

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-178

RE: C.R. NO. 17-111/R&D

SUBJECT: FSM'S ACCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE
ENERGY AGENCY

JANUARY 22, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred
C.R. No. 17-111, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA'S MEMBERSHIP TO THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE
ENERGY AGENCY.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The President has transmitted Congressional Resolution No. 17-111 to
Congress through Presidential Communication No. 17-179 on January 19,
2013.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on C.R. No. 17-111 on
Wednesday, January 16, 2013. Witnesses at the hearing included the
Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, Mr. Marion
Henry, Assistant Secretary Hubert Yamada, the Secretary of the
Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lorin Robert, Deputy Assistant
Secretary, Mr. Jackson Soram, Assistant Attorney General, Miss Polle,
Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Steve Y. George and the President's
Office representative, Mr. Pelsesar Petrus.

Chairman Roger Mori gave an opportunity for the witnesses to comment
on the FSM's accession to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

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Secretary Marion Henry generally commented that the Department is in support of becoming a member to IRENA. Becoming a member of IRENA will assist this Nation's on-going development efforts in the area of renewable energy.

Your Committee learned that IRENA is an international organization established in 2009 and its office is based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The mission of IRENA is to promote the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.

Currently, there are 149 signatories and 85 members. Members include many European Union (EU) countries, the United States of America, Japan, Australia, and other Pacific Island Countries. The Pacific Island Countries that are members of IRENA include Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, the Republic of Palau, and the Kingdom of Tonga and Samoa. The IRENA's signatories with their applications for membership that are in the process of consideration include Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

One of the advantages of becoming a member to IRENA is the easy access to renewable energy development through IRENA's promotion and sharing of information including those on best renewable energy practices, assistance in setting and guiding policies, transferring of technologies, capacity building through trainings and available scholarships, and many more. Members can also seek bilateral assistances on renewable energy projects through IRENA.

Your Committee inquired with the Department why the FSM was not participating in IRENA in the first place. A staff member from the Department of Resources and Development commented that the FSM was not fully aware of the consequences, benefit and funding aspects of IRENA. Also they await adoption of the FSM Energy Policy to give guidelines in energy development. At present, the FSM requires sufficient knowledge, experience and technical expertise in the development of a renewable energy system. If the FSM becomes a member to IRENA, the FSM will have access to up-to-date and accurate information on renewable energy technologies that are suitable for the conditions in the Pacific. Secretary Henry indicated that once the FSM submits its

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application, there is a Council that will review the FSM's application to IRENA. More likely, the Council will approve the FSM's application so the Department will not come to Congress again to seek any approval in the future. Your Committee was informed that more likely the FSM's application will be favourably considered.

Your Committee wishes to offer several amendments to C.R. No. 17-111 as follows:

1. Title, line 1, after "approve", insert "the accession of" and delete "~~'s membership~~".
2. Page 1, lines 9 to 11, delete them in their entirety.
3. Page 1, line 12, delete "~~through membership of IRENA~~", and insert "by acceding to IRENA" in lieu thereof.
4. Page 1, line 18, delete "~~Third~~", and insert "Sixth" in lieu thereof.
5. Page 1, line 18, delete "~~2012~~", and insert "2013" in lieu thereof.
6. Page 1, line 19, after "approves", insert "the accession of".
7. Page 1, line 20, delete "~~'s membership~~".
8. Page 2, line 3, after "Micronesia" insert "," and delete "~~the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs~~".
9. Page 2, line 4, after "Affairs", insert "the Governor of each State and the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures".

Recommendations of your committee

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-111 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 17-111, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger S. Mori
Roger S. Mori, chairman

Yosiwo P. George, vice chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio Singkoro Harper, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

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

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