

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-140

RE: C.R. NO. 19-239/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$252,080 FROM  
THE UNITED STATES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND  
PREVENTION.

AUGUST 01, 2016

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fifth Special Session, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was  
referred C.R. No. 19-239, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT  
APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$252,080 TO THE UNITED  
STATES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION-  
OPHPR TO FUND THE PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND  
RESPONSE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCIES: ZIKA."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing on July 27, 2016 the  
witnesses present included: the Department of Health and  
Social Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and key  
staff, the Office of the President, the Department of  
Finance and Administration, and the Department of Justice.

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The grant referenced in C.R. No. 19-239 is a new grant for the National Department of Health and Social Affairs. Due to the worldwide out break of the Zika virus international health organizations are providing new grants to fight the spread of this virus. The Department stated that they were prompted to apply for this grant by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the virus is mosquito borne and the specific type of mosquito that carries this virus is present in the FSM.

The main activities to be performed under this grant are decreasing mosquito habitat, especially within close proximity to humans. Activities will take place in all the four states. Your Committee inquired as to how the distribution of funding was determined for each state. The Department stated that each state was requested to provide a list of equipment, and supplies it thought fit to combat the mosquito population in their area. A one page budget is attached to this report for reference.

During the hearing a discussion was held regarding the lack of laboratory facilities for diagnosis of the Zika virus. Currently, if an individual is suspected of having the disease blood work must be sent to Honolulu for confirmation. The Department further stated that laboratory facilities are an ongoing issue in many diagnostic cases.

Your Committee believes this new grant will have a positive impact on the overall public health of our Nation, as the decrease in breeding grounds for mosquitos will also lessen the likelihood of other mosquito borne diseases, such as dengue fever.

Your Committee appreciates the work done by the Department to secure funding to combat this newly emerging virus and it supports the grant discussed in this report.

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Finally, your Committee notes that the resolution refers to submission of a grant application, however, the grant award has already been made regarding the work to contain and prevent the Zika virus. The Committee, therefore, recommends the following technical amendments to C.R. No. 19-239:

1. Title, line 1, delete "submission of a grant application" and insert "an accepting a grant" in lieu thereof.
2. Title, line 2, delete "to" and insert "from" in lieu thereof.
3. Page 1, line 7, after "communication" insert "and was approved by a Grant Award dated June 30, 2016".
4. Page 1, line 8, delete "application".
5. Page 1, line 19, delete "Approves the submission of" and insert "approves and accepts" in lieu thereof.
6. Page 1, line 19, delete "application".
7. Page 2, line 1, delete "of".

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-239, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-239, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

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

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

/s/ Alik L. Alik  
Alik L. Alik, member