

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-71

RE: C.B. NO. 15-88/W&M

SUBJECT: TO APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$342,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE STATE OF POHNPEI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred C.B. No. 15-88, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$342,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE STATE OF POHNPEI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

C.B. No. 15-88 is a bill to appropriate a sum of \$342,000 from the General Fund of the Federated States of Micronesia from the fiscal year 2008 to fund public projects in the State of Pohnpei.

Your Committee on Ways and Means has considered this bill and wishes to explain the history of this specific funding. During the Seventh Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, an amount of \$300,000 was previously appropriated in Public Law No. 7-137 to fund the construction of an airstrip on the outer island of Kapingamarangi. After thirteen years or so, the funding had still not been expended for the purported project. What happened was that the people of Kapingamarangi had their own differences in choosing where to build the airstrip. When they finally decided on a suitable place to build the airstrip, the cost estimates for the engineering design and construction for the airstrip were higher than the \$300,000. After many years, the \$300,000 was still not expended but was deposited in the treasury of the Pohnpei Port Authority, and accrued interest.

On December 04, 2007, the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, Mr. Finley S. Perman, sent a communication to Honorable Dohsis Halbert informing him that the Pohnpei Port Authority had returned an amount of \$342,000 to the FSM National Government. The said amount was deposited into the FSM National Government treasury,

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and was recorded and considered as part of the revenues for fiscal year 2007, which was forwarded as revenues for fiscal year 2008.

The bill's intent is to use this \$342,000 to fund two line items: (1) Kapingamarangi airport \$300,000, (2) Kolonia Town Court house \$42,000. These are public projects in the State of Pohnpei.

Your Committee recommends the following amendments:

1. Page 1, line 6, delete "300,000", and insert "200,000" in lieu thereof.
2. Page 1, between lines 7 and 8, insert "(3) Upper Ipwal to Upper Roie Road Construction 100,000" therein as a new line item.

With these amendments, your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 15-88 and recommends its passage on First Reading, and that it be placed on the calendar for Second and Final Reading in the form attached hereto as C.B. No. 15-88, C.D. 1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, chairman

Roosevelt D. Kansou, vice chairman

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

Claude H. Phillip, member

Fredrico O. Primo, member

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member