

S.C.R. NO. 13-58

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 13-39, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. MARCUS SAMO TO BE THE MEMBER REPRESENTING CHUUK STATE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On August 19 2003, after consultation with the Governor of the State of Chuuk, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia submitted the nomination of Mr. Marcus Samo to the Congress for confirmation. See Presidential Communication ("P.C.") No.13-43. Mr. Samo has been nominated by the President to serve as the Chuuk State representative on the newly-created National Government Employees' Health Insurance Plan ("NGEHIP") Board of Directors. See P.L. No. 12-77, codified at 52 FSMC ch. 4. He currently serves as the Health Planner and Chief of Health Planning, Family Services and Chronic Diseases Section, FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs.

Your committee held a public hearing on August 29, 2003 to consider Mr. Samo's nomination. Witnesses called before your committee included the nominee, the President's representative, representatives of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs, interested members of the public and others. Unfortunately, at the hearing, your committee was advised that Mr. Samo was off-island and therefore unable to attend the meeting to speak on his own behalf.

However, Dr. Jeff Benjamin, a colleague of the nominee and himself a nominee (for the position of HESA Secretary), spoke on Mr. Samo's behalf.

As noted above, the NGEHIP Board of Directors is a newly-created board established to "oversee the [NGEHI]Plan and the assets of the Employees' Health Insurance Fund." 52 FSMC sec. 407(1). Appointed members serve for a period of three years, except that initial appointments to the Board are to be for "staggered" terms. Id. at sec. 407(3).

Testimony received at the hearing indicated that Mr. Samo is willing to serve in the position. According to Dr. Benjamin, Mr. Samo recently attended an insurance-related "workshop" at Harvard University and "is doing a great job." According to the President's representative, the nominee has the full support of the President. A copy of the nominee's

extensive resume is attached for your reference. On September 4, 2003, your committee learned from Presidential Communication No. 13-56 that Mr. Samo is being nominated to serve on the Board for a term of 3 years.

Based on the information received at the hearing and in writing, your committee recommends confirmation of Mr. Marcus Samo to a term of 3 years as a member of the NGEHIP Board of Directors. However, because your committee disfavors lengthy nomination resolutions, and because there are some technical errors in the resolution transmitted by the Executive, your committee recommends the following amendments to C.R. No. 13-39:

1. Title, line 4 - delete "Program" and insert "Plan" in lieu thereof.
 2. Page 1- delete lines 1 through 16 in their entirety.
 3. Page 1, line 18 - after "that the" insert "Congress hereby gives its advice and consent to the".
 4. Page 1, line 19 - delete "is hereby confirmed" and insert "to serve as the Chuuk State representative on the National Government Employees' Health Insurance plan Board of Directors for a term of three years" in lieu thereof.
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1. Page 2, line 4 - delete "Program" and insert "Plan" in lieu thereof.

With these amendments, your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 13-39 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 13-39, C.D.1.

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