

Legislature urged to keep a journal

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A local resident wants the Guam Legislature to follow through with an Organic Act provision that requires policy makers keep a journal on all public hearings.

Tim Rohr is requesting for the journal from Nov. 26, 2010 during which senators debated Bill 54-30, a measure that would establish the informed consent requirement for a woman considering abortion.

Rohr said he asked for a copy of the journal from that date of the session but was informed that it was not available. A follow-up request was made again in January and February, but he said he had not received word from the lawmakers.

“Basically the law is not being followed in terms of government transparency,” Rohr said.

He then sent a letter last Thursday to Speaker Judi Won Pat, explaining his reasons for asking for the journal and the next day was asked if he’d like a video copy of the session. Rohr declined, saying he wanted the written journal.

The Variety spoke to Won Pat about the request and she said that she has already tasked the clerk of the Legislature to prioritize Rohr’s request for the journal and that it would be available within three to four weeks.

Won Pat, meanwhile, said that the journal is not the only item the clerk of the legislature is handling and stressed that when they are in session, the clerk can’t just drop the proceedings of the session to work on the document.

“Transcribing takes time and is something that can’t be done right away,” she emphasized, adding there is no time frame in the Organic Act with regard to the journal.



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