

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-48

RE: C.R. NO. 20-66/EXAFF

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOE ENLET  
TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL IN  
PORTLAND, OREGON, U.S.A.

JANUARY 30, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred  
C.R. No. 20-66, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOE-  
SILEM B. ENLET TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL GENERAL IN  
PORTLAND, OREGON, U.S.A.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On December 4, 2017, the President transmitted through  
Presidential Communication No. 20-155 Congressional  
Resolution No. 20-66, which is the nomination of Mr. Joe-  
Silem B. Enlet to serve as the FSM Consul General in  
Portland, Oregon after the official opening of the FSM  
Consulate General Office in Portland, Oregon.

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In Presidential Communication No. 20-155, the bio data of the nominee was enclosed. The nominee received a Master of Divinity at the Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon, in 2013, a Bachelor of Arts at the Pacific Islands University, Guam, U.S.A. in 2007, and a Bachelor of Arts studies at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California, in 2003. The nominee is a certified Mental Health Worker with the Community Health Workers in the state of Oregon, and a Fellow at the Climate, Health and Housing Institute of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon in 2017.

For the nominee's past working experience, he has served as the President and Board member of COFA Alliance National Network (CANN) in Portland, Oregon, from 2013 to present, served as an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate Education Department of Multnomah University from 2012 to 2014, served as the Policy Commissioner and Community Engagement Liaison for the New Portlander Program in the city of Portland from 2010 to present, served as a Volunteer Organizer for the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, served on the Health Equity and Reform Team from 2014 to 2015, served as Founder and Lead Pastor of Chuuk Logos Community Church in Vancouver, Washington, served as a Mentor for the Community Leadership Institute, served as Co-Founder and Board member for the Micronesian Community Network in Honolulu, Hawaii, and served as Volunteer Tax Preparer with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Program at Goodwill Industries of Hawaii.

The nominee also participated in several trainings. He attended the Northwest Family Services, Peer Support Specialist Training focusing on Health Equity and Community Engagement. He also attended a Webinar training by the Oregon Health Authority.

The nominee was also selected to be a Keynote and Plenary Speaker at the Oregon, Health and Science University, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association Region VIII

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Conference in March 2017, at the Portland State University, "Talanoa" Series in February 2017, Oregon Health and Science University, at the Annual Pacific Islander Health Gathering at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum in Washington, D.C. and at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

On January 9, 2018, your Committee held a public hearing regarding the nomination of Mr. Joe Enlet at the FSM Consulate Office in Portland, Oregon. Present at the hearing were Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly, Senators Robson U. Romolow, Victor V. Gouland and Senator Derensio S. Konman, the Deputy Chief of Mission Jackson Soram, the First Secretary Dominic Maluchmai, the nominee and his wife, and a few members of the community in Portland, Oregon.

Chairman Paliknoa K. Welly opened the hearing and greeted everyone. He introduced the members and staff of the FSM Congress that travelled with him to the confirmation hearing. He indicated that in his ten years at the FSM Congress, this would be the first confirmation hearing to be held in the U.S. Mainland, and this is an indication that we all want the FSM Consulate Office in Portland, Oregon, to be fully staffed so consular services could be provided to our fellow Micronesians residing on the West Coast United States. Then Chairman Welly welcomed the nominee and his wife, and gave the nominee an opportunity to say a few words.

The nominee thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to comment on his nomination and reciprocated his warm greetings to the Chairman and the rest of the members of the Committee on External Affairs for taking the time to travel to Portland to conduct the hearing. He explained to the Committee that he understands very well that there are potential members in the community of Portland as well as on the West Coast of the United States that can take the

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position. He still does not know what will be the ramifications of accepting the position, but he is ready to take the responsibility to serve as the FSM Consul General in Portland, Oregon.

Chairman Welly asked the nominee who first approached him about the position. The nominee explained that when President Peter M. Christian and his entourage came to Portland to officially open the Office, the President had discussed the position with him and he had expressed his interest. Again, Chairman Welly asked the nominee why he is interested to serve as the Consul General. The nominee commented that the question was directed to him, and his answer was that he is ready to take another step to help the community in Portland or on the West Coast in a different capacity by accepting the position. He indicated that the position may be a decrease in his current remuneration, but to him, he cherishes the opportunity to serve his country over a slight decreased in salary. He indicated that his past networking experience with several community organizations in Portland gave him the confidence that he can take the responsibility.

The other members of the Committee expressed their concerns that the nominee had done exemplary works for the Pacific Islanders in Portland, and if he relinquishes some of his current duties and responsibilities, that will be a big loss to Pacific Islanders residing in the U.S. Mainland, especially in Portland. In essence, somebody needs to continue the kind of services he is currently providing. The nominee indicated that he had dedicated his time in networking with the Pacific Island Communities in Portland and he was given the credit. If he is confirmed to take the position of Consul General, he is confident that there will always be someone to take his place to maintain the networking with the Pacific Island communities in Portland. He indicated that he will be around to assist, but if the law prohibits him to be involve in any networking because

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of the role and responsibility of a Consul General, then he needs to be neutral and focus only on his areas of responsibilities.

Chairman Welly informed the nominee that currently there are no Kosraeans in the various FSM overseas missions, and why he should vote for him. The nominee indicated that he is for equity and fairness so if the opportunity opens for Kosraeans he is ready to offer his support.

The majority of the witnesses that showed up at the hearing favorably endorsed the nominee. The Deputy Chief of Mission Jackson Soram explained that it was the President who required a representative from the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C. to sit in the hearing. DCM Soram indicated that there is a real need for the office in Portland and he expressed his full support for the nominee. At the hearing, letters of support for the nominee from various organizations in Portland, Oregon, were shared which are attached and made part of this report.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment to C.R. No. 20-66, to read as follows:

- 1) Page 1, line 15, delete "Third Special Session, 2017" and insert "Third Regular Session, 2018" in lieu thereof.

Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Joe Enlet be confirmed as the FSM Consul General in Portland, Oregon. Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 20-66, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 20-66, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

Dion G. Neth, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, member

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, member