STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-55

RE: C.R. NO. 20-79/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATION SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was referred C.R. No. 20-79, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO), TO FUND AND SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA'S INITIAL NON-INVASIVE CLEARING OF VEGETATION OVERGROWTH AT NAN MADOL PROJECT, ADMINISTERED BY THE FSM NATIONAL ARCHIVES, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, 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 February 13, 2018, the witnesses present included the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation Office, including the Director and his key staff, and representatives the Department of

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Justice, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Finance and Administration.

The program for maintenance of our parks and ancient/historic treasures takes significant funding and work, and this proposed grant would support this type of work at our well-known site at Nan Madol. Your Committee believes that the work done in this area is important, as we need to ensure that our Nation is meeting the challenges of preventing and controlling natural erosion, as well as, presenting the site in the most attractive state for visitors.

This small grant will be used in its entirety for the clearing of vegetation at Nan Madol, and the dredging near the site to allow for better boat access. The Committee inquired as to why the amount was so modest. The Office responded that in the past some projects funded by UNESCO were not completed and money had to be paid back. If the project under discussion is completed and done well then future funding may be forth coming in larger amounts.

The Director of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation Office advised your Committee that Pohnpei State Government, traditional leadership and all the landowners are very supportive of this project. The Office does not see any obstacle to the efficient execution of this project.

The Committee also questioned the Office as to other work being done on Nan Madol. The Office stated that the scope of a grant project to be funded by Japan is being developed that will support the building of a small museum and entrance at the Nan Madol site. This project is completely separate from the grant under discussion.

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Your Committee is supportive of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation Office's efforts to maintain and support for our Nation's historic treasures, and in particular Nan Madol, 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, and it is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No.20-79, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 20-79.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ferny S. Perman Ferny S. Perman, chairman /s/ Alik L. Alik Alik L. Alik, vice chairman

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

/s/ David W. Panuelo David W. Panuelo, member /s/ Joseph J. Urusemal Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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