

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-04

RE: C.R. NO. 19-04/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$389,660 TO
FUND THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY FOR
INFECTIOUS DISEASE CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FSM
PROGRAM.

MAY 29, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Regular Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was
referred C.R. No. 19-04 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$389,660 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
PREVENTION, TO FUND THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY
CAPACITY FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE CAPACITY BUILDING IN
THE FSM 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 May 27, 2015, your Committee held hearings regarding the
above-captioned C.R. No. 19-04. In attendance at the
public hearing were the relevant staff of the Department of
Health and Social Affairs, representatives from the Office

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of the President, the Department of Justice and the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that although this grant is marked for Ebola control it will benefit in the prevention and spread of all other infectious diseases. The chance of measles and other more prevalent diseases pose a real problem for our Nation. Worldwide there has been an increase in the spread of infection within hospital and clinical settings. The Committee notes that a previous grant to control infectious disease was approved for work to remodel and repair our public hospitals to improve our isolation wards, and to provide for supplies. The grant under review in this report will fund contracts for two consultants to work in all the States to ensure that our isolation units are up to international standard and the hospital staff receive additional training in the prevention of the spread of infection.

The budget for this grant is attached to this report. Your Committee also inquired with the Department if this grant was sustainable as 2023 may mean decreases or, in some cases, the end of funding for some programs. The Department stated that this was a one time grant to assist the Nation in improving the practices that prevent the spread of infectious disease in hospital settings and it was already anticipated that the healthcare workers could maintain the practices without further funding assistance.

While the Committee remains supportive of this program and its activities it noted to the Department that it has been a standing request for it to bring a detailed progress report for each program which is the subject of a new grant award. The Committee would like the opportunity to conduct some detailed oversight regarding the program in question while conducting its evaluation on the current grant award. The Committee also stated that it intended to do further

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oversight during the next Congress session as a part of its
overall review for the FY16 budget for the National
Department of Health and Social Affairs.

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. 19-04, and recommends its adoption in
the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, chairman

Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

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

Florencio S. Harper, member

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

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