

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-193

RE: C.R. NO. 19-333/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$417,594.

JANUARY 26, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Sixth Regular Session, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was
referred C.R. No. 19-333, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$417,594 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION, TO FUND THE FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION AND
CONTROL PROJECT FROM JANUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31,
2017, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE
ASSISTANCE."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing on January 25, 2017 the
witnesses present included: the Department of Health and
Social Affairs, including the Secretary and key staff,
Office of the President, Department of Finance and

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Administration, and the Department of Justice. Your Committee is pleased and honored to note that key members of the administration and the directors for the State Departments of Health were also present at our hearing.

The programs funded by this grant is well known to the Committee. The FSM communicable disease programs include programs covering HIV prevention, HIV surveillance, TB, STD, and viral hepatitis. This particular grant award will provide funding for approximately six months. The Committee confirmed that the budgets (attached) are for the full year, and the activities and costs are virtually the same for both six-month periods.

During discussions your Committee requested that the Department of Health and Social Affairs provide updates of the activities and performance of these programs during the Congress recess so that by the next session of Congress meaningful oversight can be done.

Regarding the distribution of funding between the four States and the National Department of Health and Social Affairs your Committee is also requesting that justification for the budget breakdowns be provided to it before the next session.

As to the healthcare services provided by the programs in question, your Committee agrees that they are important, and play a key role in good public health in our Nation. The Committee, however, feels that a further detailed oversight is warranted when time is available.

Finally, your Committee notes and takes under advisement the comments made by the National Department of Health and Social Affairs and the four State Departments of Health regarding the challenges they face in timing of Congress approval of grants, as well as, the timing of processing on the Executive side. It is unfortunate that there have been

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delays in the approval of resolutions for grant funding that have resulted in decline in program efficiency and delays in payment of salaries. The Committee is prioritizing the bills pending that would amend this process, and will work with the relevant committees on this matter.

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

1. Page 1, title, delete "SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2016" and insert "SIXTH REGULAR SESSION, 2017", in lieu thereof.
2. Page 1, line 14, delete "Seventh Special Session, 2016" and insert "Sixth Regular Session, 2017", in lieu thereof.

It is therefore, for the reasons set forth above, your Committee on Health and Social Affairs supports the grant activities proposed to be funded, it is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-333, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-333, 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

David W. Panuelo, member

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

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