

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-60

RE: C.R. NO. 19-73/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ROBERT  
RUECHO TO SERVE AS THE OF FSM COUNSUL  
GENERAL IN GUAM.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Regular Session, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 19-73, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.  
ROBERT RUECHO TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL  
IN GUAM.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The said resolution was transmitted to Congress on August  
12, 2015 through Presidential Communication No. 19-117.  
Attached with P.C. No. 19-117 is the nominee's resume.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on Congressional  
Resolution No. 19-73 on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.  
Chairman Robson Romolow opened the hearing and gave the  
nominee an opportunity to comment on his nomination.

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The nominee expressed his appreciation to have him appear before the Committee. He also summarized the different duties and responsibilities he had engaged in while serving as the Consul General at the Consul General's Office in Guam.

He indicated that many citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are residing in Guam, and therefore he had established a good working relationship with the Office of Youth Affairs in Guam.

Your Committee inquired of the nominee how long he served as the Consul General in Guam. The nominee had served in his current position for about four years. Your Committee further inquired whether the nominee was still willing to serve as the Consul General of the FSM at the Guam Office. The nominee explained that he is still willing to serve as the Consul General at the Guam Office, and he will continue to see ways of improvement to better the services at the Guam Office.

Your Committee discussed with the nominee to establish a good working relationship with the Government of the Territory of Guam and to perform his duties as the representative of the Nation with loyalty. Again, your Committee also commented that our Office in Guam should work closely with the Home Office. For instance, what HAS the Office done to expedite the processing of filling those vacant positions in Guam as well as in Washington D.C. If there is a loose working relationship between the Home Office and the overseas offices, something is wrong. Therefore, there is a need to establish a good working relationship between the Home Office and our overseas offices.

Your Committee also wishes to remind the nominee to continue to operate the Office of the Consul General in Guam with efficiency, integrity and the highest levels of expertise.

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Witnesses expressed their strong support on the nomination. The nominee has resided in Guam for the last seven years. Before he was confirmed as the Consul General, he was recruited by the then-Governor of Guam, Felix Camacho, to serve as the Governors' Advisor on Micronesian Affairs. He was very involved with, and is very aware of, the issues facing Guam and the FSM citizens residing in Guam. The nominee has provided consular services to various Micronesian organizations and also other ethnic groups in the Pacific, Palau and the Marshalls. The nominee is also on the Board of the Center for Micronesian Empowerment, a multi-ethnic organization. The nominee is therefore well known in the Micronesian community residing in Guam and comfortable with the different groups making up that community.

According to the nominee, there are now approximately 22,000 FSM citizens residing in Guam, but there may be more. Apparently, the number of FSM citizens residing in Guam has been undercounted by the U.S. Federal Government; their estimate is 17,000. On the number of FSM citizens in Guam, your Committee inquired of the nominee how many are full blooded citizens and how many are not. Your Committee, therefore, urges the nominee, if confirmed, to verify those FSM citizens that are born in Guam, already turned eighteen years old and declared or renounced their citizenship so that a clear number of FSM citizens residing in Guam can be easily determined.

The nominee emphasized there are a substantial number of FSM citizens in Guam that contribute to the economy of Guam, and these positive contributions have not been recognized sufficiently. If confirmed, the nominee wants to work with the Department of Foreign Affairs to raise awareness of the contributions of FSM citizens. He also reminds the Members to make the time, if they are traveling via Guam, to meet with the FSM citizens there.

Your Committee has not received any communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the

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nominee. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Robert Ruecho be confirmed as the FSM Consul General in Guam.

Your Committee would like to offer an amendment to C.R.No. 19-73, to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 15, delete "Special", and insert "Regular" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-73, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-73, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, vice chairman

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

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

Berney Martin, member

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

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