

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-18

RE: C.R. NO. 17-25/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ROBERT
RUECHO TO THE POSITION OF FSM COUNSUL
GENERAL IN GUAM.

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. 17-25, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
ROBERT RUECHO TO THE POSITION OF FSM CONSUL
GENERAL IN GUAM.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee emphasizes the importance of the Federated States of Micronesia's special relationship with the Territory of Guam. Many citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia reside in Guam, 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 Guam with efficiency, integrity and the highest levels of expertise.

Your Committee held a public hearing on August 2, 2011, with the nominee and members of the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The nominee has resided in Guam for the last three years. He was recruited by then-Governor of Guam Felix Camacho to serve as the Governors' Advisor on Micronesian Affairs. He was very involved with, and is very aware of, the issues facing Guam and the FSM citizens residing in Guam. The nominee is currently serving as the

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Government of Guam's representative and advisor to a Micronesian organization that includes all the ethnic groups of the FSM, Palau and the Marshalls. The nominee is also on the Board of the Center for Micronesian Empowerment, a multi-ethnic organization. The nominee is therefore well-known in the Micronesian community residing in Guam and comfortable with the different groups making up that community.

According to the nominee, there are now approximately 22,000 FSM citizens residing in Guam, more than the populations of Yap or Kosrae. Apparently, the number of FSM citizens residing on Guam has been undercounted by the U.S. Federal Government; their estimate is 17,000. The Territory of Guam therefore feels it has not been adequately compensated under the Compact for the impact of the FSM citizens residing there.

In response to questions from Committee members, the nominee indicated that FSM citizens residing in Guam have many social needs. Many are homeless. However, the nominee emphasized there are a substantial number of FSM citizens in Guam that contribute to the economy of Guam, and these positive contributions have not been recognized sufficiently. If confirmed, the nominee wants to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs to raise awareness of the contribution of FSM citizens. He also wants more education on issues such as the importance of holding up-to-date FSM passports.

Your Committee knows the nominee very well. At the hearing he modestly did not mention he was the long-time Speaker of the Yap Legislature and a former Governor of Yap. But his testimony shows he is very aware of, and sensitive to the issues concerning FSM citizens on Guam. Your Committee is definitely impressed with the nominee.

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. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this

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nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Robert
Ruecho be confirmed as the FSM Consul General in Guam.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the
intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-25, 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