

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-01

RE: C.R. No. 24-05/J&GO

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF MR. EPEL K. ILON TO SERVE AS THE  
POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF  
MICRONESIA.

MAY 20, 2025

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses  
Speaker, Twenty-fourth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Regular Session, 2025

Dear Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, to  
which was referred Congressional Resolution No. 24-05,  
entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. EPEL K.  
ILON TO SERVE AS THE POST MASTER GENERAL OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Mr. Epel K. Ilon has been nominated by the President of the  
Federated States of Micronesia to serve as the Postmaster  
General of the Federated States of Micronesia. Article X,  
section 2(d) of the Constitution of the Federated States of  
Micronesia and title 2, section 207 of the Code of the  
Federated States of Micronesia (Annotated), provides that

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this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Presidential Communication No. 24-05 accompanied C.R. No. 24-05 and included Mr. Epel K. Ilon's biodata. Mr. Ilon is originally from the Mortlocks Region in Chuuk State. He attended elementary and secondary school at Truk High School before graduating from Saratoga Springs High School in Saratoga Springs, New York, under the American Field Services Foreign Student Exchange Program.

Mr. Ilon went on to attend and graduate from Chaminade College in Honolulu with a bachelor's degree in Education. He then returned to Chuuk where he spent several years as a teacher at Xavier High School. Mr. Ilon then got his master's degree in Counseling and Personnel Management from State University of New York Albany. He spent one summer during graduate school as an intern in the Office of Territorial and Insular Affairs.

Mr. Ilon returned to Chuuk after graduate school to serve as a high school guidance counselor for two years. While in Chuuk, he also served as a member of the Trust Territory Vocational Advisory Council.

In 1979, Mr. Ilon moved to Washington, DC to serve as the Assistant Liaison Officer of the first office set up by the Federated States of Micronesia for representation in the USA. He spent two years in that role before assuming the position of Representative which he held until the conclusion of the approval process of the Compact of Free Association in the US Congress. He then became the head of the Division of US Relations. During his time in Washington, DC, Mr. Ilon attended and represented the FSM before the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

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Mr. Ilon became the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and in 1998 was nominated and confirmed as the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. As the Secretary he was the Vice Chairman then the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Compact Negotiations, a position that he held until he left government work in 2001.

Mr. Ilon returned to government work in 2004, when he opened the Office of Compact Management as the Director. He retained that position until 2013, when he retired. In 2017, Mr. Ilon left retirement to serve as the Executive Director of the Secretariat of for the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP). Mr. Ilon served in that capacity until the JCRP Secretariat concluded its operations in 2024.

Mr. Ilon has dedicated his life to public service and the advancement of the Federated States of Micronesia from the Trust Territory times until present. Your Committee finds Mr. Ipon's impressive educational and professional achievements relevant and suitable for a Postmaster General.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has reviewed C.R. No. 24-05 and P.C. No. 24-05 and finds that Mr. Epel K. Ilon has outstanding credentials, which qualify him for this appointment.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations held a hearing on May 17, 2025, on the nomination of Mr. Epel K. Ilon to be a the Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia. Witnesses at the hearing included the nominee Epel K. Ilon; Acting Postmaster General Juliet

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Jimmy; and Office of the President, Special Assistant Belan Yoma.

Chairman Choor opened the hearing by thanking the witness and committee members for attending. He then asked the nominee, Mr. Ilon to give his opening remarks. Mr. Ilon also thanked all the attendees for being present. He stated that in preparation for this hearing he reviewed the implementing laws which created the National Postal Service in the FSM and the Postal Services Agreement in the Amended Compact.

Mr. Ilon stated that he would strive to offer the customers an affordable and sustainable postal service. He stated that the first thing he would do if confirmed is to sit with the administration to go over all the details to determine what can be improved both domestically and within the perimeters of the Amended Compact. He stated that he will look at other ideas to improve the service in the areas that need improving. Ultimately, he stated, the customer needs the best service.

Mr. Ilon noted that he was consulted by the President and agreed to his name being submitted to Congress to consider. He stated that he has worked for the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia since 1979 and would like to continue to serve his country as the Postmaster General.

Chairman Choor asked if any of the witnesses would like to testify on behalf or against the nominee. Special Assistant to the President, Belan Yoma, testified that Mr. Ilon has committed his life to public service and would be an excellent addition to the Postal Service, if confirmed. Acting Postmaster General, Juliet Jimmy stated that she has worked with Mr. Ilon in the past at SBOC and the postal service will benefit greatly from his experience and

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knowledge if he is confirmed. She also stated that this nomination is timely and much needed as there has not been a Postmaster General during the current administration.

Chairman Chor opened the floor to Members of your Committee for questions. Senator Konman stated her support of the nominee and noted that the nominee has the knowledge, skill, and attitude to do a great job for the postal service. Senator Marar stated that he has known the nominee almost his entire life and supports his confirmation. He echoed Senator Konman in urging his colleagues to go ahead and confirm the nominee.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Ilon if he was living in Pohnpei or if he would have to relocate. Mr. Ilon stated that his wife works at the COM-FSM National campus, all his children are living/working in Pohnpei, and his heart and body currently reside in Pohnpei.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Ilon what he envisioned the biggest challenges to be and how he could overcome those challenges. Mr. Ilon stated that he did want to be presumptuous and would need to do a full assessment to determine what changes would need to be made. He reiterated that the customer is the most important and that their needs will need to be prioritized. He stated that he will look to keep the cost of stamps and shipping affordable and look to improve services to the remote areas of the nation. He stated that he will look at the use of AI to improve areas but it would be presumptuous for him to speculate at this time.

Chairman Choor stated he is grateful for Mr. Ilon's testimony and he hopes that Congress will take everything into consideration when his nomination comes to a vote. He concluded the hearing by allowing Mr. Ilon to say any final remarks.

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Mr. Ilon stated that the most important part of his life is God. He stated that even though his biodata doesn't mention it, he has been a pastor since 2003. He stated that true wisdom comes from God and thanked your Committee for its time.

CONCLUSION

Upon review of the nominee, his qualifications, and the testimony at the public hearing, your Committee is satisfied that the nominee is fit for service as the Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia.

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Therefore, your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends Mr. Epel K. Ilon be confirmed to serve as the Postmaster General of the Federated States of Micronesia. Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 24-05, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andy P. Choor  
Andy P. Choor, chairman

/s/ Julio M. Marar  
Julio M. Marar, member

/s/ Jermy W. Mudong  
Jermy W, Mudong, member

/s/ Yoslyn G. Sigrah  
Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member

Robson U. Romolow, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses  
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Perpetua S. Konman  
Perpetua S. Konman, member

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