

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-35

RE: C.R. NO. 21-89/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. RICKY F. CANTERO
TO SERVE AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

DECEMBER 4, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Twenty-First Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Special Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.
No. 21-89, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. RICKY F.
CANTERO TO SERVE AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA.”,

Begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing regarding the nomination which is
the subject of this resolution on December 2, 2019. Present at
the hearing were the nominee, Mr. Ricky F. Cantero,
representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the

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Office of the President, the Department of Justice, the
Department of Resources & Development and the Department of
Finance and Administration.

The nominee is well known to your Committee for his long years
of service in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and his
diligence, hard work and good character. The nominee is highly
educated in the area of foreign affairs and diplomacy and holds
both a Bachelors and Masters Degree from the University of Guam.
This nominee joined the Department of Foreign Affairs nineteen
years ago. He has held progressively more challenging and
important positions, including Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Pacific Affairs, and his current position of Assistant Secretary
heading the Division of the Americas and Europe Affairs. The
nominee also serves as the country secretariat for the
Micronesia Presidents' Summit.

The nominee spoke on his own behalf to the Committee. He stated
that he understood that the position for which he had been
nominated represents a set of expanded responsibilities and
challenges, however, he believes that with his education and
experience he will be capable to execute these duties
successfully. Further, the nominee stated that the Deputy
Secretary position is an "anchor" in the Department of Foreign
Affairs while the Secretary must attend to representational
matters and travel, the Deputy Secretary is responsible for
maintaining the communication and relationships between our
overseas missions and our important country partners.

The Committee asked the nominee if he had any conflicts that may
prevent him from executing the duties of the Deputy Secretary of
Foreign Affairs. The nominee stated that in the course of his

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work and representation of the Federated States of Micronesia he did not let bias or relationships enter into his decision making or work. Your Committee also asked if the nominee was comfortable leaving employment under the FSM Public Service System for a political appointment. The nominee responded that the position he is nominated for is important, it was the decision of the President to nominate him and he felt he could contribute to the Nation by taking on this new challenge. In addition, the nominee stated that the political appointment represented less security, however, he was willing to take this risk in order to further serve the Nation.

Finally, your Committee requested that the Department of Foreign Affairs promote more economic development and trade as a part of its initiatives overseas. The nominee responded that this was already part of the mandate for the Department of Foreign Affairs, but that in the future perhaps more could be done to support more foreign service officers taking a more "integrated and reactive approach" to promoting these issues.

All of the witnesses present voice their strong support for this nominee. Witnesses stated that they had enjoyed a close and productive relationship for many years with the nominee in his various positions in the Department and had confidence that he was more than able to meet the new challenges in the role of Deputy Secretary.

The Committee has reviewed the qualifications of this nominee extensively and heard from all relevant witnesses. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the integrity or performance of this nominee. Your Committee therefore recommends that Mr. Ricky F.

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Cantero be confirmed as the Deputy Secretary of the FSM
Department of Foreign Affairs.

Your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R.
No. 21-89, and recommends its adoption in the form attached
hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly

Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir

Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses

Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth

Dion G. Neth, member

Robson U. Romolow, member