

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-34

RE: C.R. NO. 16-08/EXAFF

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. AKILLINO SUSAI A FOR
AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 16-08, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. AKILLINO H. SUSAI A TO BE THE AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 207 OF THE TITLE 2 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.

Your Committee held a hearing on July 30, 2009 in the State of Yap regarding this nomination (along with a number of other matters). The hearing was attended by Governor Anefal, Senators Henry Falan, Clement Mululap and other representatives of Yap State government.

Generally the leadership of Yap was in support of the nominee. However, the leadership of Yap raised a concern on the process involved in the appointment of the nominee because what the leadership understood was that the nominee was currently confirmed to a position in Hawaii. Hence, there is a need to equalize the representatives for the overseas posts.

Furthermore, your Committee held a hearing on August 7, 2009 in the State of Kosrae regarding this nomination (along with a number of other matters). The hearing was attended by Governor Weilbacher, Senators Ilai Abraham, Carson Sigrah and other representatives of Kosrae State government.

The same sentiment regarding the equal representatives for the overseas posts was discussed. In addition, the leadership commented that there is no question that the nominee is qualified, but the leadership prefers someone who has experience in international

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relation for this position. Again, generally the leadership of Kosrae was in support of the nominee.

Your Committee sent letters to the leadership of Chuuk State on September 23, 2009 and to leadership of Pohnpei on September 28, 2009 soliciting comments on the nominee. As of now, the Committee has not received any comments from them. However, on C.R. No. 16-08, your Committee was informed that the leadership of Pohnpei had sent letters in May 2009 supporting the nomination of Akillino Susaia.

Your Committee has attached the nominee's CV to this report. The CV is summarized below.

Mr. Susaia is well known to your Committee, having previously been the Secretary of Economic Affairs and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation Communications and Infrastructure under the previous administration. Currently, the nominee is the Consul General at the Consulate Office in Hawaii. Your Committee is also mindful of the need to fill quickly the Ambassador position in the People's Republic of China to strengthen the bilateral relations FSM has with PRC. Your Committee therefore recommends that Congress confirm the nominee.

Accordingly, your Committee offers an amendment to the resolution as follows:

1. Page 2, line 3, delete "First Regular Session, 2009", and insert "Second Regular Session, September 2009" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 16-08, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 16-08, C.D.1

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Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

_____/s/
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

_____/s/
Isaac V. Figir, member

Dion G. Neth, member

_____/s/
Setiro Paul, member

_____/s/
Joe N. Suka, member