

# Decolonization committee continues talks on self-determination

By Geraldine Castillo  
geraldine@myguam.com  
Variety News Staff

STIRRING awareness and reigniting discussions of Guam's political status has been the mission of Edward Alvarez for over a year as the executive director of the Committee on Decolonization.

Alvarez spoke before members of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam during their weekly meeting yesterday about the work and plans of the Committee on Decolonization and how it's important to continue those discussions as they determine Guam's future political status.

Over the course of the new Calvo administration, the primary agenda had been all about raising awareness. According to Alvarez, the Committee on Decolonization sought to raise awareness through outreaches, school visits, veteran groups and populating the decolonization registry.

"When I first came into office, there wasn't anything being talked about on decolonization or political status – it was a dead issue," Alvarez said. "So we began reigniting this issue. I began going around to schools ... I talked to over 500 kids last year and got them to know the basics – about why we are doing this, why it's important and how it affects their daily lives."

Alvarez said such discussions are important because of Guam's need to modernize its relationship with the United States. He also noted that under the United Nations Charter, it's important for all people to exercise self-determination.

## Opportune

"So that's why we want to modernize this relationship – because we're in the midst of a military buildup," Alvarez stated. "But it's also an opportune time for us get this done. We want to have the ground rules of engagement in place before we negotiate a military buildup with the U.S. Gov. Calvo has made it clear that it needs to happen – we need to be partners in this buildup instead of being told what to do."

With the resurgence of discussions on political status, Alvarez has seen its evolution to becoming a centerpiece discussion and wants to continue the talks this year.

He said the overarching goal of the governor's Committee

on Decolonization is to hold a plebiscite vote no later than 2015, ratify a constitution, and to gain Congress' approval and finally be delisted off the colonization listing.

This year, Alvarez said, the committee will be focusing on building advocacy in order to raise awareness. Those efforts include gaining international attention through networking with celebrities.

"Now that the awareness is raised, it still needs to be reinforced constantly," he stated.

"We're looking to do this – to

get advocacy – because it makes no sense for us to go every year to the United Nations and tell [them] everything that has happened here and just go home and wait for the next conference," Alvarez said. "This effort is going to take international and national attention to get it done, the attention it deserves; and hopefully we will discuss that."

► Edward Alvarez, the executive director of the Committee on Decolonization, said his group is seeking to raise awareness through outreaches, school visits, veteran groups and populating the decolonization registry.



## BUNDLE AND SAVE ON THE BEST NETWORK



**SIGN UP TODAY & GET**  
**2 MONTHS FREE INTERNET**  
**PLUS 6 MONTHS FREE UPSPEED!**

\* Conditions apply. Please see stores for details.



AAFES • Agaña Shopping Center • Guam Premier Outlets  
Micronesia Mall • NEX • Upper Tumon  
644-4482 | gta.net



# Marianas Variety

The Local &amp; Regional Newspaper

Guam  
Edition

Vol. 07 No. 121

©2012 Marianas Variety

Monday • March 19, 2012

www.mvguam.com

75¢

## Bond bill now with Calvo

By Therese Hart  
therese@mvguam.com  
Variety News Staff

THE compromise \$100 million bond bill that the Legislature passed last week is now in the hands of Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo and lawmakers are urging him to

sign the bill into law.

Substituted Bill 414 was passed by a 13-1 vote on Friday and immediately transmitted to the governor.

The bill authorizes \$100 million in bonds and should clear the way for the use of these proceeds for

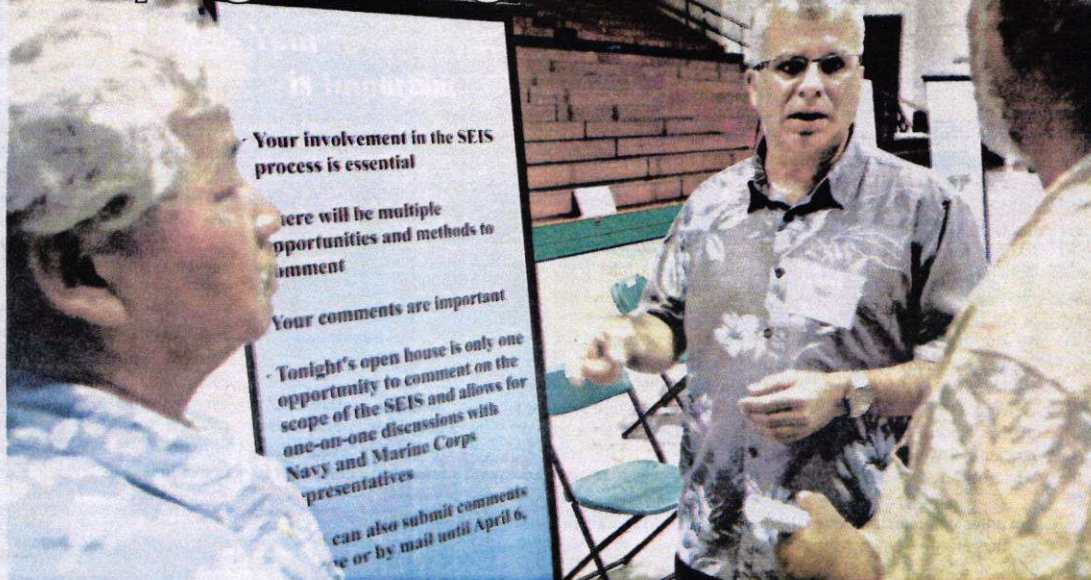
payment of income tax refunds, as requested by Calvo. It also makes good on money owed to the Retirement Fund, authorizes payment for upcoming health insurance premiums, and gives Calvo the option to use the proceeds for other purposes, such

as school repairs and the purchase of school buses, according to a press release from Sen. Rory Respicio's office.

Earlier this year, Respicio and 11 other senators sponsored another bond measure, Bill 423,

BOND BILL continued on page 2

### Scoping meeting



Dan Cecchine, Joint Guam Program Office environmental director, provides information to Frank Schacher, right, and Albert San Agustin, left, during Saturday morning's scoping meeting held at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao. Both Schacher and San Agustin are with the Chamorro Tribe Organization. See story and additional photo on page 3. Matt Weiss / Variety

## 49 individuals named in Davis lawsuit

By Janela Buhain Carrera  
janela@mvguam.com  
Variety News Staff

ARNOLD "Dave" Davis has submitted the names of 49 individuals he believes may have evidence that could help him prove his plebiscite case.

Among the 49 named are Atty. Julian Aguon for the defendants;

Joseph Artero-Cameron; Michael Bevacqua; Gov. Eddie Calvo; Hope Cristobal; former governor Carl Gutierrez; Sens. Judi Guthertz, Ben Pangelinan, and Aline Yamashita; Vice Speaker Benjamin Cruz; Speaker Judi Won Pat; University of Guam President Robert Underwood; UOG professor and politi-

cal analyst Ron McNinch, and former senators Robert Klitzkie and Jesse Lujan.

According to court documents, the 49 individuals may have "discoverable information that the disclosing party may use to support its claim."

Some of the information the individuals have relate to "racial

appeals," "statements characterizing the plebiscite as having a racial character," "advocacy for official discrimination," and "the racial intent of the challenged statutes."

Davis' lawyer, Atty. J. Christian Adams, said he plans on commencing depositions later

DAVIS continued on page 2

### INSIDE

#### MG READER POLL

Q: Should Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School be used for a private charter school?

A: Yes

45%

B: No

55%

Total votes: 69  
As of 10 p.m. March 18

### ENTERTAINMENT

CLOONEY  
ARRESTED IN  
EMBASSY  
PROTEST

Page 16



### HEALTHY EATING

ALL FRUIT IS  
FANTASTIC ... BUT  
GUAVA IS NO. 1!  
SOME studies find a  
lower risk of cancer  
among people who eat  
more fruits and vegeta-  
bles rich in carotenoids  
and vitamin C. Page 14

### SPORTS

CONNECTICUT  
CRUISES PAST  
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M



Page 22

### LISTEN

Catch today's  
headlines ON AIR  
through our radio  
station partners:



STAY CONNECTED  
STAY INFORMED

POST COMMENTS  
SEARCH ARCHIVES

www.mvguam.com

