STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14-1

RE: C.B. NO. 14-8/EXAFF

SUBJECT: RENOVATE THE FSM EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND SUVA

MAY ____, 2005

The Honorable Peter M. Christian Speaker, Fourteenth Congress Federated States of Micronesia First Regular Session, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs to which was jointly referred C.B. No. 14-8 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$222,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 TO RENOVATE THE FSM EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND SUVA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Members of your committee visited our embassy in Washington D.C. in April, 2005 upon hearing news that the building that houses our embassy is in dire need of repair. Based on this visit, your committee reports that our embassy in Washington is in need of major and immediate repairs. The façade of the building was completely worn and not securely fastened. Its represents a potential danger to our employees and those who visit the embassy. Also, the building has become infested with rats. In our brief visit we noticed more than two dozen rats within the building. Extermination attempts in the past have failed because of the state of the building. This rat problem also subjects the employees of our embassy and our visitors to unsanitary and unhealthy conditions.

Your committee notes that the President has requested \$150,000 in the FY06 budget for such renovations, however, your committee believes that there is significant urgency to commence the renovations as soon as possible and due to the repairs needed to the façade of the building the actual cost of renovations is \$200,000 and therefore your committee recommends that \$200,000 be appropriated from the FY05 budget.

Based on recent visits to Suva by members of your committee and a statement prepared by the staff of the embassy in Suva, your committee

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also believes that the embassy in Suva requires immediate repairs at a cost of \$22,000 and recommends the appropriation of \$22,000 from the FY05 budget.

The current state of disrepair of our embassies in Washington D.C. and Suva reflect very poorly of the nation of the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly given their proximity to the decision-makers of the United States and Fijian Government. Your committee believes that renovated buildings in their current location is both necessary and desirable.

C.B. No. 14-8 identifies the Ambassadors to the United States of America and Fiji, respectively, as the allottee of the funds, since they will oversee the renovations.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 14-8 and recommends its passage on First Reading, and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading, subject to concurrence by your Committee on Ways and Means.

ASHINGTON D.C. AND SUVA							
Respectfully submitted,							
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