

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-170

RE: C.R. NO. 15-152/HESA

SUBJECT: WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

DECEMBER 03, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir  
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fifth Special Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was jointly referred Congressional Resolution No. 15-152, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND ACCEDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF AN OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES DATED JANUARY 25, 1924 AND ITS ORGANIC STATUTES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs held a public hearing on the said resolution on December 2, 2008. The first important issue that was raised is on the acceding date of the said treaty. According to the Secretary of Resources and Development, he clarified that the deadline was not a drop-dead/cut-off date. When Secretary Christian sent communication to Department of Foreign Affairs communicating the need for Congress to accede to the treaty, it was explained during the hearing that accession can still occur given that the membership fees are paid/satisfied.

On the Animal Health Regulations, there was lengthy discussion on the specifics of how FSM plans on monitoring animal welfare in the FSM, and which division is responsible for the monitoring of animal welfare. Representative from the Health Department stated that "a competent authority needs to be established" to monitor animal welfare. Secretary of Health stated that monitoring Food Safety is under Health Department, and that the two departments - Health and R&D will need to work together in terms of "safety" and "export". Concerns were raised by the committee whether Health has the capacity given its current existing state to oversee the health regulation aspect of the proposed international animal export.

The Secretary envisions (may need the assistance of her department to submit exact operational needs) that the implementation of the health regulation aspect will require upgrade training of food safety inspectors, a lab, equipments, and not certain if need a specialized

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veteran. Rough estimation of costs of implementation is between \$12,000 to \$15,000 (need to engage assistance of her staff to submit exact estimates).

Therefore, membership in the OIE will help FSM to contribute to the ongoing economic development efforts of the FSM and also would allow the FSM to pursue long-term investment opportunities in the EU markets.

Your Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs concurs with the report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-165 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 15-165.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, chairman

/s/ Claude H. Phillip  
Claude H. Phillip, vice chairman

Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Tesime Kofot  
Tesime Kofot, member

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Setiro Paul  
Setiro Paul, member

Joe N. Suka, member