

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-10

RE: C.R. NO. 22-13/EXAFF

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF JOHNSON ELIMO TO SERVE AS FSM  
CONSUL GENERAL HONOLULU, HAWAII.

JULY 21, 2021

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty Second Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Special Session, 2021

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.  
No. 22-13, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.  
JOHNSON ELIMO TO SERVE AS THE FSM CONSUL  
GENERAL IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On July 13, 2021, your Committee on External Affairs held a  
public hearing on the nomination of Mr. Johnson Elimo for the  
FSM Consul General in Hawaii. Present at this hearing were the  
nominee, representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Office of the President and the Department of Justice. Present

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at the hearing also were the Governor of the State of Kosrae and representatives for Chuuk State leadership.

Your Committee is mindful of the need for strong leadership in our Nation's overseas mission offices. This is particularly true for the Hawaii Consulate Office during this very disruptive period of pandemic and economic upheaval. The position of Consul General has been vacant for some time and this delays critical services and information reaching our citizens there. It is therefore, important that this position be filled as soon as possible with an individual with the highest levels of integrity and competence.

The Committee began the hearing by asking the Department of Foreign Affairs for a statement. The Deputy Secretary for the Department stressed the need to fill the post quickly as citizens stranded in Hawaii by the pandemic needed assistance with repatriation, many citizens living in Hawaii have been economically impacted by the pandemic and need support, as well as, routine consular activities and diplomatic business.

The Deputy Secretary further stated that the very strong credentials of the nominee made him an excellent choice for the post. As a former governor he has strong leadership ability and an understanding of the needs of our Nation. The Deputy Secretary further stated that the nominee was diplomatic and had the personal characteristics necessary for the job.

Then the nominee was asked for his statement. The nominee stated he was honored to be considered for the post and was committed to doing his utmost. He further stated he was committed to the mission and looked forward to working with our

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citizens in Hawaii, the Department, and State and National leadership.

The Committee questioned the nominee as to whether he was willing and able to take direction from the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as he had been the top authority as governor. The nominee stated he had no problem with the order of authority and personally had a good relationship with the individuals in the positions.

Further the Committee asked for the nominee's position on the one China policy. He stated he understood it and understood its importance to China, however, he also recognized the policies of countries such as the United States. As in most diplomatic situations the FSM is called upon to balance its many regional partners.

The nominee was also very articulate regarding the need to work with our citizens in Hawaii as the reputation of the FSM has been tarnished by a few unfortunate incidents. In resolving this issue the nominee stated more work should be done to involve our citizens in positive activities initiated by the overseas mission.

The Governor of Kosrae made a statement supporting the nominee. He is well known and known for being competent and demonstrates a willingness to work with all the relevant parties on issues.

The President's Advisor related the President's strong support for the nominee. It is also the feeling of the President that strong leadership is needed as soon as possible in Hawaii. The representative from the Department of Justice also expressed his

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Department's support and reiterated that the nominee was competent and easy to work with.

Also present at the hearing was the nominee's former Director of Finance, Mr. Tesime Kofot, who served under the nominee when he was governor. Mr. Kofot spoke highly of the nominee as a manager who was able to get things done, who did not promote favorites and worked for all the people.

The Committee is very satisfied with the nominee's qualifications and his ability. All witnesses spoke very highly of the nominee. Your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. Johnson Elimo be confirmed as Consul General for Hawaii.

Your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R.No. 22-13, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
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Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

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

/s/ Victor V. Gouland  
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Victor V. Gouland, member

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Esmond B. Moses member

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
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Dion G. Neth, member

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Robson U. Romolow, member