

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-17

RE: C.R. NO. 17-24/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ISMAEL
DOBICH TO THE POSITION OF FSM CONSUL
GENERAL IN HONOLULU, HAWAII

AUGUST 04, 2011

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 17-24, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
ISMAEL DOBICH TO THE POSITION OF FSM CONSUL
GENERAL IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee emphasizes the importance of the Federated States of Micronesia's unique relationship with the State of Hawaii. Many citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia reside in Hawaii, and therefore it is necessary for a competent representative of the Nation to be located there to serve their needs. Our Nation needs to continue to operate the Office of the Consul General in Hawaii with efficiency, integrity and the highest levels of expertise.

Your Committee held a public hearing on July 28, 2011, with the nominee. The nominee holds a B.A. in Public Administration from the University of Guam. He has held several positions in Chuuk State government and community affairs, including National Election Commissioner, Chief Clerk for the Chuuk State Legislature, and Executive Director for the Truk Organization for Community Acton (TOCA).

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The nominee testified to the your Committee that he does not currently hold a government position. At present the nominee is very involved in church activities. He is in charge of three churches, one in Fefan, Chuuk, one in Guam and another in Honolulu. The nominee lives in Honolulu and, if confirmed, will manage, and coordinate his schedule to accommodate his position at the consulate. The nominee believes, however, that the churches are important to reach the Micronesian community.

In response to questions from Committee members, the nominee indicated that there are a substantial number of FSM citizens in Honolulu on public assistance. That fact constitutes a major issue that the FSM Consul General must handle. This is exacerbated by cultural differences: many new residents in Honolulu come from a different cultural environment. The nominee believes not much can be done to curb the problem except providing more education to the new residents, either before they leave or after they arrive. There should also be more of a push to assist with job searches. The nominee also indicated that he thought more people who found themselves on public assistance should return to the FSM.

The nominee stated that he does not have any foreign affairs experience but is a fast learner. Even though he is involved mainly with the Chuukese community, the nominee occasionally interacts with other FSM communities, for example through the activities of NOGs such as Micronesians United.

Your Committee is concerned about the lack of foreign affairs experience of this nominee. However, the nominee appears to have a good grasp of the issues facing Micronesian migrants, and his extensive contacts with the Chuukese churches would be beneficial for any dissemination of information. Your Committee believes the nominee's work with the churches is also evidence of good moral character.

Your Committee has not received any communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee. Further, your Committee defers to the President and the Department as to the decision to put forward this nominee.

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Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Ismael Dobich be confirmed as the FSM Consul General in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-24, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

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

Berney Martin, member

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, member

Wesley P. Simina, member

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