

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-23

RE: C.R. 21-35/EDUCATION

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. KALWIN
KEPHAS TO SERVE AS THE SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE FSM.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred C.R. No.
21-35, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. KALWIN
KEPHAS TO SERVE AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

The nominee, Mr. Kalwin Kephas, has served as the Secretary of
Education for the past four years. Your Committee has had many
formal and informal meetings with the nominee during his tenure
as the Secretary. Your Committee recognizes the importance of
education of our Nation's children, particularly at this
challenging point in our Nation's history. Our Nation's
children represent the future welfare and progress of the
Nation. The Secretary of the Department of Education of the
Federated States of Micronesia, as the highest national
leadership position in education, is an enormously important
post.

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Your Committee believes it important to ensure that each student in our Nation receives a good basic education. Consistent policies and leadership would help make that possible. Keeping the nominee in place as Secretary of the National Department of Education would ensure the least disruption to the Department. Your Committee is in favor of this way forward.

Both the President and the nominee have communicated their willingness to have the nominee continue in the role of the Secretary of the Department of Education. The nominee has successfully overseen the restructuring of the Department of Education and has implemented a quality data management system for the Department. The Department continues to move forward with its three priority areas of teacher certification, school accreditation, and teacher and student testing. More certified teachers than ever now work in our primary and secondary school system, and with its collaboration with COM-FSM more career teachers are advancing their careers and increasing their skills with additional higher education degrees.

As stated above, the nominee is well known to the Committee for his highly competent government service over many years, and therefore, it does not deem a separate hearing on this nomination necessary at this time. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication from any individual or organization that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of this nominee. Further, the Committee defers to the President and the Department of Education as to the decision to put forward this nominee. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Kalwin Kephas be confirmed to the position of Secretary of the Department of Education of the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

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Your Committee would like to offer the following technical amendment to C.R. No. 21-35, to read as follows:

- 1) Page 1, line 14, delete "Special" and insert "Regular" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-35, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No.21-35, C.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Aren B. Palik
Aren B. Palik, vice chairman

/s/ Wesley W. Simina
Wesley W. Simina, member

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

/s/ Derensio S. Konman
Derensio S. Konman, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Ferny S. Perman
Ferny S. Perman, member

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