

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-92

RE: C.R. NO. 20-131/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$693,970.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twentieth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fifth Regular Session, 2018

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was  
referred C.R. No. 20-131, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
\$693,970 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION,  
TO FUND THE FSM PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROJECT, 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 September 25, 2018, the  
witnesses present included: the Department of Health and  
Social Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and his key  
staff, a representative from the Office of the President  
and representatives the Department of Justice, and the  
Department of Finance and Administration. Your Committee

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was also fortunate to have the program manager for this program at the hearing. Your Committee values the input of the program managers as they administer the programs and can provide insight into the specific activities funded.

The program that this proposed grant supports is well known to the Committee, and grant funding has grown over the years since this program was established due to the good work in this area. The Committee initially questioned why 60% of the grant money remains at the National Government level with only 10% for each state, however a very detailed explanation was given by the program manager as to the necessity for this. The work done is divided into four parts: 1) the early detection of outbreaks, a team has been designated and is coordinated at the national level; 2) review of lab reports and disease statistics from each of the four states; 3) coordination, investigation and evaluation of any cluster of potential disease events, and 4) accumulating emergency medicine and vaccines in the FSM.

A new component to this program is the training of emergency response volunteers in all the four states, increase training in safety measures and CPR courses. This grant has allowed for evaluation of all the four state hospitals for gaps in their emergency preparedness. Once these gaps are identified additional funding can be secured to cure these. The World Health Organization has provided additional funding to assist with the deficits.

Another valuable addition provided by this program is funding has allowed for additional lab testing equipment to be purchased. Now many tests that had previously been done outside of the FSM are done here, less expensively and faster.

The Committee is appreciative of the work done by this program to expand activities and provide for our Nation's response to emergencies. Again, your Committee is

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supportive of the Department of Health and Social Affairs' efforts to provide for emergency preparedness for our Nation, and 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.20-131 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, chairman

Alik L. Alik, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

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

David W. Panuelo, member

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

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