

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-62

RE: C.R. NO. 15-63/J&GO

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JUNIOR NOMAU TO BE THE
POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA

NOVEMBER 22, 2007

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2007

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations ("J&GO"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-63 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JUNIOR NOMAU TO
BE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Mr. Junior Nomau has been nominated by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to be the Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia. Title 39, section 103(1) of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia sets out that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress. Before its own consideration of the nominee, your committee assumes that, as this nomination has been submitted by the President, the President has made a thorough review and screening of the nominee's abilities and qualifications for the position.

Mr. Nomau's curriculum vitae was distributed at the public hearing regarding his nomination that took place in the morning of Tuesday, November 20, 2007 in the Congress Hearing Room. Mr. Nomau is from the State of Chuuk and is a graduate, in 1992, of Chuuk High School, where he received the Outstanding Senior Award. He went to attend the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei for one year only and left without earning a diploma or certificate.

Mr. Nomau has been employed since July 2007 as a Public Information Officer with the Chuuk Department of Health Services. Between April 2005 and April 2007, he served as a Representative at the 8th Chuuk State Legislature. From 1997 until 2005, the nominee was employed as a Postal Clerk with the FSM Postal Service. From 1995 until 1997, we worked as an Administrative Assistant with the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation and from 1992 until 1994 as an Assistant Clerk with the

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Weno Municipal Council.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Your committee has received four written comments regarding this nomination. The Governor of the State of Chuuk, Wesley Simina, offers his "unequivocal, full and complete support" on the nomination, saying that despite the nominee's youth, he believes the nominee has the necessary leadership skills to be the Postmaster General of the FSM.

Governor Anefal of the State of Yap writes that, in view of the limited information available to him on the qualifications of the nominee, he has no particular objection and defers to the President's assessment of the nominee.

Mr. Kinchiro Kincho, Postmaster for the State of Chuuk, writes that he strongly supports the nomination, noting that, during his time with the Postal Service, he was an outstanding employee. The nominee also served as acting Postmaster in Mr. Kincho's absence, a responsibility he undertook admirably.

Mr. Lyndon P. Abraham, the Kosrae Postmaster, writes that he does not support the nomination, with the reason that Mr. Nomau does not possess sufficient experience to be the FSM Postmaster General. The FSM is currently working with the recently restored US domestic postal service; this work requires a seasoned professional in the role of Postmaster General. Mr. Abraham concluded with the comment that Mr. Nomau may prove to be a good candidate in the future, although not at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

Your committee held a public hearing on the nomination on the afternoon of Saturday, November 17, 2007.

Mr. Nomau participated, along with staff of the National Postal Services, including Albert Falcam, Pohnpei Postmaster. Present also were Chairman Sitan, Vice-Chairman Primo and Senators Halbert, Nelson, Neth, Urusemal and Welly. Speaker Figir also participated in the hearing.

Mr. Nomau said he had been contacted by the President regarding this nomination in the month of October 2007 and that he accepted without

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hesitation. In response to a question regarding his experience as a manager, he said he had through his experience as a representative at the Chuuk State Legislature and through being a Postal Clerk. In his work as a Postal Clerk, the nominee said, he had been the "number two" person in the office and had acted as Postmaster from time to time.

The nominee said, if confirmed, he will work to improve the postal services of the FSM. He mentioned improving our infrastructure through renovating our postal buildings. The nominee also said he will work with the US to get the best postal services for the FSM and work to improve postal services to the outer islands.

Mr. Nomau stated that the operating expenses of the National Postal Service are currently more than its revenue; therefore, he said, he will work to improve philatelic sales and other revenue-generating activities so that the Postal Service can pay for more of its own operations. When asked if he was prepared to either reduce the number of employees or the variety of postal services, the nominee said he had not as yet made a specific plan.

The nominee commented that he is not happy with the current operations of the National Postal Service and that he is prepared to relocate to Pohnpei, if confirmed.

In response to a question as to why he left his position as Postal Clerk with the Postal Service, Mr. Nomau responded that it was after he was elected to the Chuuk State Legislature.

Mr. Nomau was asked if he had experience as a negotiator. He responded that, in his role as Postal Clerk, he had negotiated with the landlord of the Chuuk State postal building. He had also learned negotiating through his position as a Chuuk State legislative representative. He said he is capable of writing position papers.

The Pohnpei Postmaster, Mr. Albert Falcam, said he is comfortable with the nominee and that he knew Mr. Nomau when he was a Postal Clerk in Chuuk. He commented that, if the nominee is able to use the abilities of his staff, he will succeed.

CONCLUSION

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Based on its consideration of the qualifications of the nominee, written comments received and the public hearing, your committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-63 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 15-63.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, chairman

/s/ Fredrico O. Primo
Fredrico O. Primo, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

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

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, member