

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-61

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 20-211

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET/H&SA

MAY 24, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was jointly referred the National Government's proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 20-211 was transmitted to Congress with the National Government Fiscal Year 2019 Recommended Budget on April 1, 2018. Pursuant to Rule 7, Section 3(b) of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Twentieth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, your Committee has limited its review to those portions of the budget relating to matters under its jurisdiction. Your Committee shall review the following departments and divisions of the Department of Health and Social Affairs for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget items:

- I. Department of Health and Social Affairs
 - A. Office of the Secretary
 - B. Division of Health System Support
 - C. Division of Environmental Health Services Unit
 - D. Gender Development Unit
 - E. Sport & Youth Unit
 - F. Human Rights & Social Development
 - G. Disability & Aging Support Services

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- II. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation
- III. Grants, Subsidies & Contributions
 - A. Department of Health and Social Affairs
 - 1. Grants
 - a. National Board of Nursing & Medical Licensing
 - b. FSM Red Cross
 - c. National Therapeutics & Standards Committee
 - 2. Contributions
 - a. United Nations Fund for Population Activity (UNFPA)
 - b. World Health Organization (WHO)
 - c. FSM Amateur Sports Association
 - d. Pacific Islands Health Officer Associations (PIHOA)
 - e. Association of Territorial Health Organizations
 - f. Vaccine & TB Drug Purchasing Scheme
 - g. U.N. Women
 - h. Investing in the Youth through Sports & Health
 - i. Maintenance Effort
 - B. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation
 - 1. Contributions
 - a. UNESCO Membership Fee
 - b. NCSHPO
 - c. PARBICA
 - d. PIALA
 - e. WHC Membership Fee
 - C. FSM Social Security Administration
 - D. FSM National Government Employee's Health Insurance Plan
- IV. Capital and Human Resource Development
 - A. Department of Health and Social Affairs
 - 1. Health Services Special Pathologist
 - 2. Environment (Food & Water Lab Testing)
 - 3. Medical Specialist Team

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4. Doctors for Tomorrow Program
5. MOE-BHWP Medicine
6. National Vector Control
7. Drug Testing Program
5. National NGO & Civil Society

The Committee notes there are some minor inaccuracies in the President's budget book for FY2019, and will analyze each in the relevant category below.

This report, and all previous and subsequent reports of your Committee, should be treated as reflecting policies of the Federated States of Micronesia, as defined by Congress. It is the intent of your Committee that any commentary found in this report should be treated as policy for the guidance of the department, agencies and entities.

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs held public hearings on May 19 and 23, 2018 regarding the above budget items for the National Department of Health and Social Affairs. The Committee also held hearings with the Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation on May 21, 2018. And, public hearings were held during the January 2018, session of Congress with the FSM Social Security Administration, and the FSM National Government Employee's Health Insurance Plan, and through follow up communication.

Present at the hearings for the Department of Health & Social Affairs were the Secretary and key staff from all of her relevant divisions, representatives from the Department of Justice, the Office of the President, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the Office of Personnel.

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1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A. Administration-Office of the Secretary

	FY18 Appropriated	FY19 President Recommends	FY19 Committee Recommends
Personnel	71,675	84,406	71,675
Travel	48,000	52,000	48,000
Contract	19,602	19,602	19,602
OCE	20,700	20,700	20,700
Fixed Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	159,997	176,708	159,997
Number of Employees	3	3	3

The President's Budget Book recommends funding for FY2019 for the Office of the Secretary at \$176,708. The commentary from your Committee is as follows:

Personnel:

The President recommends \$84,406 for this category for FY19. During the hearing with the Department the Committee first questioned the Department regarding the difference in the amount requested under this category for the coming year. The Secretary stated that she was requesting a step increase for two of her employees and the accompanying salary increase.

For the past several fiscal years your Committee has noted its deep concern that there will be, if not dramatic decreases in funding in 2023, at least some step down from current funding levels. And this Committee has given voice to its strong belief that more must be done to maintain fiscal discipline at the National Government level. At this time the Committee is not recommending salary increases or level/step increases for the Office of the Secretary. Your Committee is resolved to recommend funding

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for the coming fiscal year for Personnel in the Office at FY18 levels.

In consideration of the decision described above the Committee recommends \$71,675 for the Personnel category for the Office of the Secretary for the Fiscal Year 2018.

Travel: For several years now the budget for this category has been \$48,000. The Committee questioned the proposed increase to \$52,000 for the coming FY19 and the Department responded that additional trips to Guam and Manila have been proposed for the purposes of capacity building and training. Your Committee believes the current travel budget and travel under the U.S. federally funded programs provides sufficient funding for these activities, and that no change is warranted at this time.

Your Committee recommends \$48,000 for the Travel category for the Office of the Secretary for Fiscal Year 2019.

Contract: The contracts for rent, maintenance of equipment and internet remain the same as in years past. The budget for FY19 is again recommended at \$19,602. Your Committee is satisfied, at this time, with continuing with the same budget for this category, and therefore, recommends the \$19,602 for Contract Services for the Office of the Secretary for Fiscal Year 2019.

OCE: The President has recommended funding remain the same for OCE for the coming year at \$20,700. Your Committee believes this amount will meet the needs of the Department and recommends the budget of \$20,700 for Fiscal Year 2019 for OCE for the Office of the Secretary.

Fixed Assets: No budget for fixed assets was proposed by the President or recommended by the Committee for the Office of the Secretary for Fiscal Year 2019.

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In accordance with the above analysis your Committee recommends a total of \$159,997 for the Fiscal Year 2019 for the Office of the Secretary of Health and Social Affairs.

B. Division of Health System Support

	FY18 Appropriated	FY19 President Recommends	FY19 Committee Recommends
Personnel	107,683	116,221	107,683
Travel	27,715	32,715	27,715
Contract	45,000	45,000	45,000
OCE	26,701	26,701	26,701
Fixed Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	207,099	220,637	207,099
Number of Employees	6	6	6

The President's Budget Book recommends funding for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Division of Health System Support at \$220,637. The full commentary of the Committee is as follows:

Personnel: The President proposes a slight increase in this category for the coming year, up to \$116,221 for FY19. The current personnel cost is \$107,683 and it is the intention of the Department to maintain the same number of positions in FY19 as in the current year. The Committee, therefore, corrects proposed salary for the Health Planner IV and the Program Manager to the current level as provided by the Office of Personnel, and to maintain the funding level for FY19 at \$107,683.

For the reason stated above, your Committee recommends \$107,683 for Personnel for the Division of Health System Support for the Fiscal Year 2019.

Travel: For the Fiscal Year 2019 the President proposes to increase the travel budget for this Division by \$5,000 to \$32,715.

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The Department stated that an additional trip visiting all the four states was necessary this coming fiscal year. Your Committee is not convinced that additional travel is warranted at this time, and suggests that the Department do additional activities during one of the already recommended trips.

Upon review of the budget for this category your Committee has determined that no increase in travel funding is necessary for this coming year, and therefore, recommends funding for Travel for the Division of Health System Support at \$27,715 for travel for Fiscal Year 2019.

Contract: The Committee notes that this category is proposed at the same level as appropriated in years past. The portion of funding dedicated to rent for office space at the Capital Suites remains, after investigation by the Committee, reasonable and appropriate. The Committee again recommends \$45,000 for Contract Services for the Division of Health System Support for Fiscal Year 2019.

OCE: The proposed budget for this category for FY19 is \$26,701, which is the same as the previous year. The Department stated that it believed that this budget was sufficient for the coming year.

Therefore, your Committee recommends funding of \$26,701 for OCE for Fiscal Year 2019 as recommended by the President for the Division.

Fixed Assets: No budget for fixed assets was proposed by the President or recommended by the Committee for the Division of Health System Support for Fiscal Year 2019.

After a detailed review your Committee advises the slight adjustments noted above and recommends a total of \$207,099 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Division of Health System Support.

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C. Division of Environmental Health Services

	FY18 Appropriated	FY19 President Recommends	FY19 Committee Recommends
Personnel	200,293	253,476	253,476
Travel	38,000	38,000	38,000
Contract	36,000	36,000	36,000
OCE	29,700	29,700	29,700
Fixed Assets	26,000	-0-	-0-
Total	329,993	357,176	357,176
Number of Employees	12	15	15

The President's Budget Book recommends funding for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Division of Environmental Health Services at \$357,176. The commentary of your Committee follows:

Personnel: Your Committee notes that three new positions are proposed for the Division of Environmental Health Services for FY19, these positions are National Food Inspectors. Your Committee has received this same request for several years. A very detailed explanation as to why the positions are necessary to support our Nation's efforts to export food items. This Committee takes its obligation to ensure that our food exports, especially of fish, are safe and meet health standards, very seriously. The three new positions would sit, one each, in Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. Although reluctant to increase National Government expenditure, the Committee believes that over the years this change has been well justified.

As discussed in detail above, your Committee recommends funding for Personnel for the Division of Environmental Health Services at \$253,476 for Fiscal Year 2019.

Travel: The President's recommended travel budget for this Division is approximately the same as the previous fiscal year, and your Committee concurs with a \$38,000 for Travel

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budget for the Division of Environmental Health Services for FY19.

Contract: The Committee recommends funding of the full \$36,000 for Contractual Services for FY 19 as recommended by the President for the Division of Environmental Health Services. This funding level is the same as the previous year.

OCE: The President recommends a budget of \$29,700 for OCE for this Division. During the public hearing the Secretary and the staff from this Division confirmed that this would adequately meet their needs. It is, therefore, for this reason the Committee recommends \$29,700 for the OCE category for the Division of Environmental Health Services for FY19.

Fixed Assets: The President recommended -0- in Fixed Assets for FY19, your Committee appreciates this assessment and concurs.

For the above stated reasons, your Committee concurs and recommends the President's budget at a total of \$357,176 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Division of Environmental Health Services.

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D. Gender Development Unit

	FY18 Appropriated Domestic	FY19 President Recommend Total	FY19 Committee Recommend Domestic
Personnel	22,724	26,774	22,724
Travel	5,000	29,000	29,000
Contract	-0-	10,000	10,000
OCE	6,300	45,300	30,000
Fixed Assets	-0-	3,000	3,000
Total	34,024	114,074	94,724
Number of Employees	1	1	1

The President's Budget Book recommends funding for the FY2019 budget for the Gender Development Unit at \$114,074. The commentary from your Committee is as follows:

Regarding the increase in personnel, your Committee does not agree with the creation of additional Assistant Secretary positions in the departments throughout our National Government. Therefore, it recommends the position in this Unit be maintained at the current personnel level. It does request the Department of Health & Social Affairs and Departments of Justice and Finance ensure that the position is paid at the correct, appropriated level rather than the probationary level.

Your Committee agrees that increases are necessary for this Unit in the categories of travel and contractual in order to be effect. The Department made a strong showing for the activities requested.

As to the OCE category the Committee believes that additional funding is necessary for planning and implementation of the outcomes from the women's conference, however, does not agree that training of caregivers is

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appropriate under this Unit. It does not recommend this line item. The Committee agrees that the Unit needs an additional laptop computer.

In light of the above analysis, your Committee recommends \$94,724 for the Gender Development Unit for the Fiscal Year 2019.

E. Sport & Youth Unit

	FY2018 Appropriation	FY2019 President Recommends	FY2019 Committee Recommends
Personnel	19,070	45,941	45,941
Travel	11,500	11,500	11,500
Contract	8,015	8,015	8,015
OCE	6,750	6,750	6,750
Fixed Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	45,335	72,206	72,206
# Employees	1	2	2

The President's Budget Book recommends funding for the FY2019 budget for the Sport & Youth Unit at \$72,206. The commentary from your Committee is as follows:

Your Committee was advised that the temporary transfer of one position to the Department of Education was to provide support for the Micro Games in Yap in summer 2018. Under an Executive Order by the President this is to be temporary and the Department of Health & Social Affairs confirmed its desire to have the employee back prior to the beginning of FY19. Your Committee concurs with this request.

In all other categories the budget for this Unit remains the same. Your Committee appreciates maintaining the previous year's funding levels.

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The Committee, therefore, recommends \$72,206 as budget for the Sport & Youth Unit for Fiscal Year 2019.

F. Human Rights & Social Development Unit

The President proposes a new Human Rights & Social Development Unit under the Department of Health & Social Affairs. This new unit is proposed to have a budget of \$10,000.

Your Committee believes that some funding is necessary for the meeting and coordination efforts in moving forward on our various human rights commitments, however, it does not feel that the additional printing costs are justified at this time.

Therefore, your Committee recommends a FY2019 for the Human Rights & Social Development Unit budget of \$5,000.

II. Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation

	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2019 President Recommends	FY2019 Committee Recommends
Personnel	123,701	138,576	138,576
Travel	34,503	35,574	35,574
Contract	10,425	10,452	10,452
OCE	19,892	20,289	20,289
Fixed Assets	7,297	25,000	-0-
Total	195,818	229,891	204,891
# Employees	6	7	7

Your Committee, during its May 21, 2018, public hearing with the Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation, conducted a detailed oversight and budget investigation with the Office. The President

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recommends a budget of \$229,891 for FY19 for the Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation.

The Committee has received recommendations for two years by the President to include an additional position of Archivist. The Office stated that this position has become urgent as additional collections and materials have come into the possession of the Office. Your Committee agrees that the preservation of our important cultural and historical objects is very important, and therefore, recommends the inclusion of this position into the FY19 budget.

The three categories of travel, contractual and OCE are recommended to increase very slightly. Your Committee concurs that costs are rising moderately year to year and recommends the funding levels proposed by the President. In FY19 there is also a recommendation for a new vehicle. In order to contain the budget for the coming year your Committee does not recommend any fixed asset funding at this time.

For the reasons stated above, your Committee recommends \$204,891 as the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation.

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III. Grants, Subsidies & Contributions

A. Department of Health and Social Affairs

	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2019 President Recommends	FY2019 Committee Recommends
UNFPA	3,000	3,000	3,000
WHO	4,000	4,650	4,650
FSM Sport Assoc.	20,000	-0-	-0-
PIHOA	20,000	20,000	20,000
Territorial Health	4,000	4,000	4,000
Nurse Licensing	20,000	52,000	20,000
Red Cross	70,000	110,000	70,000
Vaccine Purchase	50,000	50,000	50,000
UN Women	1,000	1,000	1,000
Standards Comm.	-0-	37,000	-0-
Drug Quality Test	-0-	30,000	4,000
AMR	-0-	10,000	-0-
Surveillance & Control Project	-0-	70,000	-0-
TOTAL	195,000	391,650	176,650

The requested Grants, Subsidies & Contributions for Fiscal Year 2019 are \$391,650. The Committee reiterates the need to maintain or decrease funding levels at the National Government level except in the most urgent and justified situations.

Your Committee agrees that all line items for organization fees should be funded as in previous years. As to the

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increase in the Nurses Licensing line item your Committee disagrees with adding additional staff and duties to that committee. Likewise, the Committee has before it a request for additional funding for staff as funding from an outside donor has been withdrawn. Your Committee strongly states that it supports a contribution by this Nation to the Red Cross but the local branch needs to increase its efforts at being self-sustaining, and therefore, does not recommend any increase.

As to the creation of a standards committee your Committee is not supportive at this time as the legislation that relates to this item has yet to be evaluated and acted on. The Committee was advised AMR project was provide awareness on over use of antibiotics. Your Committee does not believe that continued small budget awareness campaigns provide much benefit, and could be provided for during other department activities. Regarding the Drug Quality Testing project this is corrected to propose funding of only \$4,000 as the bulk of the testing cost is provided by a grant from Australia. The only cost to the FSM is \$4,000 for freight. Your Committee is aware of the need for this project and believes it important to our Nation's health. The last project proposed is for Surveillance & Control to combat communicable disease. It would work in conjunction with professionals in Guam. The activities described in the proposal for this project have be dealt with in U.S. federally funded grants and does not want to see duplication of effort, so does not recommend.

After making its review your Committee advises the adjustments as set forth above and recommends a total of \$176,650 for Fiscal Year 2019 for the Grants, Subsidies & Contributions for the Department of Health and Social Affairs.

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**B. Office of National Archives, Culture and
Historic Preservation**

	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2019 President Recommends	FY2019 Committee Recommends
UNESCO	4,000	4,000	4,000
NCSHPO	2,760	2,760	2,760
PARBICA	100	100	100
PIALA	100	100	100
WHC	54	54	54
Library fee	50	50	50
Prior UNESCO fees	84,000	-0-	-0-
Total	91,064	6,974	6,974

The President's proposed subsidies for the Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation for FY19 have returned to the level of previous years prior to FY18. Now that the past due UNESCO obligations have been satisfied only the regular, periodic fees for membership to relevant organizations is due. Your Committee concurs with and recommends the proposed budget of \$6,974 for FY19.

C. Other Grants, Subsidies & Contributions

FSM Social Security Administration

Your Committee held public hearings and informal meetings in the January 2018 regular session with the Social Security Administration and confirmed their requested grant for Fiscal Year 2019 in the May regular session.

During the January 2018 regular session the Administration gave your Committee a presentation, which included the most recent financial analysis for the organization. As a result of this presentation and your Committee's oversight investigation it has determined that a subsidy is necessary

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FY19. The Administration continues to face a short fall between the amount of contributions collected and the benefits paid out.

Continuing oversight should be done regarding the Administration's financial solvency, and particularly in light of the upcoming Compact declines in funding. But, as to the coming fiscal year, your Committee has taken decision to include a subsidy for the Social Security Administration of \$1,000,000 for FY19.

FSM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

A public hearings and informal meetings were held with the FSM National Government Employee's Health Insurance Plan during the January 2018 regular session. During those meetings your Committee encouraged the Plan to further organize and review their needs for the upcoming fiscal year, and it indicated its willingness to entertain well organized requests, so long as they came with a detailed budget and good analysis as to the benefits to the Plan. However, no subsidy was proposed in the President's April 1, 2018, transmission of the FY19 budget, therefore, your Committee defers to the recommendation of the President.

For the reasons stated above, the Committee recommends a subsidy to the FSM National Government Employee's Health Insurance Plan of -0- for FY19.

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IV. Capital and Human Resource Development

Department of Health and Social Affairs

	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2019 President Recommends	FY2019 Committee Recommends
Pathologist	58,000	110,000	-0-
Food/Water Lab	78,000	58,000	58,000
Medical Team	195,000	-0-	-0-
Health Sector Arrears Project	-0-	-0-	-0-
Food Safety Office Chuuk	-0-	-0-	-0-
Doctors: Foundation Project	127,500	250,500	-0-
MOE-BHWP Med	-0-	22,200	22,200
Empower Youth	-0-	-0-	-0-
Nat'l Surveillance	-0-	-0-	-0-
Drug Testing	-0-	-0-	-0-
Nat'l NGO	-0-	-0-	-0-
Women Conf	90,000	-0-	-0-
Electronic Records	-0-	250,000	-0-
Youth Sport	-0-	120,000	-0-
Rheumatic Heart	-0-	110,000	-0-
Total	548,500	920,700	80,200

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The President has recommended funding for several new projects for the Department of Health & Social Affairs for the coming FY19 with a substantial increase in requested funding at \$920,700.

After review of the projects presented under this section by the Department of Health & Social Affairs your Committee believes that several activities are best funded and performed at the state level. Starting with the proposed funding increase for pathology from \$58,000 in the current FY18 to a proposed \$110,000 in FY19. During the investigation and evaluation process your Committee ascertained that most of the proposed work under this project is already being done in the states. The Committee is not closed to the idea of supporting this type of health work, but would rather see specific requests for support from each state if needed.

The laboratory funding for food and water testing is proposed at a decrease for the coming year and that is acceptable to your Committee at \$58,000.

After a detailed hearing and review of documentation regarding the Doctors for Tomorrow project your Committee wishes to state that it strongly supports investment in our young people going into the health professions. It also, however, strongly believes that funding for this project should sit with the National Scholarship and awards should be determined by the National Scholarship standards. This is most properly under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education.

The MOE-BHWP project to provide a small amount of shared funding to support our U.S. federally funded grant for mental health services and support is appropriate and in a reasonable amount.

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There is a request for funding for a project to work on electronic health records at the national level. This funding request is similar to grants previously received from the U.S. The Committee declines to fund this project until it reviews what has been done on the previous grants and can evaluate whether additional funding is necessary.

Also, there is a request for funding for youth sport activities. The Committee reiterates that this is the type of activity that is best done at the state level. Finally, as to further initiatives regarding the screening, prevention and control of rheumatic heart disease, the continuation of this work should be conducted at the state level.

Your Committee recommends \$80,200 for the Department of Health and Social Affairs for its items under Capital and Human Resource Development for the Fiscal Year 2019.

V. Summary

This completes the recommendations of your Committee for the budgets for the Fiscal Year 2019 for the National Department of Health and Social Affairs offices and divisions under its jurisdiction. With the elimination of the National share of the Compact Health Sector Grant five years ago the entire budget for Fiscal Year 2019 is to be funded from Domestic Revenue. **While consideration was given to the budget as transmitted by the President your Committee on Health and Social Affairs has departed from the President's recommendations in several instances. Your Committee, for the reasons stated above, recommends funding of \$2,364,917 for the Department of Health and Social Affairs and other agencies under its jurisdiction for the Fiscal Year 2019.**

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Subject to the conditions and limitations set forth herein, and subject to the concurrence of your Committee on Ways and Means, your Committee recommends approval of the amounts and source of funds identified as Committee Recommendations.

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

David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

Derensio S. Konman, member