

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-244

RE: C.A. NO. 18-96 (P.C. NO. 18-385)/W&M

SUBJECT: VETO OF CONGRESSIONAL ACT NO. 18-96

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Ways & Means, to which was referred Presidential Communication 18-385, regarding the veto of Congressional Act 18-96, entitled:

"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$2,800,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING IN SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PUBLIC PROJECTS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE STATES OF KOSRAE, CHUUK, POHNPEI AND YAP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Congressional Act 18-96 was passed as a direct reflection of the President's request to include \$2.8 million in his Annual Budget for FY15. Congress passed C.A. 18-96 in an attempt to be in harmony with the wishes of the President as echoed in P.C. No. 18-385.

Your committee notes that as stated in P.C. No. 18-385, the President increased the funds for public projects and social programs in his proposed FY15 budget from \$1.4 million to \$2.8 million. Your committee points out the contradictory message that the President is sending by requesting twice as much appropriation for public projects and social programs for FY15, only to veto C.A. No. 18-96, which directly reflects his wishes.

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Your committee would like to point out that the President's consistent reiteration for Congress to hold public hearings has no legal or Constitutional basis. Congress has the prerogative to hold public hearings as it sees fit. Public hearings are often held at a state or municipal level regarding public projects and Congressmen are in attendance. The constant request by the President for public hearings is encroaching on the Constitutional power of the purse designated solely for the Legislature.

Your committee also notes that the President cites, in P.C. No. 18-385, a lack of verifiable reports showing that the appropriation for public projects and social programs have created sustainable benefits that are tangible and measureable. Your committee would like to point out that it is impossible to generate a verifiable report showing tangible and measureable benefits on a public projects when the appropriation for such public projects and social programs is vetoed.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Ways and Means has carefully reviewed the vetoed Act and veto message. Your committee finds the President's rationale contrary to his previous wishes and based on policy. Therefore, your Committee recommends overriding the veto of Congressional Act No. 18-96.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Yosiwo P. George
Yosiwo P. George, member

Tony H. Otto, member

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member

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

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member
With Pain!!!