

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 13-174

RE: C.R. NO. 13-132/HESA

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF MR. NENA S. NENA, SECRETARY OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 26, 2004

The Honorable Peter M. Christian  
Speaker, Thirteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fourth Regular Session, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs to which was referred C.R. No. 13-132, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. NENA S. NENA TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,".

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

The nomination of Mr. Nena S. Nena to be the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs (HESA) was transmitted to Congress via Presidential Communication No. 13-194. The President, in his communication, outlines Mr. Nena's qualifications to serve in the position.

The Presidential Communication No. 13-194 states that Mr. Nena has served as a school teacher, Hospital Administrator (for eight years), Kosrae State Director, Department of Agriculture and Land (for four years), and most recently, as Kosrae State Director, Department of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (since 1999). Mr. Nena was educated at the Silliman University in the Philippines where he was awarded a B.A. degree in Sociology. He also was awarded the degree of Masters of Health Administration & Planning from the University of Hawaii.

Your Committee held a public hearing on Thursday, October 7, 2004 in Kosrae State on the nomination of Mr. Nena S. Nena to the position of Secretary of the FSM Department of HESA. The nominee was present at the public hearing in Kosrae and was given an opportunity to express his views on the Department. The nominee personally thanked your committee for conducting public hearings on C.R. No. 13-123 in Kosrae. He also acknowledged with humility President Urusemal's confidence in nominating him to the position of Secretary of the FSM Department of

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HESA. He considers himself very privileged and honored to be nominated to a cabinet position at the National Government.

Further, the nominee indicated that, if he is confirmed, he will need the cooperative effort from the Department Staff, the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of the National Government. The nominee indicated that his role as Secretary would be facilitative as well as coordinative with respect to the delivery of health, education and social affairs programs in the nation. He commented that he is faced with a challenge to reform the Department to be in compliance with new requirements adopted by the JEMCO in compliance with the Amended Compact. He believes in the decentralization of project implementation at the state level, to ensure that the states are involved in the administration of federal programs.

Your Committee invited comments from interested members of the public in attendance at the public hearing in Kosrae. One well-spoken citizen described the nominee as a man of principle, and is confident that the nominee can perform the job provided that he is given the support of the Department. He also said that having a Kosraean on the National cabinet will boost the state confidence in the work of the central government.

The Director of Health Services, Mr. Arthy Nena, strongly supported the nominee, given his solid educational background in Health Administration & Planning. He noted that his educational background in health will be of benefit generally.

Your Committee notes that Kosrae State Government is concerned that there are a number of vacancies on the National Government cabinet at this late point in time and urged that the process be completed as soon as possible.

Your Committee further solicited comments on this resolution from both the executive and legislative leaders in each of the FSM States. The responses your Committee received from Chuuk State Legislature, Yap State Legislature and Kosrae State Legislature regarding C.R. No. 13-132 were all favorable.

Your Committee also conducted a public hearing on Monday, October 18, 2004 at the new Congress Committee Meeting Room. In attendance were staff from the Department of HESA and a representative from the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services. Your Committee noted, however, that no one from the education sector at the National level and in the States submitted any comment, one way or the other.

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Mr. Wincener J. David, Acting Director of Health Services, Pohnpei State, attended the public hearing representing the Pohnpei Department of Health Services. He indicated that he strongly supports the nominee because of his qualifications. Tony Otto from the President's Office indicated that the President nominated Mr. Nena because of his background in health related matters.

Your Committee would like to make the following technical amendment:

1. Page 1, line 11 - delete "Fifth Special" and insert "Fourth Regular" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee strongly believes that Mr. Nena has acquired the leadership ability necessary to take on the challenges as Secretary of the Department of HESA. As such, your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 13-132, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 13-132, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Resio S. Moses  
Resio S. Moses, Chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, Vice chairman

/s/ Moses A. Nelson  
Moses A. Nelson, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert  
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou  
Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

/s/ Ramon Peyal  
Ramon Peyal, member

Claude H. Phillip, member