

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-74

RE: C.R. No. 19-106/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. HENRY
SHREW TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL
IN HONOLULU, HAWAII

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 19-106, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
HENRY H. SHREW TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL
IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On September 2, 2015, the President through Presidential
Communication No. 19-152, transmitted Congressional
Resolution No. 19-106 to Congress. The said resolution is
the nomination of Mr. Henry H. Shrew to serve as the Consul
General in Honolulu, Hawaii. Attached with P.C. No. 19-152
is the resume of Mr. Henry H. Shrew.

Educational Background

The nominee attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo from
1996 to 1998 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree

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in Political Science and a Minor in Sociology. From 1992 to 1995, the nominee attended Hawaii Community College and graduated with an Associate of Arts degree. From 1987 to 1991, the nominee attended Xavier High School in Chuuk State and graduated with a diploma.

Working Experience

The nominee currently served as a Foreign Service Officer at the FSM Consulate General Office in Honolulu, Hawaii since 2009. From March 2010 to January 2013, the nominee served as Acting Consul General at the Consulate General Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, and has exhibited exemplary and outstanding performance of his duties and responsibilities. The nominee previously served at the Home Office as Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs from July 2007 to February 2009.

The nominee was also a public servant for the Government of Kosrae State for several years. From March 2002 to July 2006, the nominee served as a protocol officer at the Office of the Governor, Kosrae State Disaster Coordinator and as the Kosrae State Legislative Liaison Officer. He also served as the Cultural Specialist and Kosrae Senior Citizens Coordinator from September 2000 to March 2002. He was also a part time English teacher for the Gear-Up Program from June 2000 to July 2000, and for the Kosrae Upward Bound Program from August 1999 to February 2000. The nominee was also employed at the Hawaii Community College General Education Division from March 1997 to December 1998.

On October 7, 2015, your Committee held a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Mr. Henry H. Shrew at the FSM Consulate General Office. In attendance were Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly, Vice Chairman Robson U. Romolow, members David W. Panuelo, Victor Goulard, Vice Speaker Berney

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Martin and staff Alik Jackson and Lynn Narruhn. The witnesses included Consul General Khandi Elieisar and the nominee.

Chairman Welly opened the hearing and commented that he knew the nominee very well because the nominee was in an acting capacity as Consul General for several years during some of his visits to Hawaii. Before he gave the nominee an opportunity to comment on his nomination, he asked the nominee, if confirmed, how can he improve the service of the Office.

The nominee welcome the members of your Committee and thanked them and the staff for travelling to Hawaii to conduct the hearing. The nominee commented that it is very important to improve the working relationship amongst the staff in the Office first before they establish a good working relationship with our citizens residing in Hawaii. Importantly, the Office needs to work closely with the Division of Immigration under the Department of Justice, especially since most of the time the staff assists our citizens in the processing of their passports. By establishing a good working relationship, the Office will not have problems contacting the Immigration Office and do its inquiry, especially on the passport applications or processing.

The nominee further added that the consular service at the Office can also be extended to the west coast of the United States so many of those FSM citizens residing in that area can have an understanding of the existence of the Consulate General Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, and utilize its services.

Your Committee asked the nominee how he was approached for the position. The nominee stated that the President had

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approached him during one of his trips to Hawaii. The nominee informed your Committee that he was honored to have been nominated. He welcomed the opportunity to serve the Nation in the capacity of Consul General, and was confident of his ability to perform the role based on his prior experience.

Your Committee reminded the nominee on the ongoing problems encountered by our citizens, especially during election time. In this regard, your Committee inquired of the nominee how would he improve the situation or problem relating to any national general or special election. In response to member's questions, the nominee stated that he did observe the election problems, and commented that such problems could be minimized if our citizens understand the election law, especially how to properly register before the election. Educating the voters, especially on the procedures regarding registration of voters before they are able to cast their votes is a must. The National Election Director must coordinate with the Consulate General Office on ways to educate the voters in order to minimize any irregularities during any general or special election.

Your Committee asked whether the nominee foresees any added responsibilities or less work, if he is confirmed, because he may not perform some of his responsibilities as a Foreign Service Officer. The nominee indicated that he had been in an acting capacity once for two years and 10 months. And, during his acting capacity he had assisted the needs of our citizens. There were occasions where he had to use sign language to break the language barriers of our citizens, especially the use of English as a second language.

Your Committee understands that the bulk of our citizens residing in Hawaii are from Chuuk, and they often fight

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among themselves. How can the nominee resolve such incidences from reoccurring. The nominee explained that the Office already established a good working relationship with the Division of Public Safety in the State of Hawaii. He usually works with the Division of Public Safety Office to handle these infightings involving Chuukese or our citizens.

In support of the nomination, Consul General Khandi Elieisar commented that he had worked with the nominee, had established a good working relationship with the nominee, and that the nominee had performed well and also professionally. He expressed strong support on his nomination.

The nominee was given the opportunity to say a final word. The nominee acknowledged that he would be giving up his job security and there was a risk that he could be out of a job with the end of the current administration, but stated he was prepared to take that risk.

Your Committee wishes to offer an amendment to the resolution as follows:

1. Page 1, line 20, delete "Second Regular", and insert "Third Special" in lieu thereof.

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CONCLUSION

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-106, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-106, C.D.1.

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

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

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

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