

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-254

RE: C.B. No. 18-242/W&M

SUBJECT: TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN
YAP STATE.

NOVEMBER 25, 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
assigned Congressional Bill No. 18-242, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$25,000
FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,
2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY SUPPORT
TO DEFRAY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COSTS OF THE
EMERGENT REFUGEE SITUATION IN YAP STATE, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held an oversight hearing on November 24,
2014 regarding the by-request legislation, C.B. No. 18-242,
to appropriate \$25,000 for humanitarian needs in Yap State.
The Attorney General testified that the individuals arrested
in Yap waters and brought ashore are a result of two
separate incidents. These include 91 nationals of a number
of countries in Asia. For humanitarian purposes there is a
need to care and feed these people. The State of Yap is in
urgent need of financial resources to house and feed these
individuals.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-254

RE: C.B. No. 18-242/W&M

SUBJECT: TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN
YAP STATE.

NOVEMBER 25, 2014

The Attorney General also testified that the figure of \$25,000 is their best estimate of the costs to provide humanitarian services to these individuals before they can be repatriated or incarcerated depending upon the on-going investigation. The Attorney General stated that they are currently pursuing five other vessels that eluded the authorities in Yap but are believed to still be in the waters of the FSM. If these other ships are seized then the need for further assistance will be needed in the State where they are found.

Your Committee would like to commend the President for requesting that Congress act to support him by this bill. This is an urgent situation that requires urgent action. Your Committee is convinced that the FSM must act in a humane manner and wholeheartedly supports this effort.

Your Committee objects, however, to the characterization of these nationals of other countries as "refugees" absent further evidence. Your Committee recommends the following amendment to C.B. 18-242 as follows:

1. Title, after "emergent" delete "~~refugee~~" insert "humanitarian".

CONCLUSION

Your Committee has carefully reviewed Congressional Bill No. 18-242. Your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.B. No. 18-242, and recommends its passage on First Reading and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second and Final Reading in the form attached hereto as C.B. 18-242, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir

/s/ Peter M. Christian

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-254

RE: C.B. No. 18-242/W&M

SUBJECT: TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN
YAP STATE.

NOVEMBER 25, 2014

Isaac V. Figir, chairman

Peter M. Christian

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

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

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

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

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