

Remarks of Former Senator and now Businessman Paul J. Bordallo, presented as panelist organized by the Guam Humanities Council at the University of Guam Lecture Hall on December 7, 2005, subject: Guam and the Organic Act in the 21st Century.

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Paul Bordallo, and I am a member of the Chamorro Nation. When I say "Chamorro Nation", I mean not only as a political entity, but as a historical, social, and cultural one as well. For, as a nation of unique people, we inherit and bear witness in common to a long and proud history, traditions, and institutions. We may not always articulately express these qualities, but even those who have lived and struggled alongside my fellow Chamorros can attest to their presence and their influence in Guam today.

I am also a proud American, one whose father lobbied Congress in 1937 for the citizenship we all enjoy. In fact, from the time I was a child, my parents taught us the English language, anticipating our eventual inclusion into the American Empire. I was a young man when the Organic Act was passed, and I was enjoying the fruits of that elevated status by studying at the most prestigious universities in the mainland. Since that time I have seen my children and the children of my siblings grow and prosper in ways our parents could scarcely have imagined. Today, no one can deny that the Bordallo family has reaped the benefits of American citizenship.

However, as I understand it, to be a true American and a true Chamorro, we must speak honestly about the Organic Act. We must speak to its original intentions and the times in which it was crafted. We must speak about those in the past who attempted to abuse it, but also those who strove to uphold it. For, as I felt at the time and as I do today, the Act is merely a stepping stone on the way to a greater, self-determined status for Guam. For me and many others, the Act is not the terminus of U.S./Chamorro relations, but rather the departure point:

I would like to share with you why I believe more firmly in the "Organic"-ness of the Act and what is at stake for Guam: We stand at the doorstep of a new century poised between two stars- one which has reached its zenith, and the other which is quickly rising. Of course, I speak of the Americas and Asia. These two economies are so interlocked and are so great in size that the world's wealth—natural resources, people, information- basically, anything of value or importance flows into or out of these two economies in one way or another. As we speak Chinese entrepreneurs are setting up factories in Shenzhen, and their Chinese-American cousins are opening warehouses in San Gabriel Valley. Geographically, we are the closest American soil to the country which produces a majority of the consumer products sold in the U.S. But in order for us to inject ourselves into this raging torrent of trans-Pacific activity we must have a legal environment which helps and not hinders. Now, more than at any time in Guam's history, if our children are to thrive in this new world, we must reform the law to level the playing field.

If there is one idea which all of us can take away from this occasion, it is that the status of Guam to the United States and to the world at large is still an ongoing process. The people's voices still need to be heard by those in power who have an obligation to bring their mandate to fruition.

I humbly propose that the various groups on Guam embrace mutual understanding, tolerance, and trust in one another and as a united community, instruct the local political leadership to forward to Delegate Madeleine Bordallo the "Draft Commonwealth Act" for re-submission and hopefully, the enactment by the Congress of the United States.

USS Frank Cable welcomed back to Guam

By Joy White
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THE USS Frank Cable is back on Guam after being drydocked since February in San Francisco for repairs.

The ship's crew of 940 U.S. Navy personnel and 150 Military Sealift Command civilian mariners provides maintenance and logistical support for nuclear attack submarines in the Western Pacific.

Repairs to the ship included an overhaul to repair and preserve the hull and engineering areas of the ship. Improvements were also made to the interior and exterior of the ship to improve the USS Frank Cable's mission readiness and support of submarines deployed in the Pacific.

Also, several improved systems were installed, such as a new electrical switchboard, SOLAS lifeboats, improved cable TV for the crew and improvements to the fuel oil systems. Boiler automation was also installed.

The last time the ship was docked was in 2004. It has been operating in the Pacific for eight years.



Four-year-old Ridley Austin holds a sign welcoming home her father, Lt. Comr. Michael Austin, from deployment aboard the USS Frank Cable. Matt Weiss / Variety

Deadline for voter registrars

By Zita Y. Taitano
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TODAY is the deadline for residents who are interested in becoming voter or volunteer registrars at their respective mayors' offices.

Guam Election Commission Executive Director Maria Pangelinan said today is also the day district registration starts.

"It's when the registration takes place at the mayors' offices from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.," said Pangelinan, adding individuals selected to be voter registrars will be paid the minimum wage.

The registrars will not only be registering residents to vote in the primary, but also Native Inhabitants of Guam for the Decolonization Registry.

To qualify, a registrar must be a registered voter of Guam; not be holding an elective office; not be a candidate for office; and not be an immediate relative of an elected official or candidate. Immediate relative includes a mother, father, son, daughter, wife, husband and/or in-law.

In addition, a registrar must also be able to follow instructions; be able to attend an instructional seminar; be able to pass a standardized examination of the election laws; and not be a director or deputy director of the executive branch, administrative director or assistant administrative director of the legislative or judicial branch.

Meanwhile, the deadline to register to vote in the primary election is Aug. 22.

Six disqualified from benefits

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THE Department of Public Health and Social Services has reported that from April to June, a total of six people were disqualified from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

Four people were disqualified from SNAP for failing to report the loss of household members. These people must pay back a total of \$25,926. Two were disqualified from TANF for not reporting changes in their

income and must pay back a total of \$8,927.

Collectively, a total of \$34,853 is owed in restitution. Additionally, the six are first-time violators and will not be eligible to receive benefits for a year.

Francis L.G. Damian, program coordinator IV, Investigation and Recoupment Office at the Bureau of Management Support at DPHSS, said these violations may have been discovered as a result of anonymous tips made at the Kaeha Hotline, a hotline community members can call to inform DPHSS of violations. The hotline number is 735-7353.

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