**.

Senator
Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson
Member

Vice Speaker
Anthony C. Blaz
Member

Votes of the committee members are as follows:

Senator
Joanne M.S. Brown
Member

9 To Pass

Senator
Felix P. Camacho
Member

_____ Not To Pass

Senator
Frank P. Camacho
Member

_____ To The Inactive File

Senator
Edwardo J. Cruz
Member

_____ Abstained

Senator
Mark Forbes
Member

Sincerely,

Senator
Angel L.G. Santos
Member

LAWRENCE F. KASPERBAUER

Senator
Judith Won Pat-Borja
Member

Attachments

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
TWENTY-FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
 155 Hesler Street, Agana, Guam 96910

Chairman: Senator Lawrence F. Kasperbauer Vice Chairman: Senator John C. Salas Ex-Officio Member: Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco

VOTING SHEET ON:

Substitute Bill No. 681: "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW §6103.3 TO TITLE 17, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD AND DISTRICT BOARDS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH THAT CLASSES BEGIN IN DETERMINING THE MINIMUM AGE STUDENTS SHALL ATTEND CLASSES IN CASES WHERE THE STARTING DATE IS ADVANCED TO ACCOMODATED SPECIAL EVENTS OR PROGRAMS."

<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<u>INITIAL</u>	<u>TO PASS</u>	<u>NOT TO PASS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE</u>
Sen. Lawrence F. Kasperbauer <i>Chairman</i>	<u>LSK</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. John C. Salas <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<u>JS</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Spkr. Antonio R. Unpingco <i>Ex-Officio Member</i>	<u>A</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Thomas C. Ada <i>Member</i>	<u>T</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Frank B. Aguon, Jr. <i>Member</i>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Anthony C. Blaz <i>Member</i>	<u>A</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Joanne M.S. Brown <i>Member</i>	<u>J</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Felix P. Camacho <i>Member</i>	<u>F</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Francisco P. Camacho <i>Member</i>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Edwardo J. Cruz <i>Member</i>	<u>E</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Mark Forbes <i>Member</i>	<u>M</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Angel L.G. Santos <i>Member</i>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Sen. Judith Won Pat-Borja <i>Member</i>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>

MINA' BENTE KUÁTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
Committee on Education
Senator Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, Chairperson

Committee Report
on

Bill No. 681 (COR): AN ACT RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE DATE FOR THE INITIAL ENROLLMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GUAM'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1998-1999, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ADJUSTED SCHEDULE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES DUE TO THE UPCOMING SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES.

I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Education held a public hearing on Monday, July 20, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. at the Legislative Public Hearing Room. Public Notice of the hearing was announced in the July 13 issue of the Pacific Daily News.

Committee Members Present:

Senator Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, Chairperson
Senator John C. Salas, Vice Chairperson
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Member

Providing Testimony on the Bill:

Mr. Roland L.G. Taimanglo, Director of Education (Written)
Ms. Claudia R.U.B. Guerrero (Oral/Written)
Mr. Robert D. Santos (Oral)
Ms. Hilary Toves (Oral)
Ms. Trini Torres (Oral)

Mr. Joe Nangauta (Oral)
Ms Rosemarie P. Ruiz (Oral)
Ms. Jessica Torres (Oral)
Mr. Mark "Paps" Martinez, Member, Interim Governing Board
(Oral)
Jay Andre (Oral)

II. Testimony

Mr. Roland L.G. Taimanglo, Director of Education. Mr. Taimanglo testified against the Bill. He stated that making exceptions and changes two weeks prior to the start of school would cause undue hardship on the system since the number of kindergarten classrooms and teachers have already been determined. He also recommends that the intent of the Public Law 24-26 be protected by not granting any exceptions.

Ms. Claudia R.U.B. Guerrero, Ms. Guerrero testified in favor of the Bill. She noted that her child was excluded from testing for the upcoming school year as the cut of date for testing is December 7th and her child will turn 5 on December 9th. She explained that she brought up her concern to the Board at one of their meetings and was ignored. She also told the Committee that she was informed that by DOE officials that they were aware of the need to move up the starting date of classes as of November of 1997, long after P.L 24-26 was passed in May of 1997.

Mr. Robert D. Santos, Mr. Santos testified in favor of the Bill. He informed the Committee that his child turns 5 after August 4th but before August 27th. He explained that his child now would have to be tested to be admitted into class where as if the starting date for class was not accelerated, he would not. He suggested that the original starting date that he had planned for be used with regard to minimum age requirements regardless of when classes start. Mr. Santos also noted that several other people that he know were also affected by the change in the starting date of classes.

Ms. Hilary Toves, Ms. Toves testified in favor of the Bill. She informed the Committee that while her daughter was taking the test at M.U. Lujan Elementary, she was informed by the school principal the he would not accept her daughter whether she passes or fails the test. She said that she

would put her child in private school for a semester since they would accept her. She further stated that the principal informed her that he would admit her child if she attended private school for a semester. She also informed the Committee that her child scored very low on the test and asked to have her child re-tested since she enrolled her child in a learning center and expects that she should now be able to pass the test. Mr. Taimanglo, at the request of the Chairperson interjected that there is an appeals process regarding the testing. Ms. Toves informed the Committee that she was unaware of the appeals process until today.

Ms. Trini Torres, Ms. Torres testified in favor of the Bill.

Mr. Joe Nangauta. Mr. Nangauta testified that he supported the position of the Director of Education and the Board regarding the Bill.

Ms Rosemarie P. Ruiz, Ms. Ruiz testified in favor of the Bill. She stated that her daughter is affected by the acceleration of the starting date of classes since she will turn five on August 11th. She urged the Committee to pass the Bill.

Ms. Jessica Torres, Ms. Torres testified in favor of the Bill. She testified that her child's 5th birthday is August 19th and should be attending M.U. Lujan which starts on August 24th. She was informed however that M.U. Lujan was using the August 4th date that the rest of the schools were using thus excluding her child. She informed the Committee that she felt this was unfair and a violation of the law.

Mr. Mark "Paps" Martinez, Member, Interim Governing Board, Mr. Martinez testified in favor of the Bill. He noted that he had not intended to testify nor was he representing the Board's position. He also noted that the Board did not support the Bill and therefore did not submit written testimony affirming his support for the Bill because written testimony may be construed as the Board's official position.

Mr. Jay Andre, Mr. Andre testified in favor of the Bill. He informed the Committee that his child was affected by the moving of the start up date and was required to take a test to be admitted. He also explained that he thought the test was unfair and should be evaluated. He noted that his son failed the test because it asked specific questions that he as a father did not teach him. He also noted that he took his son in for a psychological evaluation and was

informed that his son can function as a five year old child for school attendance purposes.

III. Findings and Recommendation

The Committee on Education finds that considerable discontent exists among parents who were affected by the Interim Governing Board's decision to accelerate the starting date of classes from August 27, 1998 to August 4, 1998 to accommodate the South Pacific Games. Because of this change, students who turn five (5) years of age between August 5th to August 27th must now pass an exam to be admitted to classes, and students who turn five (5) after December 7 are no longer eligible to take an exam for early admission.

The Committee further finds however, that DOE knew as early as November of 1997 that school facilities may be needed for the Games and the affect schedule changes may have on student enrollment eligibility and should have sought a legislative remedy to prevent the exclusion of any students. Recognizing that education officials have adopted plans for the school year, the Committee recommends that the Bill No. 681 provide a means for education officials to use originally set starting dates during school years in which the school calendar needs to be accelerated. The Committee also recognizes that it is not appropriate for the Legislature to provide relief for every situation in which the school calendar may change but to allow for flexibility in consideration of parents who have made future plans around the expectation that their child will be attending school during an upcoming school year.

So the education officials can be given the flexibility to accept students who may otherwise be excluded because of changes in the school calendar, it is the recommendation of the Committee on Education that Bill No. 681 (COR) As Substituted by the Committee on Education be reported out with the recommendation **TO DO PASS**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY FOURTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, July 20, 1998

9:00a.m.

BILL NO. 681: "Relative to extending the date for initial enrollment for Guam public schools for the year 98'-99', in consideration of the adjusted schedule due to the upcoming South Pacific Games."

Witness Sign-In Sheet

NAME: ADDRESS:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
(2) C. FERRERO, CLAUDIA ROSALBA P.O. BOX 326295 HAGATNA, GUAM 96932	Parent	472-6767	X		✓	

NAME: ADDRESS:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
ROLAND L.G. TAMANGLO	DOZ		✓	✓		✓

NAME: ADDRESS:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
ROBERT D. SANTOS P.O. BOX 900 HAGATNA, GU. 96932	PARENT		✓		✓	✓

NAME: ADDRESS:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
HILARY TOUES P.O. BOX 447 AGANA, GU	PARENT	789-0275	X		✓	

Conts

per be
relat

M4 Lopez Aug 17
Present

Vote Law

Witness Sign-In Sheet

BILL NO. 681

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
Trini Torres ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24295 Barrigada, GU 96921	SELF	477-0638	✓		✓	
Joe Mangafa ADDRESS: P.O. Box 5291 Agaña, GUAM New Mex-90	Self	625-1455	✓			-
Rosemarie P. Ruiz ✓ ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1593 Agaña, GUAM 96932	Self	646-4269	✓			
<p>LLB's on right didn't pass test on written for 1st si. (those 6 sub tests)</p>						
Jessica M. Torres ✓ ADDRESS: P.O. Box 90 Agaña, GU 96932	Self	789-1349	✓	Failed Gen. Agnion Written Testimony		
Patric Pope Detention ADDRESS: Pope members	Self Mentor School Board	734-8902	✓		✓	
NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
ADDRESS:			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST

Witness Sign-In Sheet

BILL NO. 681

affidavit must
Get a copy
Sept 22
cut window down
to 90 days
- Brewer

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST
JAY Andre	self, parent	649-0173	✓	(circled)	✓	

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST

NAME:	AGENCY OR INTEREST GROUP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TESTIMONY		COMMENT	
			ORAL	WRITTEN	FOR	AGAINST



Roland L.G. Taimanglo
Director of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O.-Box DE
Agana, Guam 96932
Tel: (671) 475-0457
Fax: (671) 472-5003



Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Deputy Director of Education

July 20, 1998

Senator L.F. Kasperbauer
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature
183 Hesler Street
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Kasperbauer,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on Bill No. 681: An Act Relative to Extending The Date For the Initial Enrollment of School Children in Guam's Public Schools for School Year 1998-1999, in Consideration of the Adjusted Schedule for the Commencement of Classes Due To The Upcoming 1999 South Pacific Games.

The Department of Education is not in favor of Bill 681 for the following reasons.

1. Since the passage of PL 24-26, the Department of Education has organized its Kindergarten Program to welcome those children born by the first day of school with the opportunity for families to have their children assessed for early entrance if born within 125 days of the opening day of school. Families are also provided the opportunity to go through an appeals process if their early entrance children do not meet the required scores to enter kindergarten "early."
2. As was predicted, the number of needed teachers for kindergarten has decreased relative to the number of kindergarten students born by the first day of school. In past years, the cut-off day for kindergarten was December 31 - eliminating four months of children has resulted in a lower number of kindergarten classrooms, teachers, and instructional resources needed. As a result of PL 24-26, the number of teachers reassigned from the kindergarten class to other grade levels is 50.
3. These reassigned teachers have already begun to prepare for their newly assigned grade levels. To reassign them now - a short two weeks before school opens - not to mention the identification of classroom assignments, as well as the procurement of instructional materials to support the kindergarten program will place even more stress on the schools. Again, as soon as PL 24-26 was enacted, this organization planned and restructured its operations to ensure that this law was implemented as efficiently and as effectively as possible.
4. The Department of Education understands that the intent of PL 24-26 was to keep the

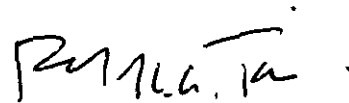
COMMONWEALTH NOW!



chronologically younger children out of school. It was the belief of this legislature that younger children are not ready for school and should wait another year before entering the public school system. Regardless of the opening date of school, younger children will always be kept out of school according to the language of the law. To make an exception to this law, whether or not the Department of Education is supporting the South Pacific Games, contradicts the intent of the law.

5. To reinforce the point made in number 4, you should know that the Joint Calendar Committee has recently forwarded its recommendation to begin next school year on August 4. If Bill 681 is passed this year, will another exception be made for next year? Again, if the intent of the legislation is to keep the chronologically younger children out of school, be assured that PL 24-26 succeeds in doing this.

Thank you for your time and attention.


ROLAND L.G. TAIMANGLO

Page 1 of 2 on Public Hearing On Bill No. 681

I have attended the Guam Public School System and never has school started on August 4. Even when we've been hit with a typhoon that caused the children to miss school days the year before. Everyone who ran for Governor, Senatorial, and Board of Education Reform... They said they wanted to better our children's future and their children as well. Not to put education last, but number one. ONI and I mean their number one concern and to make it better for our children. Then if it's education is your number one concern then I ask you to put education first and not to put world recognition for the South Pacific Games first. Let these ALLOW our children go to school.

In 1991, the Pilot Program was made to allow all children born in 1986, to enter school. Then why can't you do it for the children born in 1993? If you want our children to be famous lawyers, judges, teachers, doctors, senators, or governors it all starts with Education. Scientists have learned that the elementary years are critical to a child's educational development. I, as a parent, feel that if you deny them, my child and the other children, in his situation the opportunity to go to school on their rightful time, then you, as lawmakers, deprive them of their developmental future. Maybe to the Board of Education and to the writers of the previous bill one year late in attending school will not make a difference in our children's education, but that may be one year too late to become famous people of our island.

Public Law 24-26 was past into law on May 15, 1997. Section 6103.1 and section 6103.2 required that of a child didn't turn 5 then, from the 1st comment day of school 125 days after your child would be given a test to see if he or she is ready to enter school.

Page 2 of 2 Public Hearing On Bill No. 681

However under Public Law 24-142 which was past into law March 5, 1998 Section 6103 now requires that a child taking entrance exam who pass get approval from the principal of that child's school of enrollment.

The Board of Education elected to open school early in February of this year thus changing the 125 day from August 4 to December 7 for that of their accommodations to South Pacific Game. In turn requiring that of all weren't being played next year our first commencement day of school would have fall on August 27 or 28, 1998. One week prior to Labor Day weekend.

Si Yuuon Maase!

Claudia R.U.B. Guerrero