

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-10

RE: C.R. NO. 23-39/R&D

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM MRS. ELINA PAUL AKINAGA TO SERVE
AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2023

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was
referred C.R. No. 23-39, entitled:

“TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MRS. ELINA PAUL
AKINAGA TO SERVE AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA.”,

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Congressional Resolution No. 23-39 was transmitted to
Congress on August 2, 2023, through Presidential
Communication No. 23-82, and the nominee's bio data was
enclosed with the said communication.

Your Committee did not conduct any public hearing on
Congressional Resolution No. 23-39, but wants to reference

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the nominee's report, as referenced in Standing Committee Report No. 22-08 of the Twenty-Second FSM Congress.

As referenced in SCR No. 22-08 of the Twenty-Second FSM Congress, the nominee is a people's person, a people oriented and family oriented person.

On her experience in public service, she started with the FSM Public Auditor's Office under the leadership of Public Auditor Haser Heinrich. She began to appreciate how government operates through her work on performance auditing. She was able to look at issues and identifying findings on those issues. Thus, her exposure on the understanding of the findings on how the three branches of government operate gave her a good picture on how our government operates.

She was previously employed with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM). At DECCEM, she learned to appreciate the importance of our environment, and that is where she learned how to develop plans, policies and procedures whereas from an auditor's perspective she was just reviewing them. She also learned disaster cycles, and was able to work alongside the states and municipalities on how to mitigate climate change impact or effects.

Finally, she moved to the FSM Department of Resources and Development where she oversees the Tourism Division under the department, and that is where she is today. During the time the former Secretary of the Department, the late Marion Henry, was referred off island, he had designated her to be the Acting Secretary. According to the nominee, she has been in the acting capacity for a while and was

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really appreciative of the support she received from the staff of the department.

The nominee served from November 2016 as an alternative member for the Micronesian Region Pacific Resilience Partnership Task Force, she explained that she was serving on that Task Force when she was employed at DECCEM, and she stated that it is an oversight on her part, and the post should be given to staff of the DECCEM.

The Committee is aware that the nominee has served as the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development during the Panuelo-Palik's administration, and she is now considered for the same position.

Your Committee on Resources and Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 23-39, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter M. Christian
Peter M. Christian, chairman

, vice chairman

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

, member

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

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Merlynn Abello-Alfonso
Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, member