

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-21

RE: C.R. NO. 21-60/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. AKILLINO SUSAIA TO  
SERVE AS THE FSM AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND  
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE U.S.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty First Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Regular Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.  
No. 21-60 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. AKILLINO  
SUSAIA TO SERVE AS THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee stresses our country's commitment to its close  
relationship with its partner the United States of America. The  
President of our Nation, himself, stressed this a critical time  
in our relationship with the U.S. as we come to the end of  
certain provisions under the Amended Compact, and discussions  
are underway with the U.S. as to the way forward after 2023.  
There is a need to continue to operate its overseas diplomatic  
office with efficiency, integrity and the highest levels of

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expertise regarding the policy issues affecting this relationship with our closest partner.

The ambassador, as the face of our Nation in the U.S., plays an important role in the high-level policy discussions between our countries. Therefore, an extended period of service for a good ambassador, one who already has forged strong relationships with his American counterparts, and has an in-depth knowledge of the relevant policy issues, would be in the best interests of our Nation. It is therefore strongly recommended that the above-named nominee be confirmed as soon as possible to maintain our already closed relationship with the U.S. and further our work on mutually beneficial issues.

Our President stated in the letter accompanying this nomination that the nominee has recently completed his service as the Ambassador to the United States under the previous administration. He served in that capacity with distinction. He is uniquely qualified to continue service as the Ambassador to the United States as he has had a long, distinguished career with the Department of Foreign Affairs having served at the highest levels, and has vast experience in public service, diplomacy and international relations.

Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of this nominee extensively at the time of his initial confirmation as ambassador. There is no further need to hold a further hearing on this matter at this time. The nominee is well known for his efforts to promote the Federated States of Micronesia on the international stage, particularly in the areas of economic development and environment. He is also known for the diligence in assisting our citizens in U.S. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

During the recently conducted Fiscal Year 2020 budget hearing for the Department of Foreign Affairs, your Committee had the opportunity to speak with this nominee and key staff that he

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brought from the Embassy in the United States. At this time, the Committee was very satisfied with nominee's performance and the overall function of our Embassy in the United States. Your Committee also defers to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs as to the decision to maintain the nominee at his post. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Akillino Susaia be confirmed as the Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of American in Washington, D.C.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-60, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

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

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses  
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, member