

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2023

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was referred Presidential Communication No. 23-100 transmitting the National Government's revised proposed FY2024 budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 23-100 was transmitted to Congress on August 17, 2023 with the *FY2024 Recommended Budget Comparative Sheet*. Presidential Communication No. 22-422 was transmitted to Congress on March 31, 2023 with the *National Government Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget* ("Budget Book"). Pursuant to Rule 7, Section 7(b), of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, your Committee has limited its review to those portions of the budget under its jurisdiction. These are:

- I. Department of Health and Social Affairs
 - A. Office of the Secretary
 - B. Division of Health
 - C. Health System Support Unit
 - D. Environmental Health Services Unit
 - E. Division of Social Affairs
 - F. Gender Development Unit
 - G. Sports Development & Physical Activity Unit
 - H. Youth Support Services
 - I. Disability & Elderly Services
- II. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation
- III. Grants, Subsidies & Contributions
 - A. Department of Health and Social Affairs
 1. United Nations Fund for Population Activity (UNFPA)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

2. World Health Organization (WHO)
3. Pacific Islands Health Officer Associations (PIHOA)
4. Association of Territorial Health Organizations (ASTHO)
5. National Board of Nursing & Medical Licensing
6. FSM Red Cross
7. UNICEF (Vaccine & TB Drugs)
8. UN-FSM Women (CEDAW)
9. Drug Quality Testing Project
10. Therapeutics & Standards Committee
- B. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation
 1. UNESCO Membership Fee
 2. National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO)
 3. Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)
 4. Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA)
 5. World Heritage Centre (WHC)
 6. Library Fee
- C. Other Grants, Subsidies & Contributions
 1. FSM Social Security
 2. MiCare Health Insurance Plan
 3. Micronesia (FSM) Red Cross Society Annual Statutory Contribution to IFRC and ICRC
 4. School Health Services
- IV. Capital and Human Resource Development - Department of Health and Social Affairs
 - A. Medical Specialist Team
 - B. School Health Services, provided that funding used for sore throat screening in elementary and secondary schools
 - C. MOE – BHWP Medicine
 - D. Electronic Health Record System
 - E. Rheumatic Heart Program
 - F. Youth in Sports Program
 - G. Histopathology and Diagnostic
 - H. Competent Authority
 - I. Vector Surveillance
 - J. IHR Core Capacity to Improve Health Security
 - K. Medical Professional Recruitment
 - L. Pathologist
 - M. Psychologist
 - N. FSM Pharmaceutical Act Implementation

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

This report, and all previous and subsequent reports by this Committee, should be treated as policy for this Nation, as defined by Congress. It is the intent of your Committee that any commentary found in this report should be treated as guidance for the relevant departments, agencies, and offices.

Your Committee held a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget on May 30, 2023 and July 13, 2023.

Summary of H&SA Committee May 30, 2023 Public Hearing:

On May 30, 2023, the Committee on Health and Social Affairs held a budget hearing on the Department of Health and Social Affairs Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Executive Recommended Budget.

H&SA Committee Members present at the hearing were: Chairwoman Perpetua S. Konman, Vice chairwoman Merlynn Abello Alfonso, Speaker Esmond B. Moses, and Senator Joseph J. Urusemal.

The witnesses present at the hearing were: Augustine Koehler, Acting Director of the Office of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation (NACH), Shirlynn Abraham with NACH, Leon Panuelo, Administrator of the FSM Social Security Administration (SSA), Franky Illai, Deputy Administrator of SSA, Jack Harris, Chairman of the FSM Social Security Board, and Jacky Salomon, Administrator for MiCare Health Insurance Plan (MiCare).

Committee Chairwoman Konman opened the hearing by welcoming the witnesses, congressional members, staff, and public present at the hearing.

National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation (NACH)

Committee Chairwoman Konman detailed a summary of the FY2024 Executive Recommended Budget and changes in the budget based on the FY2023 Approved Budget, encompassing the budget funded by the General Fund, U.S. Federal Grants, and Other Foreign Aid Assistance. The Committee Chairwoman asked the NACH witnesses to justify the increases in the FY2024 Recommended Budget for the Office of NACH.

On the matter of the personnel budget, Chairwoman specifically questioned the Acting Director on the 2 vacant positions at the office

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

and inquired as to what efforts the office have made to increase hiring efforts to fill these positions. In addition, the Chairwoman asked whether the office has compared the offered director position salary to similar positions in the Pacific Island region.

Acting Director Augustine Koehler testified that the office requested \$40,000 for Director salary position but supports the Executive recommended salary of \$50,000. Acting Director added that \$40,000 salary is a comparable salary for similar director positions in the Pacific region, and only 1 position at the office remains vacant, the microfilm evaluator. Mr. Koehler is currently serving in both positions as National Historic Preservation Officer and NACH Director. The microfilm evaluator position is vacant and the Office intends to remove this position and replace with a digitizer position, because microfilm is now outdated method to preserving records, documents, pictures, and papers. Digitizing is a modern and efficient method of preservation. The microfilm position may be require higher salary and the office can prepare a budget proposal to submit for the position.

In regards to the office travel budget request, Chairwoman questioned the Acting Director on the 80% increase and whether the domestic travel for consultations and meetings with national and state historic preservation officers could be conducted remotely via zoom. Chairwoman also questioned the Acting Director on the office fixed assets budget request of \$7,000 for a flat screen television.

Acting Director testified that the office needs the restoration to the travel budget because will cover travel to conduct updated training in the field with the archaeologist and oversight functions, and the annual training meetings are rotated to the different state each year. Acting Director added that the funding is used efficiently as the domestic travel training meeting is used to conduct multiple trainings and related grant work activities, including UNESCO, preservation, and Museum and Library Services work. Acting Director testified that to conduct and display presentations for trainings and meetings. The television is requested for use in the future Convention Center where NACH will have an office.

Chairwoman questioned the Acting Director on the basis for the office expectation of \$369,799 in U.S. Federal Grants fund, an \$142,511 increase from FY23. Chairwoman also asked the Acting Director to opine on the impact and benefit on NACH work by virtue of membership in the organizations funded by national government subsidies and

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

contributions, including but not limited to UNESCO, and National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officer.

Acting Director testified the benefits of direct access and increased support, and will increase with the UNESCO formal establishment of a permanent mission in the Pacific. Importantly, FSM has a desk at the UNESCO education office on the ground in Fiji and receive technical assistance in sharing and educating on our culture, historic sites and preservation efforts. In addition, the Archaeologist and anthropologist are funded by U.S. Federal grants. Further, NACH receives around \$500,000 in funding from the U.S. Park Services and membership provides NACH with a voice on the board, to ensure FSM is involved in decision-making and can align the U.S. Park Services with the NACH. NACH is an active participant in these organizations.

FSM Social Security Administration (SSA)

Committee Chairwoman Konman detailed the FY2024 Executive Recommended Budget subsidy request of \$1,000,000 for the FSM SSA. Chairwoman asked FSM SSA to justify the subsidy request, and provide a financial summary of the SSA with breakdown of current annual operational costs, tax contributions paid into the social security and benefit payments. Chairwoman asked the SSA to provide the 2022 total revenue received by SSA, total benefits out in 2022, and total administrative costs and expences in 2022.

Administrator Panuelo testified that SSA received \$21,879,911 in benefit contributions in 2022 and paid out \$23,687,079 in benefits. These figures represented a contribution increase by 1.7%. Administrator explained the SSA is operating at a \$2.6 million deficit, with administrative expenses totaling around \$1.1 million. The total cost is about \$3.8 million, which resulted in the SSA withdrawing \$2.4 million from the Trust Fund to count for the shortfall. Any surpluses that are taken out from a previous year is used to cover the anticipated shortfall for the next year.

Administrator noted the 2022 figures did not include the impact of the new law, Public Law No. 22-170, which permitted persons 65 years or older to collect 50% of their retirement benefits and still work. Administrator acknowledged the stability of the social security system as an ongoing challenge and part of addressing this is to decrease the amount being withdrawn from the Trust Fund to pay out benefits, as this will increasingly affect the earning potential of the Trust Fund. In

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

December 2021, there was \$58,521,403 in the Trust Fund, but as of December 2022 there was only \$45,524,887.

The SSA is projected to withdraw \$2 million from the Trust Fund, with anticipating the need to withdraw \$1 million in September 2023 and \$1 million in November 2023.

Chairwoman asked SSA if they expect the amount of benefits paid out to increase. The Committee raised the data figures, which actually showed the SSA received \$971,421.41 in contributions for the 1st quarter (7 pay periods), now when Public Law No. 22-170 is being implemented, in comparison to last quarter where received \$726,466.96 in contributions. This represents an contribution increase of \$244,000.

Administrator testified to the difficulty of knowing the precise impact, but submitted their projects to the Executive when Public Law No. 21-66 was still being considered, and estimated the impact to be \$700,000. Administrator noted that they expect benefit payouts to increase unless major amendments are made to the law.

Senator Urusemal followed up to the Chairwoman's question further inquiring with the SSA whether Public Law No. 22-170 impacts the social security system. Senator also asked SSA to report on the FY24 projected shortfall.

Administrator testified that current financial state of SSA, which is impacted by the law, is not impacted the social security system positively, and only increasing the negative withdraw from the system. Administrator reported the FY24 projected shortfall as \$5 million, around an additional \$2 million they will need to withdraw from the Trust Fund in comparison to FY22 and FY23, taking into consideration that Congress provides a \$1 million subsidy.

Senator Urusemal questioned SSA on the delinquent employers that own social security tax contributions effective December 31, 2022. Senator followed up with additional questions on how SSA is managing the books and the unfunded liability.

Deputy Administrator Frankly Illai explained the overall delinquency employer owed social security tax contributions is \$6.3 million, with \$3.8 million of those employers inactive, and \$2.5 million are active employers. Administrator added that the SSA is waiting on completion of the actuarial study report, so the administration can see the

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

combination of proposed amendments to the law that are needed to help decrease the deficit and manage the budget. According to the Administrator, the last actuarial study reported the unfunded liability at \$3.3 million plus. The SSA stated it depends upon actuarians to provide the studies and proposed change, which previous actuarial recommendations were submitted to Congress.

Senator Urusemal expressed the urgent need to spur job creation as one tool to increase social security tax contributions to help support the social security system.

Social Security Board Trustee Chairman Jack Harris testified the Board Members were just recently confirmed to form a full board in April 2023. Mr. Harris informed the Committee that the Social Security Board have scheduled a upcoming meeting in Yap to finally convene the board. Mr. Harris expressed that the Social Security Board will sit down with Congress and the new Executive's Administration.

MiCare Health Insurance Plan

Senator Urusemal asked MiCare to provide a financial summary of MiCare with breakdown of current annual operational costs, revenue, and health benefit coverage payments.

Administrator Jacky Salomon explained that the FSM national government is the largest premium provider, accounting for almost 70% of the bottom line. The second largest premium provider is the state government employees followed by private businesses. Administrator testified that last year, MiCare collected a little over \$6 million, 10% of which is appropriated for administration and operation costs, and remaining to cover medical claims and access to health care outside the FSM. MiCare approved budget is \$6.9 million, of which \$6.8 million is paid out in medical claims per year. Any remaining is put into the Trust Fund and MiCare has recently began operating at a deficit. Administrator further explained that MiCare may come back after meeting with the Board to submit a subsidy request.

The Committee expressed serious concern on the operations costs and veracity of medical claims, if MiCare is paying out nearly \$7 million a year to an insured population of around only 15,000. Based on the budget hearing testimony, MiCare is paying out all if not more than

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

contributions received, which is not rationale for such a small insured population.

Senator Urusemal asked the Administrator about MiCare's backlog and the standard processing time for claim review and verification.

Administrator stated that previous Congress subsidy in FY2019 and FY2020 was used to cover accounts payable to cover the Philippines, a backlog of claims that were not process. Administrator recognized that have backlog of claims with hospitals due to being short staffed with no administrator and medical consultant. As such the backlog of claims could not be paid out to the service process, which piled up to over \$500,000. Administrator identified having a backlog of around \$300,000 to Medical City in Bangkok, Thailand and backlog at Genesis of close to \$1 million from over the past two years.

The Administrator discussed that he pushed for the medical consultant and utilization reviewer to help relieve the backlog and purchase of an electronic system for medical claims should help speed up claims processing as well. Administrator explained the new role including the administrator position and medical consultant. The medical consultant role is to review and process claims, and make sure facilities are not overcharging, or adding unnecessary medical costs or costs not authorized and/or done without guaranty from MiCare. Administrator added that with the new members of the MiCare Board finally confirmed, the board is fully formed and ready to act. Administrator added that one of the first things he did as the new Administrator was conduct an operational audit on the MiCare process.

Senator Urusemal questioned Administrator if MiCare covers medical services and/or claims from Pohnpei Community Health.

Administrator informed the Committee that the previous administration provided medical coverage for Pohnpei Community Health, and they received medical grants. MiCare's contract with Pohnpei Community Health expired last year and this is an issue that the Board is going to discuss on whether to renew or not.

Senator Urusemal questioned MiCare on their outstanding billing receivables, and the time period to review and issue payment

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Administrator acknowledged that key to addressing the excessive benefit payouts is focus on increasing preventive care in the FSM. This may also present an opportunity for MiCare, where discounted health insurance plans may be offered to healthier insurance holders. Administrator also discussed the potential removal of MiCare coverage for travel expenses, would cut the coverage being paid out, as currently nearly \$500,000 is pay out on travel costs alone. The top medical referral services off island are cardiology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, urology and EMT. The majority of the referrals are from Pohnpei.

Senator Urusemal closed the hearing thanking the witnesses for their time and informing the witnesses to provide the necessary information and documentation requested by Chairwoman Konman.

Summary of H&SA Committee July 13, 2023 Public Hearing:

On July 13, 2023, the Committee on Health and Social Affairs held a budget hearing on the Department of Health and Social Affairs Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Executive Recommended Budget.

H&SA Committee Members present at the hearing were: Chairwoman Perpetua S. Konman, Senator Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, and Senator Joseph J. Urusemal.

The witnesses present at the hearing from the Department of Health and Social Affairs were: Consultant Marcus Samo, Acting Secretary Pretrick Moses, Chief Operating Officer Scott Mori, and Data Specialist Augustine Sue among other department employees.

Committee Chairwoman Konman opened the hearing by welcoming the witnesses, congressional members, staff, and public present at the hearing. The Committee Chairwoman detailed a summary of the FY2024 Recommended Budget and changes in the budget based on the FY2023 Approved Budget, encompassing the budget funded by the General Fund, U.S. Federal Grants, and Other Foreign Aid Assistance. The Committee Chairwoman asked the Department of Health and Social Affairs witnesses to justify the increases in the FY2024 Recommended Budget for the Division of Health and to address the 10 vacancies in the division.

Acting Secretary Moses testified the increase in personnel budget is largely due to the 45% salary increase for public service system employees. Consultant discusses the 10 vacant positions and explained

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

that some of the positions have been filled including the national nutritionist/health educator, gender officer and environmental health officer. However, the health planner, licensure program manager, administrative officer, national food inspector and competent authority inspector for Chuuk remain vacant.

Acting Secretary further explained the increase in contractual services, namely the cost of \$25,661 for the UNFPA office rental has increased by \$10,000 from FY23 cost of \$13,602 is due to landlord increase of rent. Consultant added that UNFPA is no longer under the Department and there is an effort by the President's Office to consolidate the office and move the department under one building with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on the request for \$35,000 for the Electronic Health Record System when the Department is receiving over \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the Component A- Strengthening the Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce and Data Systems in the FSM (5 year grant project).

Consultant testified on the importance of the national government retain ownership of this program and the \$35,000, which initially helped with the seed money for the development of the EHR, is now used for maintenance and subscription costs. Consultant added that HER is a huge investment for the country in order to move from a paper to electronic system, bringing all the state health medical centers and hospitals online to maintain electronic patient health records. Consultant noted the EHR will help with the support the census, as will know where the social and health investment is needed for planning purposes.

Senator Abello asked the Department to update the Committee on the status of the EHR implementation and goals in bringing the states fully online for patient health record system management.

The Department data specialist testified that overall the FSM is at a 60%-70% HER implementation with Pohnpei at 90%, Yap at 80%, but both Chuuk and Kosrae are behind in implementation. Consultant explained that states hired their own technicians for implementation, and both staff capacity and resistance to moving from paper record keeping to electronic is a challenge in Kosrae and Chuuk. Consultant added that

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

the cost of software and the system is already covered by U.S. Federal Grant and funding by the national government.

Acting Secretary further explained the U.S. Federal Grant for EHR will cover EHR development and upgrades to the EHR system, training for implementation, ongoing personnel costs, subscriptions to software costs, maintenance and infrastructure related costs.

Committee questioned the Acting Secretary on EHR development and upgrade costs, referring the Department's data specialist back to the Department's hearing testimony on the CDC grant for EHR held in May 2023,¹ where the Department stated the EHR development was complete and now merely an issue of implementation.

Consultant testified in response that the EHR system is developed and grant money will go into updating Yap and Kosrae's systems before continuing with progress on implementation in the other states to reach 100%. Consultant explained that is in communication with the Kosrae State Health Director to send IT staff to Kosrae to conduct the necessary upgrades and will send IT to the other states as well. Consultant added the Department is entering into envisioning telehealth being connected into the system. Consultant noted that it will take several years for the states to get the level where all state health facilities are connected and hopes to expand to private medical entities in the future.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on the request for \$32,000 to cover overtime under Environmental Health Services.

Acting Secretary explained the overtime compensation is used to fund the work of the national food inspectors and competent authority inspectors. The initial overtime budget was \$16,000 for national food inspectors, but upon establishment of the competent authority, the Department requested an additional \$16,000 to account for additional 5 competent authority inspectors.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on increase in the travel and contractual services budgets, namely the \$10,000 increase for food safety training from \$5,000 in FY23 to \$15,000 in FY24, and the \$4,000 increase for TA and Monitoring from \$6,000 in FY23 to \$10,000 in FY24.

¹ SCR No. 22-66.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

In addition, the Department's increase cost of \$12,000 for the office space rental from \$16,000 in FY23 to \$28,960 in FY24.

Chief Operating Officer testified that the proposed travel budget of \$15,000 is not enough. The cost for the training is triple the budget request, but the Department usually seeks supplemental funding from the World Health Organization. The food safety training is for food inspectors to obtain and renew their food safety certification. Acting Secretary also explained the office space rental cost is for leasing the field office space in Chuuk and Pohnpei for competent authority inspectors. The Department is also looking to have provide a separate space for field office in Yap because currently located in a small space at the state hospital. The competent authority inspectors in Kosrae currently do not have an office as it was moved out of their office in the Kosrae hospital due to renovation.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on the work performed by the national food lab consultant when the Department's FY22 Implementation Report on Foreign Assistance Funded Programs and Activities ("FY22 Implementation Report"),² provided that the Department's testing and sampling of food swaps is limited due to lack of state regulations, limited access to private businesses, and Department of Finance restraints on using funds to purchase food for sampling.

Chief Operating Officer explained the national food lab consultant is paid only to run the training for the food inspectors. Acting Secretary added that the food analyst are the personnel that actual conduct the testing work in the lab, not the consultant.

Acting Secretary requested funding for a vehicle for the environmental health services field office in Yap. Acting Secretary explained the field office in Yap currently share competent authority inspector vehicles or use their own private vehicle to conduct daily work activities.

Senator Urusemal noted that the Yap police have extra vehicles that are unused which they currently allow FSM Department of Health personnel to use. Senator Urusemal expressed support for the Department's proposed budget for FY2024.

² Dept. Comm. 22-79.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Committee Chairwoman asked the Department of Health and Social Affairs to justify the increases in the FY2024 Recommended Budget for the Division of Social Affairs, and to address the national youth program manager vacancy and proposed new positions for the division. Chairwoman noted the division's request for an administrative specialist and ability to fill the position when the administration officer position under the Division of Health remains vacant.

Data Specialist testified the division is proposing the creation of a new administrative specialist position because the division needs an administrative assistant that can work full-time (100%) on division of social affairs administrative functions and needs.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on the contractual services budget for social workers, and requested information on the number of social workers covered by \$10,000 budget and services provided by the social workers.

Acting Secretary explained the Department contracts out for 4 social workers with 1 social worker placed in each state. Acting Secretary further explained that the \$10,000 only covers partial funding for social workers salaries, and the SPC among other grant sources funds the salaries for the social workers. Acting Secretary noted that the social worker position in Chuuk is vacant, but all other states are filled.

Senator Abello expressed support for appropriating more funding for the Department to hire more social workers. Senator Abello explained the need to have social workers in the remote islands and being able to visit individual's homes to provide support.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on Sports Development & Physical Activity unit's travel budget request of \$8,000 for the Olympics. The Committee asked for information on how many people are able to travel under this \$8,000 to the Olympics and which sports the FSM would compete. Chairwoman also asked the Department to explain the benefits of Oceania membership.

Acting Secretary testified in response that the Department would need to follow-up on the Committee's request in regards to the Olympics travel budget and Oceania membership.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Chairwoman noted the failure of the Department to report on the Sports Development & Physical Activity program and activity implementation in the FY22 Implementation Report after repeated requests to the Department. Chairwoman requested the Department provide the report to the Committee.

Acting Secretary testified in response that the Department will provide the Sports Development report to the Committee.

Chairwoman questioned the Department on the increase travel budget for youth program manager to fund state visits from \$3,105 in FY23 to \$7,680 in FY24. Chairwoman further asked the Department to provide information on the number of visits completed in FY23 and whether these meetings and consultations could be conducted remotely via Zoom.

Acting Secretary testified that the travel cost for 1 visit to each state is \$3,000, but now the division is seeking to increase the number of visits, with 2 visits per state.

The Department also acknowledged the overall Department's request for 80% restoration of the travel budget to FY19 levels and expressed need for even more than the Executive's proposed \$216,601 for the Department's travel budget. Department representatives expressed sentiment that some travel can be conducted remotely instead and some regional and international meetings provide virtual options, but it is important to conduct face to face meetings to ensure the state and staff get the most out of these meetings. The Department noted the in-person interaction and networking is invaluable, and the goal is to get back to normal work operations and have the capability to conduct efficient oversight and monitoring of program implementation in the states.

Senator Abello expressed support for increasing the Department's travel budget for FY24, detailing that the Department needs funding in order to achieve the program goals and with rising costs, travel costs will be higher.

Chairwoman proceeded with review of the Departments' request of funding for subsidies, grants, and contributions, and capital and human resources development. Chairwoman particularly questioned the decrease in the amount requested for the medical specialist team down from \$195,000 (FY23 request) to \$120,000 (FY24 request).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Consultant testified the decrease in the medical specialist team request is because the Department still has funds remaining in that account from previous years. Consultant explained that due to the COVID19 border closures for the last few years, medical specialist teams were not brought into the country. Consultant added that the decreased budget request for medical specialist teams should not be interpreted that this area is less of a priority for the Department.

Senator Urusemal raised concerns on the need for an EENT doctor (eye, nose, and throat) and rheumatic heart specialist in Yap. Chairwoman added to the serious concerns of rheumatic heart disease in the nation and expressed the need for health education programs in the division.

Consultant testified that the Department is working with medical specialist teams to work out a schedule to bring in a cardiologist in January 2024 to provide services in all the states and EENT doctors. Consultant expressed the need for continued funding from Congress for medical specialist teams.

Acting Secretary testified the Department secured funding from the World Health Organization (WHO) to work on health programs with state departments of education. Acting Secretary added that there is a pilot program in Chuuk, collaboration between the WHO and Chuuk State.

Consultant raised funding for pathologist and expressed needs for recruitment as the current pathologist may be seeking to retire and the Department will need a replacement. Consultant explained the Department has began recruitment efforts and is currently funding a lab technician's studies/training in Fiji so the lab technician can have the expertise to perform body tissues cutting in preparation for reading. The center in Japan will conduct the reading as there is no pathology lab in the FSM. Consultant added that there is also the potential to contract a pathologist from the Philippines to provide support in the interim if the current pathologist retires.

Senator Abello asked the Department on their plans to fund dialysis as this is a critical medical operational service needed in the country as Pohnpei state hospital was the only hospital providing dialysis services in the past.

Consultant testified that Congress provided funding for the purchase of dialysis machines and the Department purchased 4 to 5 dialysis machines. Some of the dialysis machines are being used, but not all.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Consultant added that the Department is working with Pohnpei State and dialysis services have resumed. The Department's intention is to find additional funding to support dialysis services.

Chairwoman gave her closing remarks on the Department FY24 Recommend Budget, namely detailing the need to increase rheumatic heart disease prevention services as the purchase echocardiographic machines are expensive and do not prevent the disease. Chairwoman also raised the need to deploy creative solutions to cold storage refrigeration of medicines and vaccines, decentralization of immunization program where vaccines can be also be provided at dispensaries, and need to coordinate school health services across state departments. Chairwoman requested the Department provide a FY24 budget for school health services, noting students need for counseling services and nurses in schools. Chairwoman also requested the Department to provide the updated MCH Data Matrix and FPAR data, noting the discrepancies in the FY22 Implementation Report.

Chairwoman thanked the witnesses for their testimony at the hearing and opened the floor to witness closing statements.

Acting Secretary thanked the Committee for providing the Department with the opportunity to discuss the Department's FY24 budget. Acting Secretary expressed support for Congress continued funding of the pathologist under capital and human resources development, but noted that the Department may be able to find other additional sources of funding for next year.

Consultant expressed support for FY24 funding for school health services and noted the need to look into the human resource costs to implement such an initiative. Consultant requested the Committee insert some seed money for school health services in the FY24 budget, while the Department explores donor funding options. Consultant added that the school health services initiatives must be completed at the state level, but will inquire into whether the UNICEF grant, C.R. 22-221 (\$4.7 million), with a grant project period from 2023 to 2027 that is state focused, can be used to help support school health services.

Department staff Exner from the Non-Communicable Disease section added to Consultant's closing statement in support of the school health initiative to provide the state's with the needed support to ensure our children are healthy and safe. Department staff added that cervical cancer is a priority for the Department. NCD section collaboration with

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

development partners are piloting DNA testing program in Yap to identify cervical cancer or genes that are predisposed to cervical cancer. NCD section hopes to expand the program to the other states.

Chairwoman Konman adjourned the hearing.

COMMITTEE FY2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee deliberated on the findings and all information gathered from the May 30, 2023 and July 30, 2023 hearings. This Standing Committee Report reflects the recommendations of your Committee on Health and Social Affairs regarding the proposed FY2024 Recommended Budget under its jurisdiction.

The Committee's FY2024 Budget recommendations are set forth in this report in the columns titled "FY24 Committee Recommended Budget."

I. Department of Health and Social Affairs:

The Department of Health and Social Affairs for FY2024 is funded by the General Fund, U.S. Federal Grants, and Other Foreign Assistance as detailed below³:

Funding Source	FY2024
General Fund (Recommended)	\$1,417,640
U.S. Federal Grants	\$5,154,447
Foreign Aid Assistance	\$1,141,201
Total	\$7,713,288

The Comparative Budget Report for the Department of Health and Social Affairs from FY2022 to FY2024 is as follows:

FY2022 Approved Budget	\$1,097,055
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³ FY2024 Recommended Budget Book at 65.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

FY2023 Approved Budget (includes Supplemental) ⁴	\$1,498,647
FY2024 Recommended Budget	\$1,417,640

The Executive reported 5-year budget trend for the divisions and offices under the Department of Health and Social Affairs is as follows:⁵

Office/ Division/ Unit	FY2022 Approved Budget	FY2023 Approved Budget	FY2024 Executive Recommended Budget	FY2025 Estimates	FY2026 Estimates
Office of Secretary	\$179,593	\$181,546	\$222,365	\$224,588	\$226,834
Division of Health Services	\$0	\$28,060	\$39,179	\$39,571	\$39,966
Health Systems Support	\$240,320	\$241,125	\$294,764	\$297,712	\$300,689
Environmental Health Services	\$514,006	\$535,791	\$679,493	\$686,288	\$693,151
Division of Social Services	\$0	\$28,060	\$39,179	\$39,571	\$39,966
Gender Development	\$102,807	\$75,890	\$96,589	\$97,555	\$98,530
Sports Development & Physical Activity	\$60,329	72,524	60,729	61,336	\$61,950
Youth Support Services (new separate unit)	-	-	\$53,209	\$53,741	\$54,279
Disability & Elderly Services	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,080	\$8,161

⁴ Public Law No. 23-13.

⁵ FY2024 Recommended Budget Book at 29.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The funding breakdown for Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Budget for the Department of Health and Social Affairs is as follows.

Department of Health FY2024 Recommended Budget Funded by⁶:

	FY2024 Executive Budget (Revised) Recommendation (Domestic Revenue)	FY2024 Committee Recommendation (Domestic Revenue)	Projected FY2024 U.S. Federal Program and Foreign Assistance	FY2024 TOTAL OPERATIONS (Domestic Revenue + Projected Federal Programs and Foreign Assistance)
Personnel	\$1,070,897	\$1,110,733	\$1,618,965	\$2,729,698
Travel	\$66,676	\$66,676	\$1,364,125	\$1,430,801
Contract Services	\$119,942	\$124,942	\$2,269,394	\$2,394,336
Other Current Expenses	\$100,229	\$100,229	\$1,023,754	\$1,123,983
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$15,000	\$19,410	\$34,410
Total	\$1,357,744	\$1,417,580	\$6,295,648	\$7,713,228

In summary, the significant changes to the FY2024 Recommended Budget for the Department are funded by the General Fund are for personnel due to the 45% salary increase for public service system employees.

The FY2024 Recommended Budget for contractual services, other current expenditures, and fixed assets, in comparison to the FY2023 Approved Budget (including supplementals), largely remains the same, except for budgetary increases reflecting the 45% salary increase for public service system employees, removal of the cost-of-living-allowance, and 2 new positions due to recently separated Division of Social Affairs and formed Disability Services.

In accordance with the below detailed breakdown and comments on the Department of Health and Social Affairs FY2024 Recommended Budget, your Committee recommends the Department of Health and Social Affairs to be funded by domestic revenue for FY2024 at **\$1,417,640**.

⁶ FY2024 Recommended Budget Book at 65.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The line-item budget for each division FY2024 Recommended Budget is as follows:

Unit/Office/Division	FY2024 Recommended Budget
Office of the Secretary	\$196,265
Division of Health	\$39,179
Health Systems Support	\$265,328
Environmental Health Services	\$657,881
Division of Social Services	\$58,031
Gender Development	\$70,029
Sports Development & Physical Activity	\$48,099
Youth Support Services	\$44,399
Disability & Elderly Services	\$38,429
Total	\$1,417,640

A. Office of the Secretary:

The Committee recommends the Office of the Secretary to be funded for FY2024 at **\$196,265**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$143,663	\$145,743	\$147,113⁷
Travel	\$38,400	\$19,200	\$19,200
Contractual Services	\$19,602	\$19,602	\$19,602
Other Current Expenditures	\$20,700	\$10,350	\$10,350
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$222,365	\$194,895	\$196,265

⁷ Personnel costs reflects correction to error in salary of financial specialist position per the revised PSS base salary schedule. Pay grade 32/4 salary is \$21,307, not \$18,307.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Office of the Secretary has 2 full time employees. The administrative officer position remains vacant.

B. Division of Health:

The Committee recommends the Division of Health to be funded for FY2024 at **\$39,179**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (<i>REVISED</i>)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$39,179	\$40,219	\$39,179
Travel	-	-	-
Contractual Services	-	-	-
Other Current Expenditures	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Total	\$39,179	\$40,219	\$39,179

The Division of Health has 1 full time employee, the Assistant Secretary of Health.

The Committee **recommends** personnel to be funded at \$39,179 to cover salary for the assistant secretary position (pay grade 42/3) at \$34,069.10 plus benefits, provided that COLA is excluded. The Executive recommendation includes COLA.

The Division's travel, contractual services, OCE, and fixed assets is not funded by domestic revenue.

C. Health System Support Unit:

The Committee recommends Health System Support Unit to be funded for FY2024 at **\$265,328**.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$190,891	\$199,211	\$190,891⁸
Travel	\$22,172	\$11,086	\$11,086
Contractual Services	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Other Current Expenditures	\$36,701	\$18,351	\$18,351
Fixed Assets	-	-	\$0
Total	\$294,764	\$273,648	\$265,328

The Health System Support Unit has 6 full time employees with the health educator/nutritionist position recently filled. The licensure program manager and health planner positions remain vacant.

D. Environmental Health Services Unit:

The Committee recommends Environmental Health Services Unit to be funded for FY2024 at **\$657,881**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$519,338	\$542,218	\$538,803⁹
Travel	\$30,400	\$15,200	\$15,200
Contractual Services	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000

⁸ Committee recommendation reflects correct PSS pay grade salary costs for personnel. FY24 Recommended Budget Book at 264.

⁹ The Committee recommendation for personnel reflects correct PSS salary pay levels. The correct salary for the CA Inspector – OIC at a pay grade of 32/1 is \$18,362, not \$20,262. The correct salary for the national food inspector at a pay grade of 32/1 is \$18,362, not \$15,852. The pay for the EH Filaniasis Project Assistant was missing in the budget book, the salary at pay grade 28/1 is \$15,852, plus benefits.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Other Current Expenditures	\$81,755	\$40,878	\$40,878
Fixed Assets	-	-	\$15,000
Total	\$679,493	\$646,296	\$657,881

The Environmental Health Services Unit has 21 full time employees. The competent authority inspector for Chuuk and national food inspector positions remain vacant.

The Committee **recommends** funding fixed assets at \$15,000 to fund a car for the national food inspectors at the Yap office. Based on the budget hearing, a vehicle is needed for the Yap field office because the office has 4 employees and they are forced to use their own vehicle to conduct their official duties. \$15,000 should be sufficient to buy a car, an SUV or truck size vehicle is not necessary for the office.

E. Division of Social Affairs:

The Committee recommends the Division of Social Affairs to be funded for FY2024 at **\$58,031**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$39,179	\$40,219	\$58,031
Travel	-	-	-
Contractual Services	-	-	-
Other Current Expenditures	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Total	\$39,179	\$40,219	\$58,031

The Division of Social Affairs has 1 full time employee, the Assistant Secretary of Social Affairs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Committee **recommends** personnel is funded at \$58,031, provided that \$34,069.10 is used to fund the salary of the Assistant Secretary position (pay grade 42/3) and \$15,852 is used to fund the salary of the administrative specialist (pay grade 28/1). The Committee recommended personnel budget includes salary plus benefits, but excludes COLA.

The Committee **recommends** the funding for an division administrative specialist, a new position. Based on the budget hearing, the division of social affairs is requesting an administrative specialist because the division does not have an assistant and sharing an administrative assistant with the division of health overburdens one position. Further, the division of social affairs needs an administrative specialist that can work full-time (100%) on division of social affairs administrative functions and needs.

The Division's travel, contractual services, OCE, and fixed assets is not funded by domestic revenue.

F. Gender Development Unit:

The Committee recommends Gender Development Unit to be funded for FY2024 at **\$70,029**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$33,389	\$34,429	\$33,429
Travel	\$23,200	\$11,600	\$11,600
Contractual Services	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Other Current Expenditures	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Total	\$96,589	\$66,029	\$70,029

The Gender Development Unit has 1 full time employee, the Gender Officer.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Committee **recommends** the personnel budget is funded at \$34,429 based on a position pay grade salary of 38/7 at \$34,069.10 plus benefits, provided that COLA is excluded.

The Committee **recommends** maintaining funding for contractual services at \$10,000 because pays the salary for 4 social workers (only 1 per state). Social workers play a vital role as our frontline workers to ensure child welfare and crucial resource for students, families and schools in assisting with mental health and social issues affecting our youth.

G. Sports Development & Physical Activity Unit:

The Committee recommends Sports Development and Physical Activity Unit to be funded for FY2024 at **\$48,099**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$33,389	\$34,429	\$34,429
Travel	\$11,500	\$5,750	\$5,750
Contractual Services	\$2,340	\$1,170	\$1,170
Other Current Expenditures	\$13,500	\$6,750	\$6,750
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Total	\$60,729	\$48,099	\$48,099

The Sports Development and Physical Activity Unit has 1 full time employee, the Program Manager.

The Committee **recommends** the personnel budget is funded at \$34,429 based on a position pay grade salary of 38/7 at \$34,069.10 plus benefits, provided that COLA is excluded.

H. Youth Support Services:

The Committee recommends the Youth Support Services to be funded for FY2024 at **\$44,399**.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$33,389	\$34,429	\$34,429
Travel	\$7,680	\$3,840	\$3,840
Contractual Services	\$2,340	\$1,170	\$1,170
Other Current Expenditures	\$9,800	\$4,900	\$4,900
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Total	\$53,209	\$44,339	\$44,339

Youth Support Services is a new unit that was separated from the Sports Development & Physical Activity unit in FY23.

Youth Support Services has 1 full-time position, National Youth Program Manager, which remains vacant.

The Committee **recommends** the personnel budget is funded at \$34,429 based on a position pay grade salary of 38/7 at \$34,069.10 plus benefits, provided that COLA is excluded.

I. Disability & Elderly Services:

The Committee **recommends** Disability and Elderly Services to be funded for FY2024 at **\$38,429**.

Line Item	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget (REVISED)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$34,429
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Current Expenditures	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Fixed Assets	-	-	\$
Total	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$38,429

The Disability and Elderly Services is a relatively new unit with 1 proposed full time employee position of the unit program manager. Persons with disability are vastly underserved and investing in human resources that will support disability inclusion aligns with our Pacific Regional commitments as an active member of the Pacific Islands Forum, namely the revitalized Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and work on the 2050 Strategy.

II. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation

Your Committee notes that the following table reflects amounts for the Office of the National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation where the funding source is domestic revenue.¹⁰ The FY2024 Recommended is at **\$293,794**.

	FY23 Approved Budget (includes Supplemental)	FY24 Executive Recommended Budget	Difference (+ / -) (FY23 v. FY24)	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Personnel	\$263,253	\$228,186	-\$33,632	\$229,621¹¹
Travel	\$29,171	\$28,459	-\$712	\$28,459
Contract	\$15,425	\$15,425	\$0	\$15,425
Other Current Expenses	\$20,289	\$20,289	\$0	\$20,289
Fixed Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-	\$0
Total	\$328,138	\$292,359	-\$34,344	\$293,794

The Office of Archive, Cultural & Historic Preservation have 7 full time employees. The office has 2 vacant positions. The Assistant Director position is vacant following the confirmation of Assistant Director Augustine Kohler as Director. The microfilm evaluator position is vacant and the Office intends to remove this position and replace with a

¹⁰ U.S. Funded programs are not included in this budget (Museum & Library, Historic Preservation Office,

¹¹ Personnel costs reflects correction to error in salary of executive secretary I per the revised PSS base salary schedule. Pay grade 26/4 salary is \$15,860, not \$14,426.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

digitizer position, because microfilm is now outdated method to preserving records, documents, pictures, and papers. Digitizing is a modern and efficient method of preservation.

III. Grants, Subsidies & Contributions

The funding source for all amounts recommended by your Committee under this section is domestic revenue. Your Committee recommends funding Grants, Subsidies and Contributions in the amount listed in the table below at **\$2,371,854**. Funding the grants and subsidies below are necessary to ensure the operation of department activities, compliance with international obligations, availability of TB medicine, nursing and medical licensure, school health services and providing social security benefits to our citizens.

GRANTS, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS	FY22 Approved Budget	FY23 Approved Budget with Supplemental	FY24 Executive Budget Recommendation	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
A. Department of Health and Social Affairs				
UNFPA	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
WHO	\$4,780	\$4,790	\$0	\$4,790
PIHOA	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
PIHOA FY22 Arrears	-	-	-	\$20,000
Assoc. of Territorial Health	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
Nurse/Medical Licensing	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
FSM Red Cross ¹²	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$35,000	\$100,000
UNICEF Vaccine & TB Drugs	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000

¹² FSM Red Cross personnel cost total \$101,844.83, covering the salary plus fringe benefits for the Executive Director, Finance Officer, Human Resource /Administrative Officer, Kosrae Chapter Coordinator (only partial), Chuuk Chapter Coordinator (only partial), and Finance Assistant. The Yap Chapter Coordinator salary is currently covered by ICRC grant, and part of the Kosrae and Chuuk Chapter Coordinators is also covered by an ICRC grant.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

UN-FSM Women (CEDAW)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Drug Quality Testing	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Therapeutics & Standards Committee	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$250,780</i>	<i>\$215,790</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>	<i>\$241,790</i>
B. Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation				
UNESCO	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
NCSHPO	\$2,760	\$2,760	\$0	\$2,760
PARBICA	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$100
PIALA	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$100
WHC	\$54	\$54	\$0	\$54
Library Fee	\$50	\$50	\$0	\$50
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$7,064</i>	<i>\$7,064</i>	<i>\$7,064</i>	<i>\$7,064</i>
C. Other Grants, Subsidies and Contribution				
FSM Social Security	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
MiCare Health Insurance Plan ¹³	-0-	-0-	-0-	\$0
FSM Association for Non-Governmental Organizations (FANGO)	-	-	-	\$20,000
Micronesia (FSM) Red Cross Society Annual Statutory Contribution to IFRC and ICRC	-	-	-	\$3,000

¹³ MiCare did not submit a subsidy budget request to the Committee nor at the hearing. The Committee will consider a subsidy request demonstrated by need in a future supplemental budget.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

School Health Services, provided that funding used for sore throat screening in elementary and secondary schools as follows: \$35,000 for schools in Chuuk, \$25,000 for schools in Yap, \$25,000 for schools in Pohnpei, 15,000 for schools in Kosrae	-	-	-	\$100,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>	<i>\$3,000,000</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>\$2,123,000</i>
TOTAL	\$1,257,844	\$3,222,854	\$535,000	\$2,351,854

IV. Capital and Human Resource Development

The funding source for all amounts recommended by your Committee under this section is domestic revenue. Your Committee recommends funding Capital and Human Resources Development in the amount listed in the table below at **\$331,200**.

CAPITAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	FY22 Approved Budget with Supplemental	FY23 Approved Budget	FY23 Approved Budget with Supplemental	FY24 Executive Budget Recommendation	FY24 Committee Budget Recommendation
Department of Health and Social Affairs					
Medical Specialist Team	\$195,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$25,000	\$0
MOE – BHWP Medicine	\$22,000	\$22,200	\$22,200	\$0	\$22,200

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Electronic Health Record System	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$0
Rheumatic Heart Program	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Youth in Sports Program	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Hispathology & Diagnostic	-	-	\$16,000	\$0	\$0
Competent Authority	-	-	\$115,990	\$0	\$0
Vector Surveillance & Control Program	\$50,000	\$0	-	\$0	\$0
IHR Core Capacity to Improve Health Security	\$50,000	\$0	-	\$0	\$0
Medical Professional Recruitment	-	-	\$33,500	-	\$0
Pathologist	\$105,000	\$0	-	\$0	\$105,000
Psychologist	-	-	-	-	\$60,000
FSM Pharmaceutical Act Implementation	-	-	\$24,010	-	\$24,010
TOTAL	\$627,000	\$227,200	\$416,700	\$25,000	\$331,210

The Committee **recommends** to continue funding at the FY22 levels for the following because of the crucial need for these health services and support to our citizens:

- 1) MOE-BHWP Medicine;
- 2) Rheumatic Heart Program; and
- 3) Pathologist.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-23

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-100

SUBJECT: FY2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET/H&SA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Committee also **recommends** \$120,000 for the rheumatic heart program and \$60,000 to cover the salary of a psychologist. The need to support the rheumatic heart program is demonstrated by the significant rise in rheumatic heart disease to where 27.1% of children (school age children) are diagnosed with rheumatic heart fever.¹⁴ The lack of mental health services available to our citizens is a serious concern where our population with mental health conditions is vastly underserved.

The Committee **does not recommend** CIP funding at this time for the Electronic Health Record System. The Department received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention totaling \$7.8 million,¹⁵ with \$186,101 to fund the modernization of data health systems, i.e. the Electronic Health Record System.¹⁶

The Committee **does not recommend** CIP funding at this time for the medical specialist team. Based on testimony from the Department at the FY24 budget hearing, the Department still has funds remaining in that account from previous years. Due to the COVID19 border closures for last few years, medical specialist teams were not brought into the country. The Committee welcomes the Department submitting a supplemental budget request based upon need.

As detailed in the chart above, the Executive **did not recommend** capital investment for FY2024 in the following areas that received funding in FY2023 Approved CIP Budget and/or subsequent FY2023 Supplemental Budget requests:

- 1) Pathologist;
- 2) MOE – BHWP Medicine;
- 3) Electronic Health Record System;
- 4) Rheumatic Heart Hispathology & Diagnostic;
- 5) Competent Authority (under Environmental Health & Food Safety Section - funded by FSM Government, no foreign grants);
- 6) FSM Pharmaceutical Act Implementation;
- 7) Medical Professional Recruitment;
- 8) Vector Surveillance & Control Program; and
- 9) IHR Core Capacity to Improve Health Security.

¹⁴ Dept. Comm. 22-79, FY22 Report on Foreign Assistance Funding Implementation.

¹⁵ C.R. No. 22-195; C.R. No. 23-17.

¹⁶ Pres. Comm. No. 22-407; SCR No. 22-66; Pres. Comm. 23-29.

