

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-289

RE: C.R. NO. 18-268/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$394,192, TO FUND THE TOBACCO CONTROL AND DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE FSM, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE.

APRIL 16, 2015

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Seventh Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was jointly referred C.R. No. 18-268 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$394,192 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERRS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, TO FUND THE TOBACCO CONTROL AND DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE FSM, 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 April 14, 2015 your Committee held hearings regarding the above-captioned C.R. No. 18-268 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 and a representative from the Department

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of Justice. The Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that this grant has been very successful in raising awareness regarding the dangers of tobacco use and an unhealthy diet. The Department stated that there has been a reduction in tobacco use, particularly in young people, since the first survey in 2007. One suggestion by the Department was to raise the tax on tobacco and unhealthy foods. The cost of tobacco products is very low compared to other countries.

A 45-page budget summary for this grant is available for review with the Speaker's Office. Your Committee notes that the budget, activities and goals for this program remain largely the same as in years past and it is satisfied with the Department's progress in its endeavors regarding disease control and prevention in these areas.

As stated regarding the other grants reviewed during this hearing, your Committee reiterates it was troubled by the budget as presented as a large portion still rests with the National Department of Health and Social Affairs. The Department stated that training and travel rested with it as they were in the best position to target where training was needed and provide that. It also stated that in the past the State Governments did not file the necessary vouchers and paperwork after travel so some funding had been lost. The Committee stated that the States and individuals needed to adhere to the guidelines and should be responsible for these aspects of the grant.

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. 18-268, and 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 P. George
Yosiwo P. George, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

David W. Panuelo, member

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