



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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COMMITTEE ON  
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-19

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 23-573

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET/R&D

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Resources and Development, to which was jointly referred Presidential Communication No. 23-573 transmitting the National Government's proposed FY2026 budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 23-573 transmits the *National Government's fiscal year 2026 Proposed Budget (Budget Book)*. Pursuant to rule 7, section 2(b), of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Twenty-Fourth 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);
  - f. SPC Matching Fund;
  - g. Micronesian Challenge;
  - h. Micronesian Cruise Association;

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- 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 of the relevant departments, agencies and offices in the

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obligation and expenditures of their respective budgets and implementation of their programs.

Your committee conducted a series of public hearings on the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget for the Department and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority, starting on Friday, May 16, 2025 during the First Regular Session, and continued on Wednesday, May 22, 2025. Your committee finalizes its budget hearing with the Banking Board and the Insurance Board on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 during the Second 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 2026 BUDGET**

Your committee use the table below to compare the fiscal year 2025 budget appropriation, the fiscal year 2026 proposed budget by the Department, the recommended 2026 budget by EBRC, and the committee's recommendation.

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommend	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$1,533,686	\$1,554,272	\$1,528,450	<b>\$1,528,450</b>
Travel	\$335,345	\$590,666	\$280,000	<b>\$335,345</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$226,639	\$249,139	\$170,639	<b>\$170,639</b>
OCE	\$186,141	\$223,384	\$183,141	<b>\$183,141</b>
Fixed Assets	\$6,000	\$18,064	\$6,000	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,287,811</b>	<b>\$2,635,525</b>	<b>\$2,168,230</b>	<b>\$2,223,575</b>
No. Employees	60	60	60	

Your committee conducted its public hearing on the Department of Resources and Development FY26 proposed budget on Friday, May 16, 2025. The witnesses present included the Secretary Elina Akinaga 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 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$146,016	\$146,016	\$146,016	<b>\$146,016</b>
Travel	\$27,464	\$146,710	\$140,288	<b>\$27,464</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$73,500	\$73,500	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
OCE	\$21,515	\$61,758	\$21,515	<b>\$21,515</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$7,564	\$1,000	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$268,495</b>	<b>\$435,548</b>	<b>\$308,819</b>	<b>\$195,995</b>
No. Employees	4	4	4	

**Personnel** - There are four positions under the Office of the Secretary, and the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 to fund the four positions was \$146,016. For FY26, the requested amount is \$146,016, which is recommended by EBRC recommended. Your committee recommended **\$146,016**.

**Travel** - The FY25 appropriation was \$27,464. The proposed amount requested for fiscal year 2026 is \$146,710, but EBRC recommended \$140,288. There are 12 trip requests, and out of the twelve trips, four are domestic travels, two are regional travels and eight are international travels. The only trip that was not recommended is the APIPA trip to Saipan. Your committee recommends **\$27,464**.

**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. EBRC recommended \$0. Your committee recommends **\$0**.

**Other Current Expenses** - The FY25 appropriation was \$21,515. The amount proposed for this fiscal year is \$61,758, but EBRC recommends \$21,515. For supplies, the amount appropriated last year was \$5,000. The requested amount for this year is \$45,243. This is a significant increase of

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\$40,243, in which EBRC recommended only \$5,000. Your committee recommends \$21,515.

**Fixed Assets** - For the fiscal year 2025, there was no appropriation. For this FY26, there is a request of \$7,564 for three computers. EBRC recommended \$1,000. Your committee recommends \$1,000.

## **II. Tourism Division**

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$105,655	\$105,655	\$105,655	<u>\$105,655</u>
Travel	\$52,378	\$77,016	\$52,378	<u>\$52,378</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	<u>\$8,500</u>
OCE	\$12,795	\$12,795	\$12,795	<u>\$12,795</u>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$3,500	\$2,000	<u>\$2,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$179,328	\$207,466	\$181,328	<u>\$181,328</u>
No. Employees	3	3	3	3

**Personnel** - The appropriated amount in FY25 was \$105,655 to fund three positions (the Assistant Secretary; the Program Manager for Marketing; and the Program Manager for Production). EBRC recommended the same amount for this fiscal year. Your committee recommends \$105,655.

**Travel** - In fiscal year 2025, an amount of \$52,378 was appropriated. This year, an amount of \$77,016 is requested, but EBRC recommended \$52,378. The division requested three domestic travels, and each travel costs around \$198,172 for three travelers. The purpose of the domestic travel is for consultation purposes. There is another international travel (to attend MIR and the costs is \$4,000), and EBRC did not recommend it. Your committee recommends \$52,378.

**Contractual Services** - In FY25 appropriation, an amount of \$8,500 was appropriated. The recommended amount for this fiscal year 2026 is \$8,500, which is recommended by EBRC recommended. The Unit is requesting \$3,500 to fund the FSMVB website service and \$5,000 for internship. Your committee recommends \$8,500.

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**Other Current Expenses** - The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 was \$12,795. The amount proposed and recommended for this fiscal year 2026 is \$12,795, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends \$12,795.

**Fixed Assets** - In FY 2025, there was no appropriation. For this fiscal year 2026, the division requested \$3,500 to purchase laptops, but EBRC recommended \$2,000. Your committee recommends \$2,000.

### **III. Marine Resources Division**

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$101,102	\$101,102	\$101,102	<u>\$101,102</u>
Travel	\$43,812	\$88,530	\$43,812	<u>\$43,812</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	<u>\$30,000</u>
OCE	\$11,076	\$11,076	\$11,076	<u>\$11,076</u>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$4,000	\$1,000	<u>\$1,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$160,990	\$234,708	\$186,990	<u>\$186,990</u>
No. Employees	3	3	3	3

**Personnel** - The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 was \$101,102 to fund three positions (Assistant Secretary; Deputy Assistant Secretary; and Fisheries Management Conservation Officer). For this year, the proposed amount is \$101,102, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends \$101,102.

**Travel** - In FY25, the appropriated amount was \$43,812. The division proposed \$88,368 for this fiscal year, but EBRC recommended \$43,812. The division requested three domestic travels, and each travel costs around \$198,172 for three travelers. Out of the three domestic travels, EBRC recommended two domestic travels. The purpose of the domestic travel is for consultation purposes. There are three regional travels requested for the Assistant Secretary to travel to Busan (\$5,124), Athens (\$12,009), and Noumea (\$7,196), but was not recommended. There is



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one regional travel for the Fisheries Management Conservation Officer to Washington, D.C. in the amount of \$5,685, but was not recommended. Your committee recommends \$43,812.

**Contractual Services** - For FY25, an amount of \$5,000 was appropriated. For this fiscal year, the division is requesting \$30,000, which was recommended by EBRC. The \$25,000 is to fund a PAN Coordinator, and \$5,000 to fund internship program for the division. Your committee recommends \$30,000.

**Other Current Expenses** - An amount of \$11,076 was appropriated in fiscal year 2025. For fiscal year 2026, the same amount is requested and recommended by EBRC for the following: \$8,576 for office supplies; \$1,000 for POL; and \$1,500 for Printing & Reproduction. Your committee recommends \$11,076.

**Fixed Assets** - No funding appropriated last fiscal year, and for this fiscal year 2026, \$4,000 is requested for laptops, but EBRC recommended \$1,000. Your committee recommends \$1,000.

#### **IV. Agriculture Division**

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$483,922	\$509,744	\$483,922	<u>\$483,922</u>
Travel	\$62,727	\$83,368	\$62,727	<u>\$62,727</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	<u>\$5,000</u>
OCE	\$59,947	\$59,947	\$59,947	<u>\$59,947</u>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$3,000	\$2,000	<u>\$2,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$611,596	\$661,059	\$613,596	<u>\$613,596</u>
No. Employees	23	23	23	23

**Personnel** - The amount appropriated for fiscal year 2025 was \$483,922 to fund twenty-three (23) employees. For fiscal year 2026, the division proposed \$509,744, but EBRC recommended amount is \$483,922. There is an increase of \$25,822 that the division requested, and the increase is for several salary increases, but EBRC retained the all salaries to reflect the fiscal year 2025 appropriation. Your committee recommends \$483,922.

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**Travel** - The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 was \$62,727. The division proposed \$83,368 to fund five domestic travels, two regional travels, and one international travel. EBRC did not recommend the regional travel for the Assistant Secretary to Hilo in the amount of \$5,520, the regional travel for the Data and Information Officer to Nadi in the amount of \$7,801. EBRC recommended the amount of \$62,727, which was the fiscal year 2025 appropriation. Your committee recommends \$62,727.

**Contractual Services** - In fiscal year 2025, there was \$5,000 appropriated for internship. The proposed amount that the division requested for this fiscal year 2026 is \$5,000, which was recommended. Your committee recommends \$5,000.

**Other Current Expenses** - The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 was \$59,947. For fiscal year 2026, the same amount is request, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends \$59,947.

**Fixed Assets** - In FY25, no appropriated amount. For fiscal year 2026, the division requested \$3,000 to purchase a desktop computer, but EBRC recommended \$2,000. Your committee recommends \$2,000.

**V. Division of Trade and Investment**

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$124,873	\$121,873	\$121,873	<u>\$121,873</u>
Travel	\$72,196	\$86,118	\$72,196	<u>\$72,196</u>
Contract.Serv.	\$69,000	\$69,000	\$69,000	<u>\$69,000</u>
OCE	\$24,754	\$27,754	\$24,754	<u>\$24,754</u>
Fixed Assets	0	\$0	\$0	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$290,823	\$301,745	\$287,823	<u>\$287,823</u>
No. Employees	4	4	4	4



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**Personnel** - For FY25, \$124,873 was appropriated to fund four positions (Assistant Secretary; Program Manager for Trade; Program Manager for Investment; and Secretary II). For fiscal year 2026, the division proposed \$121,873, and EBRC recommended the same amount. After reviewing the submitted budget book, there is no significant changes, but EBRC recommended \$121,873, as requested by the division, and reflected the sum total in accordance with the four pay levels of the four employees. Your committee recommends \$121,873.

**Travel** - An amount of \$72,196 was appropriated in FY 2025. This year, the Division is requesting \$86,118 to fund five domestic travels and three regional/international travels, but EBRC recommended \$72,196. Your committee recommends \$72,196.

**Contractual Services** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$69,000 was appropriated. For fiscal year 2026, 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 2025. For fiscal year 2026, the Division requested the same amount and was recommended. Your committee recommends \$24,754.

**Fixed Assets** - The FY25, there was no appropriation. For fiscal year 2026, no amount requested. Your committee recommends \$0.

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

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$105,655	\$105,655	\$105,655	\$105,655
Travel	\$45,304	\$72,580	\$45,304	\$45,304
Contract.Serv.	\$8,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
OCE	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

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Fixed Assets	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	\$169,959	\$183,735	\$156,459	<b>\$154,459</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 \$105,655. For this fiscal year 2026, the division proposed \$105,655 to fund the three positions, and recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends \$105,655.

**Travel** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$45,304 was appropriated. The amount requested for fiscal year 2026 by the division is \$72,580 to fund three domestic travels and two international travels. The domestic travels are for consultations in each of the states, and the international travels for the Micronesian Island Forum in Palau, and to attend the IRENA in Abu Dhabi. EBRC did not recommend the \$14,064 for the IRENA meeting in Abu Dhabi. Your committee recommends \$45,304.

**Contractual Services** - In FY2025, an amount of \$8,000 was appropriated (\$5,000 for internship and \$3,000 for subscription). For this fiscal year, the division requested \$500 for subscription only. EBRC recommended the \$500. Your committee recommends \$500.

**Other Current Expenses** - An amount of \$5,000 was appropriated last year. This year's request is \$5,000 for equipment maintenance, office supplies, and Printing & Reproduction. EBRC recommended \$5,000. Your committee recommends \$5,000.

**Fixed Assets** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$6,000 was appropriated. This year, there is no request. Your committee recommends \$0.

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#### **VI. Division of Statistics**

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$464,227	\$464,227	\$464,227	<b>\$464,227</b>
Travel	\$31,464	\$36,344	\$31,464	<b>\$31,464</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$57,639	\$57,639	\$57,639	<b>\$57,639</b>
OCE	\$48,054	\$48,054	\$48,054	<b>\$48,054</b>
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$601,384</b>	<b>\$606,264</b>	<b>\$601,384</b>	<b>\$601,384</b>
No. Employees	20	20	20	20

**Personnel** - The FY25 appropriation was \$464,227 to fund twenty positions. For fiscal year 2026, the proposed amount is the same (\$464,227) to fund twenty positions, and EBRC recommended the same. Your committee recommends **\$464,227**.

**Travel** - The FY2025 appropriated amount was \$31,464. For FY 2026, there is a request of \$36,344 to fund two domestic travels, but EBRC recommended \$31,464. There is \$3,102 proposed for per diem for international trips, but EBRC did not recommend. Your committee recommends **\$31,464**.

**Contractual Services** - The amount appropriated in fiscal year 2025 was \$57,639. The amount requested for fiscal year 2026 is \$57,639, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends **\$57,639**.

**Other Current Expenses** - An amount of \$48,054 was appropriated in fiscal year 2025. The requested amount for fiscal year 2026 is the same, and was recommended by EBRC. 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)**

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In the NORMA's FY26 budget, your committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, May 22, 2025. In attendance were Mrs. Liman Helgenberger, Acting Executive Director, Mr. Eugene Pangelinan, Consultant for NORMA, Mrs. Moria Joseph, Administrative Officer, 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 2025; the FY 2026 amount proposed by NORMA, and the amount recommended by EBRC. The last column is the amount recommended by your Committee for FY 2026.

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$984,064	\$1,132,798	\$984,064	<b>\$984,064</b>
Travel	\$213,152	\$441,414	\$200,000	<b>\$200,000</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$290,641	\$290,640	\$250,001	<b>\$250,001</b>
OCE	\$102,740	\$106,240	\$90,000	<b>\$90,000</b>
Fixed Assets	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,665,597</b>	<b>\$2,071,092</b>	<b>\$1,574,065</b>	<b>\$1,574,065</b>
No. Employees	30	31	30	30

**Personnel** - For FY 2025, the appropriated amount was \$984,063 to fund thirty positions. The Authority requested a new position (Communication Officer) with a corresponding salary of \$26,152, but EBRC did not recommend it. This communication officer is currently funded by World Bank, and the intent is to transfer the position to be sourced by domestic revenues. Of the thirty positions, there are four vacant positions: the EM/ER Coordinator, the Assistant Director/Fisheries Management division, the Senior Fisheries Economist, and the Executive Director.

For this fiscal year 2026, the Authority is requesting \$1,132,798, but EBRC recommended \$984,064. The authority requested \$77,894 for overtime, but was not recommended. Currently, there is a bill (C.B. No. 24-42) assigned to your Committee on Resources and Development to enable employees of the authority to be eligible for overtime.

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Your committee recommends \$984,064

**Travel** - In FY 2025, the amount appropriated was \$213,152. The Authority requested \$441,414 for fiscal year 2026, but EBRC recommended \$200,000. At the hearing, the requested amount of travel is significantly decrease; however, the Authority can manage for the time being. Your committee recommends \$200,000.

**Contractual Services** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$290,641 was appropriated. For FY26, the Authority proposes \$290,640, but EBRC recommended \$250,001. The significant decrease is reflected in the online subscriptions. Your committee recommends \$250,001.

**Other Current Expenses** - The amount appropriated in FY 2025 was \$102,740. The amount proposed for fiscal year 2026 is \$106,240, but EBRC recommended \$90,000. In the communication and internet request, the original appropriation was \$29,440, but EBRC decreased it to \$18,200, a decrease of \$11,240. The original amount for the Wellness Program was \$3,500, but EBRC increased to \$6,000, an increase of \$3,500. Your committee recommends \$90,000.

**Fixed Assets** - An amount of \$75,000 was appropriated in fiscal year 2025. The authority is requesting \$100,000 for this fiscal year for IT equipment, office equipment and furniture, but EBRC recommended \$50,000. Your committee recommends \$50,000.

#### VIII. FSM BANKING BOARD

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

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	Committee Recommends
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Personnel	\$155,211	\$191,461	\$155,211	<b>\$191,461</b>
Travel	\$61,735	\$109,440	\$50,000	<b>\$50,000</b>
Contract.Serv.	\$40,602	\$40,602	\$35,000	<b>\$40,602</b>
OCE	\$36,210	\$26,870	\$33,370	<b>\$33,370</b>
Fixed Assets	\$8,500	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$302,258</b>	<b>\$368,373</b>	<b>\$273,581</b>	<b>\$315,433</b>
No. Employees	4	4	4	4

Your committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. In attendance were Mrs. Marylou Yatilman, a member of the Board, Mr. Jesse Giltamag, Banking Commissioner, Mr. Pilika Palik, Bank Examiner, Mrs. Annie Marie Hasiulbung, Mr. Sohs John, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Sampson Pretrick, Director of the Office of Personnel.

**Personnel** - The amount appropriated in FY 2025 was \$155,211. For the FY26 request, the Banking Board requested \$191,461 to fund five positions, but EBRC recommended only four positions. The new position that is requested is a Consumer Compliance with a corresponding salary of \$30,617 annually. Your committee approved of the Consumer Compliance position, and recommends **\$191,461**.

**Travel** - The FY25 appropriation was \$61,735. The requested amount for this year is \$109,440, but the recommended amount is \$50,000. EBRC did not recommend the most of the domestic travels. Your committee recommends **\$50,000**.

**Contractual Services** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$40,602 was appropriated. For this fiscal year, an amount of \$40,602 was requested, but EBRC recommended 35,000. Your committee asked whether there is a termination clause in the lease agreement, and Mr. Jesse said yes there is one termination clause. Your committee decided to reinstate the amount for the lease agreement, and recommends **\$40,602**.



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**OCE** - The amount appropriated in FY25 was \$36,210. The fiscal year 2026 requested amount is \$26,870, but EBRC recommended \$33,370. According to Jesse, they proposed \$33,370, and not \$26,373. Your committee recommends \$33,370.

**Fixed Assets** - In FY 2025, an amount of \$8,500 was appropriated. There is no request for this year. Your committee recommends \$0.

**IX. FSM INSURANCE BOARD**

The figures shown in the chart below for the FSM Insurance Board include the total amount appropriated in FY 2025; the amount recommended for FY 2026. The last column is the amount recommended by your committee for FY 2026.

Your committee conducted a public hearing on the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget for the Insurance Commission on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Witnesses included Acting Chairman of the Board Mr. Adelman Joseph, Insurance Commissioner, Mr. Nakama Sana, Insurance Commissioner, Miss Mylee Mario, Insurance Examiner, Mr. Sohs John, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, and Mr. Sampson Pretrick, Director of the Office of Personnel.

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommended	FY26 Committee Recommends
Personnel	\$217,548	\$217,548	\$217,548	\$217,548
Travel	\$67,794	\$98,453	\$60,465	\$67,794
Contract.Serv.	\$347,175	\$350,295	\$337,700	\$347,700
OCE	\$32,004	\$32,004	\$32,004	\$32,004
Fixed Assets	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$694,521</b>	<b>\$698,300</b>	<b>\$647,717</b>	<b>\$695,046</b>
No. Employees	6	6	6	6

**Personnel** - The amount appropriated in FY25 was \$217,548. For FY26, the proposed amount is \$217,548 to fund six positions, which was recommended by EBRC. Your committee recommends \$217,548.

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**Travel** - An amount of \$67,794 was appropriated in FY25. For FY26, an amount of \$98,453 was proposed, but the recommended amount by EBRC is \$60,465, a reduction of \$37,988. According to Mr. Sohs John, the basis behind cutting on travel is to reduce the amount of fund associated with the Board, and EBRC felt that it can be minimized. Your committee understands the need of the travel for the Insurance Board, and recommends \$67,794.

**Contractual Services** - In FY 2025 an amount of \$347,175 was appropriated. For FY 2026, there was a request of \$350,295, but EBRC recommended \$337,700. The \$30,000 is the annual rate for Office lease, but EBRC recommended \$17,405. Mr. Sana plead for the committee to restore the \$30,000 for office lease. Your committee listened to Mr. Sohs John, where he indicated that the amount of lease agreement of \$17,405 is an oversight. Your committee recommends \$347,700.

**OCE** - In FY 2025 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 FY25 budget, there was \$30,00 appropriated for a vehicle, but because of urgent needs of the Executive branch the \$30,000 was reprogrammed. The Insurance Commissioner testified that they really need a vehicle. For this fiscal year, no request. Your committee recommends \$30,000.

**VII. GRANTS, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS**

Department of Resources Development				
Grants, Contributions & Subsidies	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommend	FY26 Committee Recommends
a. Pacific Island Development Program (PIDP)	15,000	15,000	25,000	\$15,000

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<b>b.</b> Pacific Asian Travel Association (PATA)	6,000	6,000	6,000	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>c.</b> United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>d.</b> Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$6,800	<b>\$6,800</b>
<b>e.</b> Western Forestry Leadership Coalition	\$530	\$530	\$530	<b>\$530</b>
<b>f.</b> Matching to SPC Projects	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>g.</b> Micronesian Challenge	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>h.</b> South Pacific Tourism Organization	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>i.</b> IRENA	\$250	\$250	\$250	<b>\$250</b>
<b>j.</b> Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>k.</b> International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	\$500	\$500	\$500	<b>\$500</b>
<b>l.</b> United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>m.</b> Micronesian Island Forum Membership	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>n.</b> Pacific Water & Waste Water Association	\$1,060	\$1,060	\$1,060	<b>\$1,060</b>
<b>o.</b> Micronesian Trade Committee	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>p.</b> Micronesian Challenge Endowment Fund	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>q.</b> International Coconut Community	\$0	\$18,708	\$18,708	<b>\$18,708</b>
<b>r.</b> Bureau International Des Expositions (BIE)	\$0	\$0	\$2,495	<b>\$2,495</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,140</b>	<b>\$285,140</b>	<b>\$216,343</b>	<b>\$206,343</b>

<b>OTHER GRANTS,</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY26</b>
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CONTRIBUTIONS & SUBSIDIES	Appro.	Proposed	Recommend	Committee Recommends
1. Forum Fisheries Agency	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
2. NORMA - WCPFC Tuna Commission Fee	\$806,201	\$598,990	\$598,990	\$598,990
3. PNA Membership Fee	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Total for NORMA</b>	<b>\$879,201</b>	<b>\$671,990</b>	<b>\$671,990</b>	<b>\$671,990</b>
<b>GRANT TOTAL FOR GRANTS, SUBSIDIES &amp; CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$1,034,341</b>	<b>\$957,130</b>	<b>\$888,333</b>	<b>\$878,333</b>

#### VIII. CAPITAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

	FY 2025 Appro.	FY 2026 Proposed	FY26 Recommend	FY26 Committee Recommends
a. R&D State & National Leadership Conference	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
b. R&D conference	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
c. Sustainable Development Goals- Monitoring and Tracking	\$0	\$310,000	\$0	\$0
d. National Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
e. Foreign Investment Regulators Bi-Annual Meetings	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. World Expo Kansai Osaka Japan 2025	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Micronesia Expo 2026 Pohnpei	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$0
h. Marketing and Promotion Australia	\$0	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
i. National Marine/Ocean Resources Symposium	\$0	\$55,000	\$0	\$0

j. Comprehensive Reviews of Trade Legislative Framework	\$0	\$87,000	\$0	\$0
k. Chief Executive Council/Plus One	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
l. FSM Marketing and Branding Strategy Community Awareness	\$0	\$88,000	\$0	\$0
m. MIF Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
Total	\$610,000	\$1,440,000	\$625,000	\$325,000
<b>Other Capital and Human Resources Development</b>				
<b>NORMA</b>				
a. NORMA -World Tuna Day-May 2026	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
b. Hosting WCPFC, TTC & SC	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
c. Internship for Students in the area of fisheries	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
d. T3 Monitoring	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
e. Fisheries Investment Policy Implementation	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
f. FSM's Small Scale Longline Project	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
g. Hosting of Regional and Subregional Meetings	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
h. Implementation of FAO Port State Measure Agreements	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0
Total	235,000	\$795,000	\$735,000	\$735,000
<b>Grant Total for CIP</b>	<b>\$845,000</b>	<b>\$2,235,000</b>	<b>\$1,360,000</b>	<b>\$1,060,000</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

Your Committee on Resources and Development has carefully reviewed the President's recommended FY 2026 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 2026, subject to the recommendations of the Committee on Ways and Means.


STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_

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Respectfully submitted,



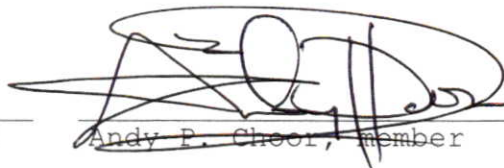
Johnson A. Asher, chairman



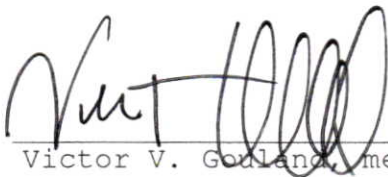
Peter M. Christian, member



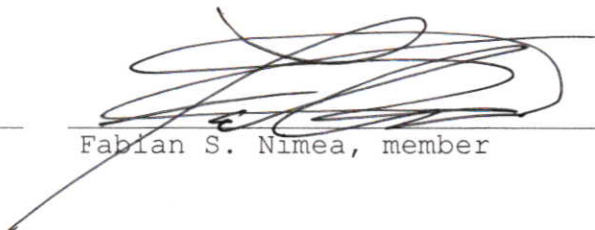
Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, member



Andy P. Cheor, member



Victor V. Goulard, member



Fabian S. Nimea, member



Jermy W. Mudong, member