

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-267

RE: C.R. NO. 18-240/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$417,595 TO FUND THE FSM COMMUNICABLE DISEASE  
PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROJECT.

JANUARY 29, 2015

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert  
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Sixth Regular Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was  
jointly referred C.R. No. 18- 240 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$417,595 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
AND PREVENTION, TO FUND THE FSM COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROJECT, 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 January 26, 2015 your Committee held hearings regarding  
the above-captioned C.R. No. 18-240 jointly with the  
Committee on External Affairs. In attendance at the public  
hearing were the relevant staff of the Department of Health  
and Social Affairs, a representative from the Department of  
Justice and a representative from the Office of the  
President.

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A two-page budget break down for this grant is attached with this report. Each State is funded for each of the major diseases covered by this grant. A 25 page detailed budget was also attached to the transmission in Presidential Communication No. 18-430. This grant will fund a program well known to your Committee. This program is in its third year of the funding cycle, and the objectives and activities for the program remain the same as in years past.

Regarding the subject matter of this grant the Committee asked what progress has been made in testing and early intervention for those individuals with communicable diseases. The Department stated that they achieved 95% testing coverage for the targeted populations. This resulted in the detection of new cases of HIV/AIDS, however, the Department was quick to point out that this was a positive outcome as now these individuals can receive treatment and counseling. Once identified the individuals have a much better chance of longer, healthier lives with treatment, and with education are much less likely to spread the disease.

The Committee was advised that no formal or informal travel restrictions are placed on carriers of HIV/AIDS. Even TB patients are not restricted, although with TB the affected individuals are highly encouraged and supported to finish their treatment upon diagnosis. Since HIV/AIDS transmission is not airborne it is not necessary to restrict movement of individuals, and is in fact counterproductive as it encourages those affected to keep their illness secret. The Committee took the opportunity during the hearing to ask the Department why there were vacant positions listed in the budget for both Kosrae and Chuuk. The Department responded that in the case of Chuuk an individual had recently been promoted and the position had been advertised immediately. In the case of Kosrae there was difficulty. The Department had communicated with Kosrae State Government several times regarding its delays of over a year in filling this position. The Committee voiced its strong concern that failure to fill vacancies over a prolonged period of time could send the wrong message to our donors. The Committee

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notes that while the States have legitimate financial issues they must do their utmost to preserve our grants from outside of the FSM.

As to the specific grant that is the subject of this report your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is supportive of the program that it will support. Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purposes of C.R. No. 18-240, and upon concurrence with the Committee on External Affairs recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto  
Tony H. Otto, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian  
Peter M. Christian, member

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

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

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

Joseph J. Urusemal, member