

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-31

RE: C.R. NO. 19-57/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. WILSON
WAGUK TO SERVE AS THE FSM DEPUTY CHIEF
OF MISSION TO THE EMBASSY IN FIJI

AUGUST 15, 2015

The Honorable Wesley Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 19-57, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. WILSON
FLOYD WAGUK TO SERVE AS THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT THE EMBASSY IN
FIJI.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On July 8, 2015, the President transmitted Congressional
Resolution No. 19-57 to Congress through Presidential
Communication No. 19-69. The said communication was
transmitted during the First Special Session of Congress,
which contained the resume of the nominee.

The nominee is currently the Banking Commissioner. He
worked with the FSM Banking Board from October 1994 until

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today. He served as the Office Manager for the Bank of Hawaii, Kosrae State from June 1988 to September 1994. In August 1983 to May 1988, he served as a National Revenue Officer at the Kosrae Field Office. In February 1981 to July 1983, he served as an Immigration and Labor Inspector at the National Government.

The nominee graduated at the University of Guam, USA with a double major, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in General Social Science and Political Science and a Minor in History. The nominee is from the State of Kosrae.

Your Committee held a public hearing on August 14, 2015 on Congressional Resolution No. 19-57. Witnesses at the hearing included: the nominee, Mr. Samson Pretrick from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Pelsesar Petrus from the Office of the President, AAG Jun Bacalando, Secretary Shina Lawrence and Senny Joseph from the Department of Finance and Administration, Chairman of the FSM Banking Board Alex Narruhn and member Reed Oliver.

Chairman Paliknoa Welly opened the hearing. The nominee was given an opportunity to comment on his nomination. The nominee testified to the Committee that he is very much interested to serve as the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) to the FSM Embassy in Suva, Fiji and will do the best of his ability to serve this nation if he is confirmed.

Your Committee asked the nominee what will happen to his current position. The nominee explained that one of his colleagues had completed several extensive banking trainings, and is very capable to replace him. The Chairman of the Board, Alex Narruhn, substantiated this statement.

Your Committee also inquired whether he was approached by the President to serve as DCM or as the Ambassador to the FSM Embassy in Suva, Fiji. The nominee had indicated that

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during one of the cabinet meetings at the very early stage of the current administration, the President had met with him and asked whether he is interested to take any open position at the FSM Embassy in Suva, Fiji. At that meeting, the nominee indicated that the President did not offer him a specific position at the Embassy.

Your Committee had reviewed the communications sent to Congress and was confused whether the nominee was originally nominated for the Ambassador or the DCM position. The representatives of the President's Office and the Department of Justice clarified that the nominee was nominated for the DCM position.

Your Committee further inquired of the nominee what has motivated him to seek this position. The nominee expressed that he had aspired to play a role as a foreign service officer to serve this nation, of course with the assistance and guidance from his superiors at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He also stated that he is willing to learn and will challenge himself to the tasks ahead. He further stated that because of his willingness to learn, he is ready to take the challenge.

Your Committee asked Mr. Samson Pretrick whether the Department was consulted on the nomination. Mr. Pretrick stated that he became aware of the nomination when it was transmitted to Congress. He also mentioned that he does not know whether Secretary Lorin Robert was consulted.

Furthermore, your Committee inquired whether there is a procedure involved in nominating individuals to overseas missions. Mr. Pretrick indicated that because these are politically appointed positions, there is no procedure involved.

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In general, the witnesses appeared at the hearing expressed strong support on the nomination of Mr. Wilson Waguk to serve as the DCM to the FSM Embassy in Suva, Fiji.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment, to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 18, delete "First" and insert "Second" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-57, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-57, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

Robson Romolow, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland
Victor V. Gouland, member

Berney Martin, member

Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

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