

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-22

RE: C.R. NO. 17-35/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOHN
FRITZ TO THE POSITION OF FSM AMBASSADOR
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO JAPAN

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. 17-35, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOHN
FRITZ TO THE POSITION OF FSM AMBASSADOR
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO JAPAN.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee stresses our country's commitment to its close relationship with Japan, and the need to continue to operate its overseas diplomatic office with efficiency, integrity and the highest levels of expertise regarding the policy issues affecting this relationship. The Ambassador, as the face of our country in Japan, plays an important role in the high-level policy discussions between our countries. Therefore, an extended period of service for a good ambassador, one who already has forged strong relationships with his Japanese counterparts, and has an in-depth knowledge of the relevant policy issues, would be in the best interests of our country. It is therefore strongly recommended that the above named nominee be confirmed as soon as possible to maintain our already close relationship with Japan and further our work on mutually beneficial issues.

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Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of the this nominee extensively at the time of his initial confirmation. There is no further need to do so at this time. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

During the recently conducted Fiscal Year 2012 budget hearing for the Department of Foreign Affairs, your Committee had a chance to speak with each mission about its performance this past year. At that time the nominee's performance was satisfactory. Your Committee also defers to the President and the Department as to the decision to maintain the nominee in his post. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. John Fritz be confirmed as the FSM Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Japan.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-35, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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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