

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-153

RE: C.R. NO. 19-257/EDUCATION

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. KEMSKY A. SIGRAH
AS THE KOSRAE STATE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP BOARD.

AUGUST 02, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred C.R. No. 19-257, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. KEMSKY A. SIGRAH TO SERVE AS THE KOSRAE STATE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

For some time your Committee has worked to introduce a more efficient and standardized system for the award of our national scholarships. During the May 2016 Regular Session the Congress passed C.B. No. 19-03, which established a formal National Scholarship Board. Congressional Bill No. 19-03 has since been signed by the President and passed into law as Public Law No. 19-90. It is the nomination of

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one of the first members to the first national Scholarship Board that is the subject of this report.

Your Committee has long understood the importance of the efficient implementation of reasonable and fair standards in the award of our National scholarships, and it is important that members of the National Scholarship Board are able to operate at the highest levels when dealing with financial awards affecting the future of our students. It is especially important to have members of the first National Scholarship Board who can develop, implement and maintain the efficient and skilled administration of the scholarship awards.

On July 29, 2016, your Committee held public hearings regarding all the nominations for the National Scholarship Board that had thus far been transmitted to Congress for action. Present at this hearing were the Secretary of the Department of Education and his key staff, representatives from the Department of Justice, and the Department of Finance and Administration, as well as, the Office of the President.

The nominee proposed to serve as the representative from Kosrae State, Mr. Kemsy A. Sigrah, has shown himself to be highly competent in both education, and finance administration. He has been working at the National Government for seven years dealing with Compact management. Mr. Sigrah is currently the Administrator of the Compact Management Unit working in the Office of the President. Prior to his service in National Government Mr. Sigrah spent 20 years at the Kosrae State Department of Education as an administrator.

Mr. Sigrah has completed a Masters Degree in Educational Administration at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI. For

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further review of Mr. Sigrah's educational and professional qualifications his resume is attached to this report.

The Committee believes that Mr. Sigrah would bring necessary finance and administration expertise to the National Scholarship Board. He also has an excellent background in education administration to draw on for his work with the National Scholarship Board. It would be in the best interests of our country if at least one member of the Board had experience in both finance and school administration.

All of the witnesses at the hearing on Mr. Sigrah's nomination spoke very well of him, and endorsed his nomination. The representative from the Department of Justice stated that there was no conflict in his current employment and service on the Board. The nominee stated that he was interested in the Board and saw it as another way to serve the Nation. Mr. Sigrah stated he believed that his past experience and current position would assist him in making reasonable and fair decisions even with the high volume of scholarship applications. The nominee also stated that he felt he had enough time to balance his new board membership with his current work responsibilities.

Your Committee is very impressed with Mr. Sigrachs's educational background. Your Committee further believes that this nominee's masters degree and professional experience would make him a valuable asset for the new board.

At the hearing your Committee realized that a recommendation letter from the Governor of Kosrae had not been received for this nominee, however, once requested it was sent through the Office of the President immediately. The Governor of Kosrae stated that the nominee was very experience and has highly recommended him. The

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recommendation from the Governor of Kosare has been attached to this report. The President has also recommended this nominee, and the representative from the Office of the President stated that the President was strongly supportive of Mr. Sigrah. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication from any individual or organization that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of this nominee. Further your Committee defers to the President and the Governor of Kosare as to the decision to put forward this nominee. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Sigrah be confirmed as the Kosrae State representative on the National Scholarship Board of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-257, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Esmond B. Moses
Esmond B. Moses, vice chairman

Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon
Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, member

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

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