

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-199

RE: C.R. NO. 18-186/Education

SUBJECT APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$710,888 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATIVE SERVICES.

JULY 12, 2014,

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Special Session, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was jointly referred
C.R. No. 18-186 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$710,888 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THE FSM
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAM, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE
ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On July 11, 2014 your Committee held hearings regarding the
above-captioned C.R. No. 18-186 jointly with the Committee
on External Affairs. The Committee was advised that this
grant would continue funding the Special Education Divisions
in the four states and the National Department of Education.
The important work and services that this grant supports for
children ages newborn to 21 years of age, is well known to
the Committee and it believes it improves the overall

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education, life skills and development of our Nation's citizens. Continued financial support for this program is desirable.

The Secretary of Education and his key staff, including the Chief of the Division of Special Education attended the July 11 hearing. A detailed budget for the grant award was presented at the hearing, and is attached to this report. The Chief of Special Education confirmed to the Committee that the sequestration decreases applicable to the U.S. federally funded programs did apply to his program, however, he was pleased to report that the decrease in this grant was only \$149 which would mean only a slight decrease in office supplies at the National level. Your Committee was very pleased that the Chief of Special Education also included the fund balances for the this year for his Division, this is also part of the attached document to this report.

The Department reported that although the guidelines are strict for this grant the Federated States of Micronesia continues to meet all of the conditions. Not only must the reporting be submitted on time and in detail, all of the monitoring and objectives are continuously met. Your Committee congratulated the Department, and especially the Chief of Special Education on this achievement.

During the hearing members inquired whether the Federation States of Micronesia not being a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had any impact on the funding levels for this grant. The Chief of Special Education stated that this does not impact the funding level at all, in fact, the U.S. is not a signatory to that Convention.

Overall your Committee on Education is very supportive of the special education program that this grant will support. Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purposes of C.R. No. 18-186, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

Bonsiano F. Nethon, vice chairman

Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

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

Wesley W. Simina, member

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