

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-200

RE: C.R. NO. 19-331/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$150,057.

JANUARY 27, 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. 19-331, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$150,057 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION, TO FUND THE FSM EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND LABORATORY CAPACITY FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FROM AUGUST 1, 2016, TO JULY
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,

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Office of the President, Department of Finance and 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. There are four grant awards received each year for this particular infectious disease prevention and detection program. The grant award under discussion in this report is one of two grant awards for this program discussed at the public hearing. The second grant award is the subject of C.R. No. 19-319.

As stated in your Committee's report regarding C.R. No. 19-319, this grant supports a program that is very much a key component of the public health system. It works with all the four States to find, identify, respond, isolate, resolve and monitor an outbreak of infectious disease. When questioned by the Committee as to the improvements and challenges facing this program the Department of Health and Social Affairs responded that as the timing and severity of an infectious disease outbreak is out of everyone's control it is hard to quantify some aspects of their work, however, what they do know is that the time lapsed from identification to response to isolation has been faster than in earlier years. This is, in part, thanks to better lab capacity and ability to do more work in country, and also enhancement of data gathering.

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. The Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that consultation was being done with the state departments of health this week, and that witnesses from the State governments will be very much involved in the final distribution formula for this grant award.

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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 well.

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.

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. 19-331, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-331, 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

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member

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

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