

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14-81

RE: C.R. NO. 14-61/HESA

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS PLAN

MARCH 01, 2006

The Honorable Peter M. Christian  
Speaker, Fourteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Special Session, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 14-61, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (HESA) TO FINALIZE AND PREPARE TO IMPLEMENT AN AVIAN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

New urgency surrounds the threat of the avian influenza A (H5N1) virus given its rapid spread to Europe and Africa from its origins in Asia. This highlights the risk of introduction to the FSM and the disastrous consequences such introduction would have in the absence of a clearly-defined national strategy for preparedness and response.

The Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs (HESA) has undertaken to develop such a strategy, with the assistance of counterpart national, regional and international agencies. These efforts resulted in a draft pandemic preparedness and response plan, which included avian influenza, being completed in July 2005.

Given the increased urgency of the matter given its rapid spread, discovery of human cases, and the continued possibility of mutation of the virus to allow for human transmission, Your Committee feels that this plan should be finalized and approved, without delay, as a first step toward a comprehensive national avian influenza preparedness and response strategy.

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 14-61 and recommends its adoption.

