

**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
THIRTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2002

**SAIPAN LOCAL LAW NO. 13-10
H.L.B. NO. 13-024, D.2**

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

To name the Saipan International Airport the Francisco C. **Ada/Saipan** International Airport in recognition of his pioneering efforts to modernize Saipan's airport facility and the island's economy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DMSION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

The Legislature finds that as District Administrator, the Commonwealth's first Lieutenant Governor Francisco Castro Ada pioneered the development of the Saipan International Airport. In the recent commemorative ceremony marking the 25th year of the Saipan International Airport, he was acknowledged by Herman Bliss of the Federal Aviation Administration as "the quiet man and catalyst in keeping the local momentum going during those early days." The completion of the Saipan International Airport launched a new age in Saipan's economic development attracting the services of major airline carriers .

In 1971, under his leadership, Mr. Ada seized the opportunity to transform the then Mariana Islands District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, into a major Pacific Islands tourism destination when the district became eligible to apply for a matching grant for airport development and improvement under the National airport Airways Development Act. Undaunted by the requirement that local governments must put up one fourth of the cost and fortified by the strong support of the airlines, the local tourism industry, and the Mariana Islands District Legislature, Mr. Ada heeded the advice of Leigh Fisher, a prominent airport financing consultant who recommended that, while the Marianas district had no money, it

could raise the needed funds through a bid of the prime concession at the airport and by requiring the successful bidder to pay an advanced fee. Drawn by the business prospect of the airport's prime concession, international corporation Duty Free Shoppers Limited placed a successful bid of \$5 million which then became the district government's matching fund.

Mr. Ada spearheaded the formation of the Airline Technical Committee, composed principally of Continental Air **Micronesian** and Japan Airlines and officials of the Mariana Islands District Government to oversee the airport project. Upon the selection of Isley Field as the site of the new airport, the committee, which was essentially a partnership between the government and private sectors, worked on the design of the terminal buildings. With the committee's instruction that the terminal buildings must be of island motif, the sweeping rooflines of terminal buildings were drawn and constructed becoming an enduring architectural feature which has influenced subsequent expansion of the airport. In 1972, construction at Isley Field began in earnest and the new Saipan International Airport was officially completed in 1975.

Along with the physical structure of the airport, Mr. Ada was also pivotal in the establishment of the Mariana Islands Airport Authority ("**MIAA**"), the predecessor of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Testifying before the Congress of Micronesia on the bill to create the MIAA, District Administrator Ada called the authority "an integral and inseparable part of the Saipan International Airport," to be directly responsible for administering and managing the airport and to be self-supporting by earmarking for its operation and maintenance all the revenue to be generated from the airport. Established as a public corporation, the financing of the **MIAA** was considered at the time to be bold and innovative, an approach Mr. Ada used to free up the district's budget for other capital improvement projects.

To his credit, the Saipan International Airport stands as Mr. Ada's lasting legacy to the people of Saipan. It is therefore appropriate for the Third Senatorial Delegation to acknowledge and recognize Mr. Ada's vision and dedication by naming the Saipan International Airport as the **"Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport."**

Section 2. Naming of the Saiuan International Airport. The Saipan International Airport is hereby named the **"Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport."**

Section 3. Consultation. The Governor, in consultation with the Honorable Francisco C. Ada, shall prepare a dedication plan marking the naming of the facility within a reasonable time **after** the effective date of this Act.

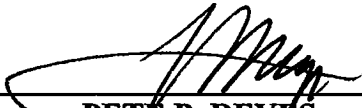
Section 4. Authorization. The Governor is hereby **respectfully** requested to use his official representation allowance to purchase and install a permanent bronze plate bearing the name of **"Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport"** which shall be permanently inscribed on the airport building. Further, the Governor is hereby requested to host a reception on the date of the ceremony honoring the Honorable Francisco C. Ada.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances should be held valid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.


Section 6. Savines Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY;




PETE P. REYES
Chairman
Saipan and Northern Islands
Legislative Delegation



HEINZ S. HOFSCHEIDER
Speaker
House of Representatives

Approved this 14th day of October, 2002.



JUAN N. BABAUTA
Governor