

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-23

RE: C.R. NO. 16-18/H&SA

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MARCUS H. SAMO - MICARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs ("H&SA"), to which was referred C.R. No. 16-18 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. MARCUS H. SAMO TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF CHUUK ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR MICARE, PURSUANT TO TITLE 52 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AS AMENDED.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Mr. Marcus H. Samo has been nominated by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, at the recommendation of the Governor of Chuuk State, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of MiCare as the representative of the State of Chuuk. Title 52, section 407 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia provides that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Mr. Samo's extensive resume is included in Presidential Communication 16-24 and is summarized here. Mr. Samo has been employed by the National Government Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs since 1994, in a number of roles, including Health Planner, Chief of Health Planning, and Epidemiologist. Since December 2004, Mr. Samo has been the Assistance Secretary of the Department.

Mr. Samo also acted as MCH Project Specialist for the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) Secretariat in Hawaii for two years. He has published a number of articles and reports on health related issues, as well as authored a chapter a book published by UH Press.

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Samo is a graduate of Xavier High School and holds a B.A. in Psychology from Creighton University in Nebraska and a M.P.H. in health services administration and planning for the University of Hawaii School of Public Health.

Mr. Samo has been serving on the Board of Directors of MiCare since 2003 and acts as the Chairman of the Board.

Your committee is confident that Mr. Samo has applicable experience and is well qualified to continue to serve on the MiCare Board.

On September 10, 2009, your committee held a hearing with the candidate, which was also attended by Mr. Nena S. Nena, the Administrator for MiCare, Vita A. Skilling of the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs and Steve George of the FSM Department of Justice.

At the hearing Members of the Committee expressed concern that serving on the Board might take Mr. Samo away from his duties with the Department. Mr. Samo responded that in the past he has been able to manage his time well and address the needs of both positions and that he hopes to continue to do so.

The Committee Members encouraged the candidate, if confirmed to increase the transparency of the MiCare program and to keep the subscribers informed of policy changes. Mr. Samo agreed to take this into consideration and noted that the Board will have a public relations specialist to handle these issues. The nominee did clarify for the committee that policy changes are not implemented until proposed changes have been communicated to the states and they have signed off, indicating their agreement. Sometimes there are small adjustments in the implementation, but not policy changes from what was agreed to.

Your committee expressed its appreciation for the candidate's frankness, and encouraged him to keep in mind its suggestions should he be confirmed.

CONCLUSION

Based on its consideration of the qualifications of the nominee, your Committee on H&SA is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 16-18 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 16-18.

