

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-130

RE: C.R. No. 17-125/H&SA

SUBJECT: A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$426,000

MAY 25, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was
jointly referred C.R. No. 17-125, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
GRANT FROM THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$426,000
FOR TWO YEARS TO STRENGTHEN THE FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA'S FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM, INCLUDING ALL
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE."

begs leave to report as follows:

On March 23 and May 23, 2012 your Committee held hearings
regarding the above-captioned C.R. No. 17-125 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, Overseas
Development Assistance & Compact Management (SBOC) and the
Office of the President. At the March hearing your
Committee requested additional information on the grant
proposed in C.R. 17-125. During the second hearing on May
23 the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social
Affairs and her program manager made a presentation
regarding the food safety activities proposed under this
grant.

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Activities proposed under this grant would enhance and support current initiatives in the Department's Environmental Health Services Unit. It would provide expert training for national food inspectors, members of the food and water safety lab and other employees involved in prevention and detection of food and water borne disease. The grant would also provide a legal consultant to further review and revise the health laws and regulations in the food safety area. The Committee is generally supportive of this grant, but has requested a more detailed description of activities and budget for the grant. Also, the Committee advised the Department that it should adhere to the law and procedure for approval of grants, and Congress would appreciate that grants be submitted to it on a timely basis.

The approval process for this grant took over four years at FAO and additional time was expended on our side. Your Committee understands that the initiative regarding food safety improvement is well under way in the Department, and it does not want to further delay the implementation of this project.

Your Committee is satisfied regarding 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. 17-125, and recommends its adoption, in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, chairman

/s/ Yosiwo P. George
Yosiwo P. George, vice-chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member