

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-51

RE: P.C. 16-83 CONTAINING C.R. 16-48

DECEMBER 05, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Special Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred Presidential Communication No. 16-83 regarding C.R. No. 16-48 a resolution entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING, ACCEPTING AND RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT ON, AND RECEIPT OF, GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000, INCLUDING ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE."

begs leave to report as follows:

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

This resolution is for approval of a grant for a specific project proposal titled "Rehabilitating Land Degradation and Raising Awareness at Community Level in FSM."

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will provide a total of \$90,000 through three installments in order to complete projects submitted by the FSM in the aforementioned project proposal.

The proposal was developed and endorsed by the National Focal Point of the FSM to the UNCCD, the Division of Environment and Sustainable Development. The proposal was reviewed and developed through community and government consultation and coordination.

The grant will be used for four pilot sites in the four states:

1. Demonstration of Rehabilitation of land degradation in Kosrae and community awareness;
2. Demonstration of revegetation of mangrove plants in deforested areas in Chuuk to improve the habitats of young trees;

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3. Demonstration of cultivation of cash crops on outer islands; and
4. Reforestation of degraded savannahs to enhance vegetation.

These projects are aimed to improve the environmental situation of the Federated States of Micronesia while rehabilitating degraded lands, to educate the local community on environmental issues, to promote the protection and production of endemic species and material exchanges of seed and seedlings between villagers, to encourage community participation, to provide agricultural training and to establish pilot projects and nurseries.

The Committee finds this grant from the UNCCD to be in the best interest of the FSM due to the educational opportunities that it will provide at the grassroots level along with the economic benefits that will be provided through teaching our citizens sustainable development with environmental protection through the use and protection of our endemic treasures.

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred Presidential Communication No. 16-83 regarding C.R. No. 16-48 hereby approves this foreign financial assistance by resolution as required under FSM Const. art. XII, §1(b); 55 F.S.M.C. §210 (2).

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/

Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/

Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/

Peter M. Christian, member

/s/

Dion G. Neth, member

/s/

Setiro Paul, member

/s/

Joe N. Suka, member