

S.C.R. NO. 13-50

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 13-42, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOSEPH J. HABUCHMAI TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On August 26, 2003, after consultations with the Governor of the State of Yap, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia submitted the nomination of Mr. Joseph J. Habuchmai to the Congress for confirmation.

See P.C. No. 13-48. Mr. Habuchmai has been nominated by the President to serve as the member representing Yap State on the Board of Regents of the College of Micronesia-FSM ("COM-FSM"). He currently serves as the Lt. Governor of the State of Yap and interim Director of the Yap Department of Education.

Lt. Governor Habuchmai's nomination was considered at your committee's August 29, 2003 public hearing on nominations. Witnesses called before your committee at that hearing included the FSM President's representative, the COM-FSM Board of Regents, the COM-FSM President, interested members of the public, and others. Unfortunately, because Congress did not receive Mr. Habuchmai's nomination until August 28, 2003, the nominee, who resides in Yap, was unable to attend the hearing.

The current President of COM-FSM, Michael Tatum, testified that everyone at the college is thrilled at the prospect of having Lt. Governor Habuchmai as a member of the Board of Regents. He was described as "a fine professional educator, hard-working, and well-liked". According to Mr. Tatum, the College was "saddened" when Mr. Habuchmai was elected Lt. Governor of Yap (although happy for the nominee and the people of Yap) because it meant he had to leave the College. According to Mr. Otto, the FSM President's representative, the nominee also has the full support of the FSM President.

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs is well-acquainted with the nominee and has considered the testimony of all of the witnesses. In light of his "extensive background in education", and

especially given the testimony of the current President of the College, your committee recommends confirming the nomination, and hopes that Mr. Habuchmai's many current responsibilities will not interfere with his service on the Board.

Because your committee disfavors lengthy resolutions, your committee recommends the following amendments to C.R. No. 13-42:

1. Delete lines 1 through 4 in their entirety.
2. Line 8 - delete "a member of" and insert "the member representing Yap State on".
3. Line 9 - delete "and".
4. Line 12 - after "Micronesia-FSM, " insert "the Board of Regents of the College of Micronesia-FSM,".

With these amendments, your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 13-42 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 13-42,
C.D.1.

Signed by Senators Moses, Aritos, Nelson, Kansou and Peyal