

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-126

RE: C.R. NO. 17-126/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GRANT ASSISTANCE IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$19,360 FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTERS
FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

MARCH 31, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was jointly referred C.R. No. 17-126, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,360 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE."

begs leave to report as follows:

On March 22 and 26, 2012 your Committee held hearings regarding the above-captioned C.R. No. 17-126 with the Department of Health and Social Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Justice and the Office of Statistics, Budget, & Economic Management,

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Overseas Development Assistance & Compact Management (SBOC) and the Office of the President. Although your Committee held hearings on this grant on two separate days many of its basic questions remained at the close of the hearing conducted on March 26 as the relevant members from the various departments were unavailable due to off-island travel. As a result your Committee requested detailed information be submitted prior to any further action by Congress.

Lisa Barrow from the Department of Health and Social Affairs made an immediate written response to the Committee's request for additional information. It is now the Committee's understanding that the grant will be used to further strengthen the Federated States of Micronesia's surveillance system for infectious disease. Moving forward in the surveillance of infectious disease, vaccine preventable disease and gastrointestinal illness is important for the Federated States of Micronesia, the recent dengue outbreak in Yap is an example of the type of diseases that would be investigated. This grant would fund a surveillance coordinator who would in turn work with an epidemiologist on these issues. The Department of Health and Social Affairs strongly believes that this grant will continue for at least four years and would make a significant long-term impact on the prevention and mitigation of these diseases.

Your Committee reiterates its past request that grants for under \$50,000 not be submitted to Congress as action by this body is not necessary and consideration of these smaller matters further slows down the progress on the larger, substantial issues. As this grant has been submitted by the President your Committee is reporting at this time.

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Your Committee is satisfied with the information provided to it regarding this project and the overall positive impact this grant would have on public health. Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-126, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

<hr/> Tony H. Otto, chairman	<hr/> /s/ Tiwiter Aritos Tiwiter Aritos, member
<hr/> /s/ Yosiwo P. George Yosiwo P. George, member	<hr/> /s/ Berney Martin Berney Martin, member
<hr/> /s/ Dohsis Halbert Dohsis Halbert, member	<hr/> /s/ Florencio S. Harper Florencio S. Harper, member
<hr/> /s/ Joseph J. Urusemal Joseph J. Urusemal, member	