

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-73

RE: C.R. NO. 15-78/HESA

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. RUFINO MAURICIO TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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 Health, Education and Social Affairs ("HESA"), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-78 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. RUFINO MAURICIO TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Dr. Rufino Mauricio has been nominated by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to be the Director of the newly established Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation. Title 2, section 207 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia sets out that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Dr. Mauricio's curriculum vitae is included in Presidential Communication 15-121. Some points are summarized here. Dr. Mauricio holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Oregon, granted in 1993. From 2003-2007 he served as the Assistant Secretary for the Division of Social Affairs in the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs and as Secretary-General for the FSM National Commission for UNESCO. He has previously served as the FSM's National Historic Preservation Officer and National Staff Archaeologist.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Your committee held a public hearing on the nomination on the morning of Thursday, February 7, 2008. Present were Chairman Urusemal as well as Senators Welly and Primo.

Dr. Mauricio began by affirming that he accepts the nomination and remarking that he wishes to continue to serve the FSM. He believes that the recent of the Office of National Archives, Culture and

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Historic Preservation is long overdue and asserted that the national government should take a lead role in the preservation of our culture and national heritage.

The nominee remarked on the fear that we in the FSM are in the process of losing much of our national culture, in its diverse expression in our islands and each of our states. He noted that the national government has always collaborated with the states in terms of cultural matters.

The nominee stated that, if confirmed, his first priority would be to pursue the President's proposal to build a multi-purpose building. This would serve as housing and display centre for our national treasures as well as provide a conference area and other uses.

There was a question regarding the nominee's plans for education so that younger generations can learn about traditional Micronesian culture. Dr. Mauricio responded that there is currently no such plan at the national level, but that they do exist at state levels. He commented that he would like to put a national plan in place but noted however, that traditional education is best done at home and we need to be cautious in bringing this into our schools. Dr. Mauricio noted that our cultural dynamics are changing and that much of Micronesian culture is unrecorded, with the exception of the contribution made by the Micronesia Seminar, a private non-profit, non-governmental organization that is engaged in public education.

Dr. Mauricio commented that we are losing certain aspects of our national culture, for example, performing arts and national dress, as our people have increased exposure to other culture, mostly American, through television and the internet. The nominee also mentioned the infiltration of English into our local languages. He repeated his intention to prioritize the construction of a multi-purpose building to address these concerns, noting that there are no such museums or cultural areas in the states.

Dr. Mauricio also stated that, if confirmed, he will request funding to hire more staff. The Office currently has five staff, including the Director position. Dr. Mauricio stated he would be looking for an archivist and an information specialist.

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The nominee mentioned that four sites in the FSM, one in each state, are being presented to UNESCO for consideration as world heritage sites. These are a Yap stone money bank, the sunken ships in the Chuuk lagoon, the Nan Madol ruins of Pohnpei and the Lelu ruins of Kosrae. Proposals are currently being written.

Dr. Mauricio stated that, in his view, the FSM states are partners of the national government in terms of cultural and historical preservation. He noted that the states' historical preservation offices have never been uncooperative with the national government.

**COMMENTS FROM STATES**

Written comments regarding this nomination have been received from the states. Each expresses support for the nominee.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the above hearings, your committee is satisfied with the qualifications and dedication of the nominee and recommends him with confidence for the position of Director of the Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation.

Your Committee on HESA is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-78 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 15-78.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Claude H. Phillip  
Claude H. Phillip, vice chairman

/s/ Dohsis Halbert  
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou  
Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

/s/ Resio S. Moses  
Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Setiro Paul  
Setiro Paul, member

/s/ Joe N. Suka  
Joe N. Suka, member