

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-172

RE: C.B. No. 17-217/W&M

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FY 2013

JANUARY 18, 2013

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir  
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Sixth Regular Session, 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred C.B. No. 17-217, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND SECTIONS 1, 6, 8, 9 AND 12 OF PUBLIC LAW NO. 17-64, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAWS NOS. 17-69 AND 17-72, TO APPROPRIATE A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET OF \$1,937,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERTED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee held meetings on January 14th and 16th, 2013, at which it considered numerous supplemental budget items.

Your Committee recommends funding of the NORMA-WCPFC membership fee. The Chairman consulted NORMA and the total membership fee is \$71,065, of which \$64,065 has already been appropriated. Your Committee recommends deappropriating the old amount of \$64,065 and appropriating the new amount of \$71,065 (Thus, \$7,000 is the net effect in additional funding for membership fees). There is an additional recommendation of \$45,000 for NORMA, with \$30,000 apportioned to a vehicle purchase and \$15,000 for representation.

Your Committee recommends funding of \$30,000 to be appropriated to assist the Palau Disaster Relief. Your Committee also recommends \$20,000 for funding the Samoa Disaster Relief. These items of

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Disaster Relief funding have been requested in separate legislation and need not be part of this Supplemental Budget Request.

Your Committee recommends an additional funding of \$200,000 to be appropriated for Palau Community College (PCC) for money owed by FSM students. \$50,000 had previously been appropriated for PCC, bringing the total to \$250,000. Your Committee notes that concern has been raised that this type of amount due to PCC is a recurring problem and not one Congress can continue to meet indefinitely. Particularly in cases where attendance at PCC does not result in meaningful education for FSM students, then the benefit to FSM for covering this expense is illusory.

Your Committee recommends funding of \$1,000,000 to be appropriated for the FSM Development Bank. Your Committee also recommends funding of \$150,000 be appropriated for the R&D Investors and Banking Symposium. Your Committee recommends \$250,000 be appropriated for the Micronesian Challenge. Your Committee also recommends \$150,000 be appropriated for the 2023 Planning Committee. It should be noted that the \$150,000 is appropriated to get the Committee started (e.g., hiring a macroeconomist) and that Congress will continue to revisit funding for subsequent activities when there is more information.

Your Committee recommends funding of \$100,000 for the FSM Supreme Court to upgrade their technological infrastructure. In the meantime, it is requested that the FSM Supreme Court use part of this amount to explore hooking into the generator used by Congress, with approval by PUC. Your Committee also recommends \$35,000 for the Public Defender's Office in Kosrae.

Finally, your Committee notes that a \$130,000 request for funding was made by the Immigration Office. While sympathetic to the request made by the Immigration, your Committee is deferring funding at this time. First, your Committee made a request to the Immigration Office for a breakdown of how these funds would be spent and still awaiting a response from Immigration to this request. Second, your Committee would like to see efforts made by Immigration to improve their Home Office before requesting funding for satellite offices.

### **Conclusion**

Your Committee on Ways and Means therefore recommends a total supplemental appropriation of \$1,937,000.

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Your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 17-217 and recommends its passage on First Reading, and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dohsis Halbert  
Dohsis Halbert, chairman

Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Roger S. Mori  
Roger S. Mori, member

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

David W. Panuelo, member

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

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, member