



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

P.O. Box PS 3  
Palikir, Sokehs  
Pohnpei State, FM 96941  
Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2338  
Fax: (691) 320-5122

COMMITTEE ON  
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23-80

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-265

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET/R&D

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses  
Speaker, Twenty-Third Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Third Regular Session, 2024

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was jointly referred Presidential Communication No. 23-265 transmitting the National Government's proposed FY2025 budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 23-265 transmits the *National Government's fiscal year 2025 Proposed Budget (Budget Book)*. Pursuant to rule 7, section 2(b), of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, your Committee has confined its review to those items of the proposed budget relating to matters within its jurisdiction. These are the budgets for:

1. Department of Resources and Development;
2. National Oceanic Resource Management Authority;
3. FSM Banking Board;
4. FSM Insurance Board;
5. Grants, subsidies and contributions:
  - a. Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP);
  - b. Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA);
  - c. United Nations Development Program (UNDP);
  - d. Food Agriculture Organization;
  - e. Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC);

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- f. SPC Matching Fund;
  - g. Micronesian Challenge;
  - h. Micronesian Cruise Association;
  - i. South Pacific Tourism Organization;
  - j. International Renewable Energy Agency;
  - k. Micronesia Trade Committee;
  - l. Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - m. International Food and Agriculture Development;
  - n. United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
  - o. Micronesian Island Forum Membership Fee;
  - p. Micronesia Association for Sustainable Aquaculture;
  - q. Micronesian Island Forum;
  - r. Micronesian Challenges Endowment Fund;
  - s. International Coconut Community (Annual Fees & Prior Years);
  - t. WCPFC Membership Fee (NORMA);
  - u. Forum Fisheries Agency; and
  - v. Palau Nauru Arrangement (PNA) membership fee.
6. Capital and Human Resources Development:
- a. State & National Leadership Conference (SNLC);
  - b. Domestic Tourism;
  - c. R&D Conference;
  - d. Foreign Investment Data Management System;
  - e. Tourism conference;
  - f. Tourism Budget & Planning with the states;
  - g. Tourism Public Awareness;
  - h. FSM Chamber of Commerce (COC);
  - i. Commemoration of World Tuna Day -May 2025;
  - j. Electronic Monitoring Project -2023 T3 Challenge;
  - k. Hosting of WCPFC Technical & Compliance Committee and Science Committee meetings; and
  - l. Internship for students in the area of fisheries management.

This report and all previous and subsequent reports by this Committee should be treated as policy for this Nation as defined by the Congress. It is your committee's intent that any comments found in this report should be treated as policy for the guidance

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of the relevant departments, agencies and offices in the obligation and expenditures of their respective budgets and implementation of their programs.

Your committee conducted a series of public hearings on the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget for the Department, the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority, the Banking Board and the Insurance Board starting on Wednesday, May 27, 2024 during the Fourth Regular Session, and continued on September 18, 2024 during the Fifth Regular Session. The report and recommendations that follow are based upon the information contained in the *Budget Book*.

**I. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED FY 2025 BUDGET**

Your committee use the table below to compare the fiscal year 2024 budget appropriation, the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget by the Department, the recommended 2025 budget by EBRC, and the Committee's recommendation.

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommend	FY25 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$1,520,143	\$1,533,806	\$1,460,826	\$1,533,686
Travel	\$191,354	\$495,839	\$385,345	\$385,345
Contract.Serv.	\$203,639	\$226,639	\$226,639	\$226,639
OCE	\$220,000	\$223,384	\$223,384	\$186,141
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	\$2,135,136	\$2,485,668	\$2,302,194	\$2,337,811
No. Employees	60	60	60	60

Your committee conducted its public hearing on the Department of Resources and Development FY25 proposed budget on Monday, May 27, 2024. The witnesses present included the Secretary and some of her subordinate staff, representatives from the Department of Justice, Department of Finance & Administration, Office of the President, and Office of the Personnel.

Following are the Committee's decisions and recommendations:

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**I(a). Office of the Secretary**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$142,564	\$146,016	\$142,896	<b>\$146,016</b>
Travel	\$27,984	\$84,188	\$77,464	<b>\$77,464</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$73,500	<b>\$73,500</b>
OCE	\$21,515	\$61,758	\$61,758	<b>\$21,515</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,563</b>	<b>\$365,462</b>	<b>\$355,618</b>	<b>\$318,495</b>
No. Employees	4	4	4	4

**Personnel** – There are four positions under the Office of the Secretary, and the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 to fund the four positions was \$142,564. For FY25, the requested amount is \$146,016, but EBRC recommended \$142,896, and the COLA was not included, which is \$3,120. If the COLA is included, the total amount recommended for fiscal year 2025 will be \$146,016. Your committee recommended **\$146,016**.

**Travel** – The FY24 appropriation was \$27,984. The proposed amount for fiscal year 2025 is \$84,188, but EBRC recommended \$77,464. There are nine trip requests, and out of the nine trips one is for a domestic travel and eight are international travels. Your committee recommends **\$77,464**

**Contractual Services** –The amount appropriated last year was \$73,500. The request for this fiscal year is \$73,500. An amount of \$73,000 is requested to fund a consultant, and \$500 is for subscription. The justification for the Consultant is to write grant proposals. Your committee recommends **\$73,500**.

**Other Current Expenses** – The FY24 appropriation was \$21,515. The amount proposed for this fiscal year is \$61,758, which is recommended by EBRC. The significant increase is in communications. For communications, the amount appropriated last year was \$5,000. The requested amount for this year is

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\$45,243. This is a significant increase. Your committee recommends \$21,515.

**Fixed Assets** — For the fiscal year 2024, there was no appropriation. For this FY24, no requested amount. Your committee recommends \$0.

## **II. Tourism Unit**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY24 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$99,390	\$105,655	\$96,270	<b>\$105,655</b>
Travel	\$24,107	\$79,468	\$52,378	<b>\$52,378</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$3,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	<b>\$8,500</b>
OCE	\$16,095	\$12,795	\$12,795	<b>\$12,795</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$143,092	\$206,418	\$169,943	<b>\$179,328</b>
No. Employees	3	3	3	3

**Personnel** — The appropriated amount in FY24 was \$99,390 to fund three positions (the Assistant Secretary with a salary of \$34,069; the Program Manager for Marketing with a salary of 24,822; and the Program Manager for Production with a salary of \$24,822). The department proposed salary increase for the two Program Managers from \$24,822 to \$27,546, but was not recommended. An amount of \$3,120 for COLA for the three employees was not recommended. Your committee recommends \$105,655.

**Travel** — In fiscal year 2024, an amount of \$24,107 was appropriated. This year, an amount of \$79,468 is requested, but EBRC recommended \$52,378. There are three international trips and three domestic trips requested. One of the domestic trips in the amount of \$18,156 for the Assistant Secretary to visit the states was not recommended. There is another \$4,000 for the Assistant Secretary to attend the Micronesian Island Forum in Palau this year, and this amount is not recommended. Your committee recommends \$52,378.

**Contractual Services** — In FY24 appropriation, an amount of \$3,500 was appropriated. The recommended amount for this fiscal year

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2025 is \$8,500, which was recommended by EBR. The Unit is requesting \$3,500 to fund the FSMVB website service and \$5,000 for internship. Your committee recommends **\$8,500**.

**Other Current Expenses** — The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 was \$16,095. The amount proposed and recommended for this fiscal year 2025 is \$12,795. As compared to fiscal year 2024 appropriation, there is a decrease of \$3,000. The Unit is not requesting any funding for its communications. Your committee recommends **\$12,795**.

**Fixed Assets** — In FY 2024, there was no appropriation. For this fiscal year 2025, there is no request. Your committee recommends **\$0**.

### **III. Marine Resources Unit**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$101,101	\$101,102	\$97,982	<b><u>\$101,102</u></b>
Travel	\$28,527	\$61,968	\$43,812	<b><u>\$43,812</u></b>
Contract.Serv.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b><u>\$5,000</u></b>
OCE	\$19,176	\$11,076	\$11,076	<b><u>\$11,076</u></b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$153,804</b>	<b>\$179,146</b>	<b>\$157,870</b>	<b><u>\$160,990</u></b>
No. Employees	3	3	3	3

**Personnel** — The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 was \$101,101 to fund three positions (Assistant Secretary; Deputy Assistant Secretary; and Fisheries Management Conservation Officer). For this year, the proposed amount is \$101,102, but the recommended amount is \$97,982. The recommended amount of \$97,982 did not include the \$3,120 for COLA. Your committee recommends **\$101,102**.

**Travel** — In FY24, the appropriated amount was \$28,527. The division proposed \$61,968 for this fiscal year, but EBRC recommended \$43,812. There is one international trip (\$7,500) and three domestic trips (\$18,156 x 2 = \$36,312). EBRC did not recommend one domestic trip (\$18,156) for the Fisheries

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Conservation Management Officer to the states. Your committee recommends \$43,812.

**Contractual Services** – For FY24, an amount of \$5,000 was appropriated. For this fiscal year, the division is requesting \$5,000, and EBRC recommended the \$5,000. The \$5,000 is to fund internship for the division. Your committee recommends \$5,000.

**Other Current Expenses** – An amount of \$19,176 was appropriated in fiscal year 2024 for the following: \$3,300 for Communications; \$2,000 for POL; \$5,300 for Printing & Reproduction; and \$8,576 for Supplies & Materials. This year, no funding requested for Communications; there is \$1,000 for POL; \$1,500 for Printing & Reproduction; and \$8,576 for Supplies & Materials. Your committee recommends \$11,076.

**Fixed Assets** – No funding appropriated last fiscal year, and for this fiscal year 2025, no request. Your committee recommends \$0.

#### **IV. Agriculture Unit**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$483,922	\$483,922	\$460,002	<u>\$483,922</u>
Travel	\$31,130	\$69,987	\$62,727	<u>\$62,727</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	<u>\$5,000</u>
OCE	\$71,947	\$59,947	\$59,947	<u>\$59,947</u>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$586,999	\$618,856	\$587,947	<u>\$611,596</u>
No. Employees	23	23	23	23

**Personnel** – The amount appropriated for fiscal year 2024 was \$483,922 to fund twenty-three (23) employees. For fiscal year 2025, the division proposed \$483,922, but EBRC recommended amount is \$460,002. The EBRC did not recommend the \$23,920 for COLA. Your committee recommends \$483,922.

**Travel** – The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 was \$31,130. The division proposed \$69,987 to fund four domestic travel and one international travel. EBRC

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recommended all the travels, but lower the number of travelers, and recommended an amount of \$62,727. Your committee recommends \$62,727.

**Contractual Services** – In fiscal year 2024, there was no appropriation. The proposed amount that the division requested for this fiscal year 2025 is \$5,000, which was recommended to fund internship under the division. Your committee recommends \$5,000.

**Other Current Expenses** – The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 was \$71,947. For fiscal year 2025, there is a proposed amount of \$59,947, which was recommended. Your committee recommends \$59,947.

**Fixed Assets** – In FY24, no appropriated amount. For fiscal year 2025, no request. Your Committee recommends \$0.

**V. Division of Trade and Investment**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$123,284	\$121,873	\$117,713	<u>\$121,873</u>
Travel	\$43,537	\$85,468	\$72,196	<u>\$72,196</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$64,000	\$69,000	\$69,000	<u>\$69,000</u>
OCE	\$27,754	\$27,754	\$24,754	<u>\$24,754</u>
Fixed Assets	0	\$0	\$0	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$258,575</b>	<b>\$301,095</b>	<b>\$283,663</b>	<b><u>\$290,823</u></b>
No. Employees	4	4	4	4

**Personnel** – For FY24, \$123,284 was appropriated to fund four positions (Assistant Secretary; Program Manager for Trade; Program Manager for Investment; and Secretary II). For fiscal year 2025, the division proposed \$121,873, but EBRC recommended \$117,713. The amount of \$4,160 for COLA of four the employees was not recommended. Your committee recommends \$121,873.

**Travel** – An amount of \$43,537 was appropriated in FY 2024. This year, the Division is requesting \$85,468 to fund three domestic travels and three international travels, but EBRC recommended

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\$72,196. The international trips include the Forum Trade Ministerial Meeting (FTMM) in Fiji, the Micronesian Island Forum in Palau, and the MTEC in Palau. Your committee recommends \$72,196.

**Contractual Services** - In FY 2024, an amount of \$64,000 was appropriated. For fiscal year 2025, the Division requested \$69,000 (\$55,000 to fund a Trade Advisor, \$9,000 to fund the Secure Transaction website and \$5,000 to fund the internship program). EBRC recommended the \$69,000. Your committee recommends \$69,000.

**Other Current Expenses** - An amount of \$27,754 was appropriated under this category in FY 2024. For fiscal year 2025, the Division requested the same amount and was recommended. Your committee recommends \$27,754.

**Fixed Assets** - The FY24, there was no appropriation. For fiscal year 2025, no amount requested. Your committee recommends \$0.

#### **VI. Division of Energy**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$105,654	\$105,655	\$102,535	<b>\$105,655</b>
Travel	\$16,779	\$78,456	\$45,304	<b>\$45,304</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	<b>\$8,000</b>
OCE	\$7,416	\$5,000	\$5,000	<b>\$5,000</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,849</b>	<b>\$203,111</b>	<b>\$166,839</b>	<b>\$169,839</b>
No. Employees	3	3	3	3

**Personnel** - There are three positions in this division, an Assistant Secretary; a Project Manager for Water and the Project Manager for Renewable Energy. The appropriated amount in fiscal year 2024 was \$105,654. For this fiscal year 2025, the division proposed \$105,655 to fund the three positions, but EBRC recommended \$102,535. EBRC did not recommend the \$3,120 for COLA of the three employees. Your committee recommends \$105,655.

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**Travel** — In FY 2024, an amount of \$16,779 was appropriated. The amount requested for fiscal year 2025 by the division is \$78,456 to fund four domestic travels and one international travel, but EBRC recommended \$45,304. EBRC did not recommend the \$15,000 for the IRENA meeting in Abu Dhabi, and one of the domestic travels in the amount of \$18,152. Your committee recommends \$45,304.

**Contractual Services** — In FY2024, there was no appropriation. For this fiscal year, the division requested \$3,000 for subscription and \$5,000 for internship program. EBRC recommended the \$8,000. Your committee recommends \$8,000.

**Other Current Expenses** — An amount of \$7,415 was appropriated last year. This year's request is \$5,000; \$1,000 for equipment maintenance, \$1,000 for office supplies, and \$2,500 for Printing & Reproduction. Your committee recommends \$5,000.

**Fixed Assets** — In FY 2024, there was no appropriation. This year, the Division requested \$6,000 to purchase a lap top and desktop computers. The recommended amount is \$6,000.

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## **VI. Division of Statistics**

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$464,227	\$469,583	\$443,427	<b>\$469,583</b>
Travel	\$19,290	\$36,304	\$31,464	<b>\$31,464</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$57,639	\$57,639	\$57,639	<b>\$57,639</b>
OCE	\$56,097	\$48,054	\$48,054	<b>\$48,054</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$597,253</b>	<b>\$611,580</b>	<b>\$580,584</b>	<b>\$606,740</b>
No. Employees	20	20	20	20

**Personnel** – The FY24 appropriation was \$464,227 to fund twenty positions. For fiscal year 2025, the proposed amount is \$469,583 to fund twenty positions, but EBRC recommended \$443,427. The requested amount does not include the \$19,760 for the COLA. Your committee recommends **\$469,583**.

**Travel** – The FY2024 appropriated amount was \$19,290. For FY 2025, there is a request of \$36,304 to fund two domestic travels, but EBRC recommended \$31,464. Your committee recommends **\$31,464**.

**Contractual Services** – The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024 was \$57,639. The amount requested for fiscal year 2025 is \$57,639 to fund contractual services under this division, which was recommended. Your committee recommends **\$57,639**.

**Other Current Expenses** – An amount of \$56,097 was appropriated in fiscal year 2024. The requested amount for fiscal year 2025 is \$48,054, and was recommended. Your committee recommends **\$48,054**.

**Fixed Assets** – No amount requested for this fiscal year, same as last fiscal year. Your Committee recommends **\$0**.

## **VII. NATIONAL OCEANIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NORMA)**

In the NORMA's FY25 budget, your committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. In attendance were Mrs. Liman Helgenberger, Acting Executive Director, Mr. Mathew Chigiyal, Deputy Director of NORMA, Mrs. Moria

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Joseph, Administrative Officer, Mrs. Angelina Tretnoff,  
Senior Fisheries Economist, Mr. Sohs John, Assistant  
Secretary for the department of finance and administration,

The figures shown in the chart below for NORMA include the total amount appropriated in FY 2024; the FY 2025 amount proposed by NORMA, and the amount recommended by EBRC. The last column is the amount recommended by your Committee for FY 2025.

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$984,063	\$1,146,033	\$963,100	\$984,063
Travel	\$117,419	\$354,981	\$238,152	\$238,152
Contract.Serv.	\$200,741	\$290,641	\$290,641	\$290,641
OCE	\$43,185	\$102,740	\$102,740	\$102,740
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	\$1,345,408	\$1,969,395	\$1,669,633	\$1,690,596
No. Employees	30	31	30	31

**Personnel** – For FY 2024, the appropriated amount was \$984,063 to fund thirty positions. Of these thirty positions, nine of them are still vacant. For this fiscal year 2025, the Authority is requesting \$1,146,033, but EBRC recommended \$963,100. There is a new position requested (Communications Officer - \$26,152), but was not recommended. This communication officer is currently funded by World Bank, and the intent is to transfer the position to be sourced by domestic revenues. The amount for COLA, which is not recommended is \$31,200. The authority requested \$77,894 for overtime, but was not recommended. Currently, there is a bill (C.B. No. 23-38) assigned to your Committee on Resources and Development to enable employees of the authority eligible for overtime.

There are nine vacant positions, and some of them are already filled. In fact, the authority is in process of reviewing candidates right now. Since the positions within NORMA are not eligible for overtime, the overtime request will be entertained once the overtime legislation is amended.

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Your committee recommends \$984,063.

**Travel** — In FY 2024, the amount appropriated was \$117,419. The amount requested for FY25 is \$354,981, but EBRC recommended \$238,152. In the travel, there was a 15% cut, and the authority managed to stay within the budget. Your committee recommends \$238,152.

**Contractual Services** — In FY 2024, an amount of \$200,741 was appropriated. For FY25, the Authority proposes \$290,631, and EBRC recommended. The significant increases are reflected in the online subscriptions, hosting & software fees; the office rental increase from \$54,000 to \$63,000, and a new item (employee incentive) in the amount of \$15,000. Your committee recommends \$290,641.

**Other Current Expenses** — The amount appropriated in FY 2024 was \$43,185. The amount proposed for fiscal year 2025 is \$102,740, which was recommended by EBRC. The significant increases are reflected in the POL, which is increased by \$5,000. The printing & reproduction of reports is increased by \$5,000, and the funding for the supplies & materials increased by \$15,000. The utility is increased from \$12,500 to \$25,000. The new line items are: donations/contribution in the amount of \$3,500 and wellness program in the amount of \$2,500. Your committee recommends \$102,740.

**Fixed Assets** — No amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024. The authority is requesting \$75,000 for this fiscal year for office equipment and furniture. Your committee recommends \$75,000.

#### **VIII. FSM BANKING BOARD**

The figures shown in the chart below for the FSM Banking Board include the total amount appropriated in FY 2024; the amount recommended by EBRC for FY 2025. The last column is the amount recommended by your Committee for FY 2025.

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	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$155,211	\$150,501	\$152,091	<b>\$155,211</b>
Travel	\$50,837	\$92,964	\$86,735	<b>\$86,735</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$39,402	\$40,602	\$40,602	<b>\$40,602</b>
OCE	\$25,110	\$26,210	\$26,210	<b>\$26,210</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$8,500	\$8,500	<b>\$8,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270,560</b>	<b>\$318,777</b>	<b>\$314,138</b>	<b>\$317,258</b>
No. Employees	4	4	4	4

Your committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. In attendance were Mr. Joe Hambuchimai, Director of the Board, Mr. Jesse Giltamag, Banking Commissioner, Mr. Pilika Palik, Bank Examiner, Mrs. Tiffany Hambrosio, Mr. Sohs John, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, and Mrs. Maria Shoniber, Personnel Specialist from the Office of Personnel.

**Personnel** — The amount appropriated in FY 2024 was \$155,211. For the FY25 request, the Banking Board requested \$150,501 to fund four positions, but the recommended amount is \$152,091. The amount of \$4,160 for COLA was not recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends **\$155,211.**

**Travel** — The FY24 appropriation was \$50,837. The requested amount this year is \$92,964, but the recommended amount is \$86,735. EBRC did not recommend the APIPA trip in the amount of \$2,547. The Commissioner stated the "risk management" requirement, which requires the Administrative Officer to attend the APIPA to learn more on the "risk management". Your committee recommends **\$86,735.**

**Contractual Services** — In FY 2024, an amount of \$39,402 was appropriated. For this fiscal year, an amount of \$40,602 was requested, and recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends **\$40,602.**

**OCE** — The amount appropriated in FY24 was \$25,110. The fiscal year 2025 requested amount is \$26,210, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends **\$26,210**

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SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET/R&D

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

**Fixed Assets** — In FY 2024, there was no appropriated amount. There is a request of \$8,500. An amount of \$2,000 is requested for laptop computers. An amount of \$3,500 is requested for desktop computer, and \$3,500 is requested to purchase a conference table. EBRC recommended the \$8,500. Your Committee recommends \$8,500.

#### **IX. FSM INSURANCE BOARD**

The figures shown in the chart below for the FSM Insurance Board include the total amount appropriated in FY 2024; the amount recommended for FY 2025. The last column is the amount recommended by your Committee for FY 2025.

Your committee conducted a public hearing on the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget for the Insurance Commission on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Witnesses included Director Joe Hambuchimai, Nakama Sana, Insurance Commissioner, Miss Mylee Mario, Insurance Examiner, Mr. Sohs John, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, and Mrs. Maria Shoniber, Personnel Specialist

	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommended	Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$217,547	\$217,548	\$212,348	\$217,548
Travel	\$45,852	\$92,794	\$76,480	\$92,794
Contract.Serv.	\$347,175	\$347,175	\$347,175	\$347,175
OCE	\$32,004	\$32,004	\$32,004	\$32,004
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$642,578</b>	<b>\$719,521</b>	<b>\$668,007</b>	<b>\$606,740</b>
No. Employees	6	6	6	6

**Personnel** — The amount appropriated in FY24 was \$217,547. For FY25, the proposed amount is \$217,548 to fund six positions, but the recommended amount is \$212,348. The \$5,200 for COLA was not included. If the COLA is included, the amount for fiscal year 2025 is \$217,548. Your committee recommends \$217,548.

**Travel** — An amount of \$45,852 was appropriated in FY24. For FY25, an amount of \$92,794 was proposed, but the recommended

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amount is \$76,480. In fiscal year 2024, there were no state visits. This fiscal year, the commission included state visits. The travels that are not recommended include Association of Pacific Islands Auditors (\$3,450) and Captive Insurance Companies Association (\$10,902) trips. Your committee recommends \$92,794.

**Contractual Services** — In FY 2024 an amount of \$347,175 was appropriated. For FY 2025, the same amount is requested, which was recommended. Your committee recommends \$347,175.

**OCE** — In FY 2024 an amount of \$32,004 was appropriated. This year there is a request of \$32,004, which was recommended. Your committee recommends \$32,004.

**Fixed Assets** — In FY24 budget, there was no appropriation. For this fiscal year, there is a request of \$30,000 for a vehicle, but was not recommended. Your committee recommends \$30,000.

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**VII. GRANTS, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS**

Department of Resources Development				
Grants, Contributions & Subsidies	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommend	Committee Recommends
a. Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP)	15,000	15,000	15,000	\$15,000
b. Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA)	6,000	6,000	6,000	\$6,000
c. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
d. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$6,800
e. Western Forestry Leadership Coalition	\$530	\$530	\$530	\$530
f. Matching to SPC Projects	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
g. Micronesian Challenge	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
h. Micronesian Cruise Association	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
i. South Pacific Tourism Organization	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
j. IRENA	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
k. Micronesia Trade Com.	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
l. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
m. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
n. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
o. Micronesian Island Forum Membership Fee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
p. Micronesia Associ for Sustainable Agriculture	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

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q. Micronesian Island Forum	\$15,000	\$15,000	15,000	\$15,000
q. Micronesian Challenge Endowment Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
r. International Coconut Community (Annual Fee/Prior Years)	\$18,000	\$18,708	\$0	\$0
s. Trade Policy Review	\$0	\$530	\$0	\$0
t. Pacific Water and waste Association	\$1,060	\$0	\$1,060	\$1,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$355,640</b>	<b>\$303,318</b>	<b>\$273,848</b>	<b>\$173,848</b>

OTHER GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS & SUBSIDIES	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommend	Committee Recommends
1. Forum Fisheries Agency	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
2. NORMA – WCPFC Tuna Commission Fee	\$434,201	\$605,001	\$806,201	\$806,201
3. PNA Membership Fee	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Total for NORMA</b>	<b>\$507,201</b>	<b>\$678,001</b>	<b>\$879,201</b>	<b>\$879,201</b>
<b>GRANT TOTAL FOR GRANTS, SUBSIDIES &amp; CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$862,841</b>	<b>\$981,319</b>	<b>\$1,153,049</b>	<b>\$1,034,141</b>

#### VIII. CAPITAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

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	FY 2024 Appro.	FY 2025 Proposed	FY25 Recommend	Committee Recommends
A. R&D State & National Leadership Conference	\$37,500	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
b. R&D conference	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
c. FSM Chamber of Commerce/Support to COC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. 2024 Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES)	\$118,749	\$0	\$0	\$0
e. National Coastal Fisheries Symposium For the FSM	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
f. Sustainable Development Goals in the FSM	\$0	\$198,582	\$198,582	\$0
g. National Trade Facilitation Committee Annual Meeting	\$50,000	\$65,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
h. Comprehensive Review of Trade Legislative Framework	\$0	\$157,750	\$0	\$0
i. Foreign Investment Regulators Bi-annual meetings	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
j. World expo Kansai Osaka Japan 2025	\$0	\$600,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
k. Micronesia Expo 2025 Yap	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
l. Chief Executive Council/Plus One	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
	\$541,249	\$1,966,332	\$1,593,582	\$1,593,582
<b>Other Capital and Human Resources Development</b>				
<b>NORMA</b>				
a. NORMA –World Tuna Day	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
b. T3 Monitoring	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

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c. Hosting of WCPFC, TCC & SC Meetings	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
d. Internship for Students in the area of fisheries	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>
<b>Grant Total for CIP</b>	<b>\$541,249</b>	<b>\$1,966,332</b>	<b>\$1,593,582</b>	<b>\$1,593,582</b>

### CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Resources and Development has carefully reviewed the President's recommended FY 2025 budget and all information provided by the Executive and the entities under your committee's jurisdiction. The recommended sums set forth above reflect your committee's recommendations on the level of funding for the designated activity, program or project for FY 2025, subject to the recommendations of the Committee on Ways and Means.

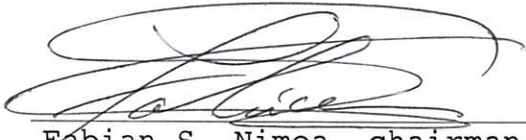
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Respectfully submitted,



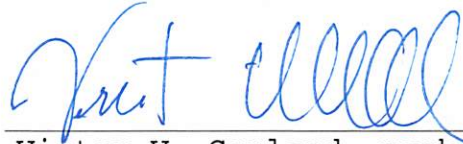
Fabian S. Nimea, chairman



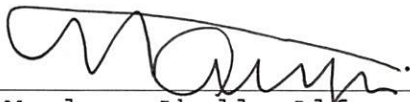
Isaac V. Figir, member



Esmond B. Moses, member



Victor V. Goulard, member



Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, member



Johnson A. Asher, member