

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-70

RE: C.R. NO. 18-87/R&D

SUBJECT: MR. SIMPSON ABRAHAM'S NOMINATION TO THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF NORMA

DECEMBER 02, 2013

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert  
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Special Session, 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 18-87, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. SIMPSON  
ABRAHAM TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF  
KOSRAE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NORMA).",

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. 18-87 to  
Congress through Presidential Communication No. 18-142 on November 14,  
2013. This communication is the nomination of Mr. Simpson Abraham to  
serve on the Board of Directors of the National Oceanic Resource  
Management Authority (NORMA) representing the State of Kosrae.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing in the State of Kosrae on  
Friday on November 22, 2013 on the nomination of Mr. Simpson Abraham.  
Witnesses at the hearing included the Governor of the State of Kosrae,  
the Honorable Lyndon H. Jackson, the Kosrae Speaker's Office  
representative, Senator Rinson Edmond and the nominee.  
Vice Chairman Victor Gouland chaired the hearing and welcome the  
witnesses. He then gave an opportunity to the nominee to comment on  
his nomination. Mr. Abraham thanked the Committee for the

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opportunity. He informed the Committee that he was personally contacted by the Governor of Kosrae, Lyndon H. Jackson, to represent Kosrae State on the Board of Directors of NORMA. Mr. Abraham had accepted the Governor's offer, and also expressed his willingness to serve on the NORMA Board.

Your Committee also gave an opportunity to Governor Jackson to comment on his nominee to the Board of NORMA. Governor Jackson confirmed that he personally approach Mr Simpson Abraham on his nomination. The Governor had expressed that he has chosen the nominee because of his background and experience as a former Director of the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority working on marine and terrestrial areas, which are related to the work of NORMA. The Governor also stated that this was the first nomination to the Board of NORMA that he was consulted. He indicated that he was not consulted on the previous individuals that were nominated to the Board of NORMA to represent the State of Kosrae, which were not confirmed by Congress.

Your Committee also inquired with the nominee what would be his expectation. The nominee stated that he is cognisant of the important role of fisheries development in the Nation. Furthermore, your Committee asked the nominee on the issues of maximizing the benefits of our fish stock as compared to the conservation of fish stock. The nominee commented that the by-catch of the fishing vessels should not be neglected, but should be preserved as feed for the mangrove crab projects in each state. He also commented that the capitalization of fees from the fishing licensing should be assessed and evaluated to determine whether this nation is really maximizing the benefit of the fisheries resources. He also commented that because of the highly migration of the fish, their movement is difficult to accurately monitor. So NORMA needs to strengthen its capability in this area to have the current technology to track the migration of fish stocks, not to mention the Vessel Monitoring Scheme (VMS).

Mr. Abraham is currently the Program Manager for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) pilot project in the State of Kosrae. In 2008 to 2010, he served as the Sustainable Development Planner under the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM). In 1995 to 2008, he served as the Program Administrator for

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the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA). In 1993 to 1994, he worked for Greenpeace International as an Ocean Ecology Specialist in San Francisco, California. In 1991 to 1993, he served as a Marine Conservation Officer and Fisheries Specialist for the State of Kosrae.

In Mr. Abraham's bio data, he had attended a convention on Biological Diversity in Madrid, Spain on August, 1995. He represented the State of Kosrae to a high policy maker's conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the State of Pohnpei on November 1995. He also assisted the First Coastal and Beach Profiling Survey in Kosrae, which was coordinated by SOPAC on December 1995. He acted as a resource person for the SPREP meeting on sustainable development planning in the State of Pohnpei on April 1996. He attended the International Group Training on Environmental Impact Assessment in Japan on May 1997. He was also a resource person for the International Conference on Scientific Aspects of Coral Reef Assessment, Monitoring and Restoration in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He also attended several international conventions and regional meetings on Climate Change. In his bio date, he received several awards and recognitions in his outstanding performance as a Kosrae State public servant. He also served a member on the FSM Sustainable Development Council in 1998 and as a board member on the Kosrae Island Development Company (KIDCO) Board of Directors in 1999. He served on the first Board of Directors for the Marine Resource Pacific Consortium for the Micronesian Region in 2000. He was a founding member of the Awane Marine Park in 2004, and was also a chairman for the Kosrae Community Action Program (KCAP) in 2004. He served as a delegate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kosrae State Constitutional Convention, and was the Chairman of the Lelu Delegation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kosrae Constitutional Convention in 2005. He served as a Board member of the Micronesian Conservation Trust (MCT) in 2000 to 2005, and was a member of the UNDP Small Grant Program (SGP) in 2006 to 2008.

**Recommendations of your committee**

Your Committee on Resources and Development agrees to favorably consider the nomination of Mr. Simpson Abraham and is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 18-87 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, chairman

/s/ Victor Gouland  
Victor Gouland, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Berney Martin  
Berney Martin, member

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

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