

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-108

RE: C.B. NO. 17-104/EXAFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. IGNACIO
STEPHEN TO THE POSITION OF FSM CONSUL GENERAL
IN HAWAII

MARCH 28, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Special Session, 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 17-104, entitled:

"TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. IGNACIO STEPHEN TO
THE POSITION OF FSM CONSUL GENERAL IN HONOLULU,
HAWAII.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The nominee is well known to your Committee and to members of Congress. As head of the Budget Office, the nominee has appeared as a witness many times in Congressional hearings dealing with important matters of public fiscal policy. The nominee also has an extensive record of governmental experience.

Your committee held a public hearing on February 2, 2012. The nominee testified that he really wanted the position, had been interested in the position ever since he participated in the Law of the Sea Conference, and has asked the President for the position. The nominee emphasized his extensive experience in government and also in the private sector. In particular he mentioned that he worked in real

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estate and insurance in Honolulu, thereby acquiring a good knowledge of the American business environment.

The nominee stated that he has good relations with the Chuukese community in Honolulu and is willing to work closely with other groups. When asked about his plans, the nominee emphasized communication with the FSM citizens and the need for more education. He identified the issues facing the office as:

- Compact Impact;
- Citizen participation;
- Employment of FSM citizens, and a need for more training opportunities; and
- Encouragement of youth to stay in school.

When asked how he sees his role, he testified that the Consul General needs to be active and take a leadership role. He should work through the existing community networks. He should seek to interact with state officials.

When asked how he felt about external groups doing advocacy work for the FSM, the witness testified that there should be a limit to what they do, but he would defer to the Home Office and the Embassy in Washington.

Upon prompting the nominee listed the following as relevant to the position:

- he has helped students with their repatriation problems;
- while working for the FSM Postal Service he had dealings with the US, especially regarding the sale of stamps;
- he has represented the Catholic Church at international meetings; and
- he has a wealth of experience in government.

Based on its experience with the nominee and his testimony, your Committee is satisfied that he can perform well in the position.

Your Committee would like to offer the following technical amendment to C.R. No. 17-104:

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1. Page 1, line 13, delete "Third Regular Session" and insert
"Third Special Session" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. 17-104, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. 17-104, C.D.1.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

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

Tony H. Otto, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member