



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-32

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 24-244

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET/EDUCATION

MAY 20, 2026

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Fourth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Regular Session, 2026

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was jointly referred Presidential Communication No. 24-244 regarding the National Government's Recommended FY2027 Budget, begs leave to report as follows:

Presidential Communication No. 24-244 was transmitted to Congress with the *National Government Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget* ("Budget Book"). Pursuant to Rule 7, Section 3(b), of the Official Rules of Procedure of the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, your Committee has limited its review to those portions of the recommended budget relating to matters under its jurisdiction. These are:

- A. National Department of Education
 - 1. Office of the Secretary
 - 2. Division of Formal and Non-Formal Education
 - 3. Division of Quality and Effectiveness
- B. COM Board of Regents
- C. Grants, Subsidies and Contributions
 - 1. National Department of Education
 - a. Aid to Non Public Schools
 - b. National Scholarship Fund
 - c. National Close-Up Program

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- d. National Merit Scholarship
- e. Financial Assistance/FSM Students at CMI
- f. Financial Assistance/FSM Students at PCC
- g. Aid to Students in Japan
- h. Aid for FSM Students in China
- i. Aid for FSM Students in Fiji
- j. Caroline College & Pastoral Institute (CCP)
- k. Faithwalk Christian College
- 2. Resources
 - a. COM Board Meeting
 - b. COM Treaty Obligations
- D. Capital Investment and Human Resource Development (CIP)
 - 1. College of Micronesia -FSM
 - a. College of Micronesia-FSM Operations
 - b. FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institution
 - c. COM-FSM Public Health Initiative (DDFT)
 - 2. National Department of Education
 - a. Teacher Certification Project
 - b. Teacher Assessment NSTT/NMCT
 - c. VLA Assessment and Development of Framework

1. NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The President's recommended budget for FY2027 for the National Department of Education is \$2,960,234*, the recommended funding sources for this Department are \$1,005,010* from Domestic Revenue and \$1,955,224* from Compact Education Sector Grant. Additional programs under the National Department of Education's jurisdiction are funded by U.S. federal grants in the amount of \$876,667 have a separate budget evaluation and appropriation process, and will be discussed in this report only in the context of how reduction in this funding may impact the overall structure and function of the National Department of Education.

The National Department of Education is also recommended by the President to receive funding under the section for Grants, Subsidies and Contributions for FY 2027 at \$4,894,391, the recommended funding sources are: \$1,000,000 from Compact Sector Education Grant, and \$3,894,391 from Domestic Revenue. Further, the National Department of Education is recommended to receive

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funding under the section for Capital Investment and Human Resource Development for FY 2027 in the amount of \$172,343*, to be funded in entirety from Domestic Revenue.

The President has recommended a budget for the College of Micronesia-FSM under the section for Capital Investment and Human Resource Development for FY 2027 at \$6,118,539, the recommended funding sources are \$5,018,539 from Compact Education Sector Grant and \$1,100,000 from Domestic Revenue.

Your Committee held hearings on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the National Department of Education on May 13, 2026. Witnesses present at this hearing were the Secretary of Education and her key staff, a representative from the Department of Justice, a representative from the Department of Finance and Administration, the Director of the Office of Personnel and a representative from the Office of the President. The Committee held its FY27 budget hearings with the College of Micronesia-FSM on May 14, 2026. Witnesses present at this hearing were the President of COM-FSM and her key staff, the chair of the COM-FSM Board of Regents, a representative of the Office of the President and a representative of the Department of Justice.

*The totals do not agree in several sections of the President's recommended budget. The above totals have been calculated from the most detailed total budgets for the Office of the Secretary, Division of Formal and Non Formal Education and Division of Quality & Effectiveness. The Division of Special Education is reported under a separate report for grant funding so is not included.

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A. Office of the Secretary

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Committee Recommends
Personnel	172,660	197,439	197,439	181,587
Travel	89,200	169,200	169,200	169,200
Contract	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
OCE	57,500	57,500	62,000	62,000
Fixed Asset	-0-	30,000	-0-	-0-
Total	409,360	544,139	518,639	502,787
# Employees	5	7	7	6

Personnel:

The President's Budget Book recommends the inclusion of two new positions for this coming FY27. The Secretary of Education stated that to better support the Division of Quality & Effectiveness one position, the position of Administrative Specialist, had been transferred there. She also stated that the vacant Executive Secretary II position has been filled. The only current position that is proposed as a new position is the Student Services Coordinator. This position had been recommended and included in previous fiscal years but due to the inability of recruiting a qualified individual it lapsed. It is a much-needed position that will support the Post Secondary Specialist with her heavy workload. The Committee is in agreement that a Student Services Coordinator is much needed by the Department.

Your Committee notes the Administrative Specialist position is a Grade 28 Step 1 at \$15,852 and accepts the explanation for this slight department reorganization. Therefore, this position will not be recommended for the Office of the Secretary but will be included the Division of Quality & Effectiveness.

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For the above reasons, **your Committee recommends \$181,587 for the Personnel of the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Travel:

There is a significant increase proposed in travel for this coming year for the Office of the Secretary. The explanation that the Secretary of Education gave was there a desire to continue the school leadership training through the Principal's Academy. This training program for school principals brings school principals to Pohnpei for a leadership academy in the summer. This fiscal year the program had been funded by Asian Development Bank under an initiative to improve the quality of basic education. The Department would like to continue this valuable program and to do so it is requesting it be included in its budget. It was noted also by the Secretary that this program was valuable because much of the training and continuing education targets teachers, but little is given to support the school leadership and administration.

The Committee understands the need for more support for the leadership of our schools. There are many challenges facing our education system which hinder its ability to provide a good education to our students. The Committee heard several times from the Department of Finance and Administration during this hearing regarding the difficult choices that were made during the budget process. It was forced not to recommend all of the worthy projects due to lack of funds. As this program for the further training of school principals was selected for inclusion it has already passed a high bar. Your Committee agrees that this training is needed and should continue. The Committee does request as a part of this report that the Department forward a detailed breakdown for the budget of this project which should also include all of the activities to be performed.

As in previous years the travel budget includes trips for the Post Secondary Specialist. The Committee believes that the Post Secondary Specialist travel is very important as she should maintain strong communication channels with all student who

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receive scholarships. In recommending the budget for this category the Committee strongly urges that these trips be considered a priority and that comments from the students and institutions visited be reported to it.

For the reasons discussed above, **your Committee recommends \$169,200 for Travel for FY27 for the Office of the Secretary, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Contractual Services:

The contractual services category is proposed to remain the same as in previous fiscal years. The single item in this category is a long-term lease for office space for the Department. As the financial situation remains difficult no movement has been made for securing land or purchasing a building for a permanent office.

In consideration of the above, **your Committee recommends \$90,000 for Contractual Services for FY27 for the Office of the Secretary, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Other Current Expenditures:

There is a slight proposed increase for the category of Other Current Expenditures. The general explanation for this was the increase in cost of operations. Transportation and supplies costs have risen. In previous fiscal years your Committee has encouraged the Department to make a reasonable estimate for the cost of its operations. The modest increase recommended by the President for FY27 is in keeping with inflation and higher costs of doing business. The Committee is satisfied with the necessity of this adjustment.

In consideration of the above commentary, **your Committee recommends \$62,000 for the Other Current Expenditures for FY27 for the Office of the Secretary, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Fixed Assets:

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The Department requested funding for a vehicle in several places in its proposed but it was not recommended by the President for FY27. The Committee has determined to entertain a shift in funding between categories in another section of this budget report to accommodate funding for a vehicle in lieu of continued car rentals, but it makes no such recommendation for adjustment to Office of the Secretary.

The Committee concurs with the President's recommendation of -0- in funding for Fixed Assets for the Office of the Secretary for FY27.

After the above adjustments for each category, your Committee recommends \$502,787 for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

B. Division of Formal & Non Formal Education

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Committee Recommends
Personnel	207,934	207,416	207,416	207,416
Travel	57,791	223,500	169,500	100,000
Contract	40,000	120,000	20,000	20,000
OCE	47,705	138,000	88,000	78,000
Fixed Assets	-0-	50,000	-0-	10,000
Total	346,430	738,916	484,916	415,416
Employees	7	7	7	7

Personnel:

The same positions are recommended for FY27 as in previous fiscal years. All salaries in the Budget Book correspond to the current listing with the Office of Personnel. The Committee encourages the Department of Education to work on recruitment for its vacant positions, particularly the GTES position which is now open. The Committee would not like to see gaps in

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activities for students. However, over all, the Committee is satisfied with this structure of this division.

Based on the above comments, **your Committee recommends \$207,416 for the Personnel of the Division of Formal & Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Travel:

This category is recommended to increase by more than three hundred percent for the next fiscal year and is to be funded entirely by domestic revenue. More than ten new trips are proposed for the ECE Specialist and the CTE Specialist. During the hearing these trips were specifically discussed.

The proposed trips for the CTE Specialist were for training and rolling out a new curriculum for vocational education. While your Committee has long recognized the need for more new young skilled people in the vocational area it believes that some or most of this training could be delivered online.

As to the expanded travel for the ECE Specialist the Committee believes that several of the proposed trips to the states may be premature. Currently there is a bill pending with the Committee on Education, C.B. No. 24-103, to make kindergarten mandatory throughout the Nation. The Committee is still doing its analysis on this piece of legislation. It intends to meet with the State Departments of Education and will incorporate their comments in their findings. Specifically, the Committee needs to understand the reasons behind the many current teacher vacancies and challenges in recruitment before it creates more mandatory positions.

In consideration of the above commentary, **your Committee recommends \$100,000 for the Travel of the Division of Formal & Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

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Contractual Services

There is one item recommended this coming fiscal year under this category, the LIFT project. This project works jointly between the Division on Special Education and the Division on Formal and Non Formal Education to provide practical literacy skills. The Committee requested an analysis of the performance for this project for the last five years and a detailed summary of the proposed activities for the coming fiscal year. Your Committee urges these documents be transmitted within two weeks. The Committee will be holding oversight on this project in the coming months when it reviews the grant for the Division of Special Education. At this time your Committee supports the continuation of this important project.

The Department took the opportunity at the hearing to discuss the merits of its proposal of the development of a Workforce Policy for FSM for Youth. This proposal was requested by the Department of Education but not recommended by the President for the coming fiscal year. Your Committee intends to recommend a total budget for FY27 that is at or below that recommended by the President. As our Nation is faced with many financial challenges the Committee intends to exercise fiscal restraint. Although a youth workforce policy may be beneficial the Committee agrees with the President that it cannot be accommodated at this time.

Your Committee is satisfied with the information received, **and it recommends \$20,000 for the Contractual Services of the Division of Formal & Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Other Current Expenditures:

This category for operations budget of the division is recommended to double for the coming fiscal year. The additional expenses are proposed for renting conference space, renting vehicles and additional printing costs. One of the explanations for this additional budget was car rental was necessary as the whole Department has only two working vehicles.

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The Committee understands that this deficiency hampers the day-to-day work and necessitates the hiring of vehicles when hosting events.

In order to accommodate one of the requests by the Department for a vehicle for the coming fiscal year your Committee makes a recommendation to adjust this Division's budget. It recommends that the \$5,000 for rental vehicles be zero in this category and that the conference rental space be reduced to \$25,000. The \$10,000 reduction will be included in Fixed Assets for the purchase of a used vehicle. With over twenty staff in the Department it needs an additional vehicle.

For the reasons stated above, **your Committee recommends \$78,000 for the Other Current Expenditures of the Division of Formal & Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Fixed Assets:

Your Committee does consider one additional vehicle necessary for the Department of Education for FY27. The President has not recommended the purchase of vehicles in this budget recommendation for the coming fiscal year. However, as stated above the Committee has adjusted the recommendations on line items to accommodate the purchase of a quality used vehicle with no overall increase in budget. The Committee now recommends that \$10,000 be used for the purchase of a used vehicle.

To align with the above adjustments, **your Committee recommends \$10,000 for Fixed Assets for the Division of Formal & Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Following the above adjustments and commentary, **your Committee recommends \$415,416 for the Division of Formal and Non Formal Education for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

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C. Division of Quality & Effectiveness

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Committee Recommends	Domestic Revenue	Compact Sector Grant
Personnel	225,992	308,454	308,454	308,454	-0-	308,454
Travel	119,500	787,727	787,727	787,727	9,000	778,727
Contract	150,000	650,616	500,616	500,616	-0-	500,616
OCE	64,372	367,882	367,882	367,882	-0-	367,882
Fixed Assets	-0-	30,000	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	584,722	2,144,679	1,956,679	1,956,679	9,000	1,955,679
Employee	9	11	11	11	-0-	11

Personnel:

Two new positions are recommended for this Division for FY27 and it is noted that all witnesses stated that they are necessary for the additional administrative and data requirements. As Compact Education Sector Grant funding is available for all positions recommended the Committee defers to the President and the Department of Education on this issue.

With the above comment, **your Committee recommends \$308,454 for Personnel for the Division of Quality & Effectiveness for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Education Sector grant.**

Travel:

Although this category is funded almost exclusively from Compact your Committee questioned the necessity of the dramatic increase to \$787,727 for FY27. The Department explained that the majority of the funding for the core initiatives of student testing, school accreditation and teacher certification are recommended to be moved from Section 9 of the budget to the Department of Education main budget for FY27. This reorganization was done to include more of the activities under Compact Education Sector grant funding. The Committee is well pleased with this significant increase in Compact funding for

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this Division and is satisfied that the trips and activities remain the same as in previous years.

As stated for the reasons above, **your Committee recommends \$787,727 for Travel for the Division of Quality & Effectiveness for FY27, with \$9,000 to be funded by Domestic Revenue and \$778,272 from Compact Education Sector grant.**

Contractual Services:

This category is also recommended for a large increase due to the shifting of items from Section 9 regarding the transportation of Department staff working in the outer islands on the core initiatives. The total cost of these trips is projected to increase slightly but the area covered remains the same. The Compact Education Sector Grant is now recommended to cover these transportation costs, as well as, the contractual services routinely recommended in previous years.

In line with above commentary, **your Committee recommends \$500,616 for FY27 for the Contractual Services for the Division of Quality & Effectiveness, to funded in its entirety from Compact Education Sector grant.**

Other Current Expenditures:

As with the above two previous categories the Other Current Expenditures category is recommended for very significant increase in FY27. The printing, rental expenses, equipment and supplies necessary for student testing have been moved to the budget for this Division and recommended to be funded from the Compact Education Sector grant. The Committee reiterates that it appreciates the change in recommended funding source.

In consideration of the above commentary, **your Committee recommends \$367,882 for Other Current Expenditures for the Division of Quality & Effectiveness for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Education Sector grant.**

Fixed Assets:

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The President does not recommended funding for this category, and your Committee concurs recommending -0- for FY27 for Fixed Assets for the Division of Quality & Effectiveness.

2. BOARD OF REGENTS— COM-FSM

The President recommends the same budget for the COM-FSM Board of Regents as in previous years, and your Committee concurs, and recommends \$120,000 for the COM-FSM Board of Regents for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

3. GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

A. National Department of Education

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Recommended	FY27 Pres. Recommend	FY27 Committee Recommend
Non Public School	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
National Scholarship	3,000,000	4,000,000	3,189,391	3,189,391*
Close-Up Program	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Merit Scholarship	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Aid CMI students	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Aid PCC students	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Aid Japan students	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Aid China students	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Aid Fiji students	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

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Aid Caroline College	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Aid Faithwalk College	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Xavier High School	50,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	4,755,000	5,705,000	4,894,391	4,894,391

The recommendations by the President vary little from previous fiscal years. However, the Secretary of Education and her key staff advocated for increases in several areas not included in the Budget Book.

First, the Post Secondary Specialist stated that National Scholarship should be increased to allow funds for summer school and a residual amount for use for the Fall 2027 term. She also went on to explain that unless a supplemental budget was passed this May session of Congress for the first time in many years scholarships would not be available for students this summer 2026 term. The Post Secondary Specialist informed the Committee that \$200,000 was sufficient for the students on Merit Scholarships for the coming fiscal year and the other aid for students attending schools overseas for the academic year 2026/2027 would be adequate as proposed in the Budget Book. The witnesses confirmed that the National Scholarship was recommended to be funded by \$1,000,000 from Compact Education Sector Grant and the remaining \$2,189,391 from Domestic Revenue.

Another item the Department advocated increasing was the funding for the National Close-Up program. The funding for this item has remained unchanged for many years and this has resulted in fewer students being able to attend. When questioned why the Department doesn't partner with the four states and request a cost sharing arrangement the Department stated that the states already pay for one student to attend. The Committee believes that more work should be done to have the states shoulder some of the financial burden of this important program.

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Inquiries were made by the Committee as to why Xavier High School was not recommended to receive funding assistance in FY27. The representative from the Department of Finance and Administration stated that Xavier High School received a per capita share of the aid to Non-Public Schools and it was determined not to recommend additional funding for one school that was not available to other private schools.

In agreement with the President's recommendations, **your Committee recommends Grants, Subsidies and Contributions for Department of Education for FY27 at \$4,894,391, with \$3,894,391 to be funded by Domestic Revenue and \$1,000,000 from Compact Education Sector grant.**

B. Resources

i. College of Micronesia-FSM Annual Board Meeting

As in previous years the President has recommended \$5,000 for this item for FY27. **Your Committee concurs with the President, and recommends \$5,000 for the COM-FSM Annual Board Meeting for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

ii. College of Micronesia-FSM Treaty Obligations

This item also has remained unchanged for several fiscal years and is again recommended by the President for funding at \$25,000 for FY27. **The Committee concurs with the recommendation of the President, and recommends \$25,000 for the COM-FSM Treaty Obligations for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

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4. Capital Investment and Human Resource Development

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommended	FY27 Committee Recommended
COM operations	5,018,539	5,018,539	5,018,539	5,018,539*
FMI	850,000	934,999	850,000	850,000
COM Public Health Project	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
COM IDP for Infrastructure	1,941,665	3,668,440	-0-	-0-
School Accreditation	271,392	-0-	-0-	-0-
Curriculum Standards	968,477	-0-	-0-	-0-
CELEP	42,550	-0-	-0-	-0-
Teacher Certification	274,652	106,343	106,343	106,343
Leadership Standards	290,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
NSTT/NMCT Teacher Assess	442,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
VLA Framework Development	-0-	66,000	66,000	66,000 -0-
FSM Math Curriculum	280,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	9,726,798	10,683,548	6,484,837 6,290,882*	6,290,882

*There is a calculation error – the total of items recommended by the President for FY27 should be \$6,290,882.

**The COM-FSM operations at \$5,018,539 is recommended by the President to be entirely funded by Compact Education Sector Grant.

A. College of Micronesia-FSM

The President of the College of Micronesia-FSM and the Chairwoman of the COM-FSM Board of Regents gave a detailed presentation at the budget hearing including statistics for the

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College and outlining the goals for the coming fiscal year. The President of COM-FSM and witnesses confirmed that the entire COM-FSM operations contribution of over five million dollars will be funded by Compact Education Sector Grant for FY27. The Committee congratulates the College for its strong advocacy at the JEMCO meetings to obtain a waiver of the cap of \$1 million. This waiver must annually be requested but the COM-FSM leadership is committed to continued work in this area.

The budget for FMI is recommended to remain the same as in previous fiscal years. Your Committee did comment as to the absence of priority for instruction in fishing at the institute. The COM-FSM witnesses stated that there are several required courses in fisheries and there is work being done to develop a certificate course for this important area.

The Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow project statistics show that this extra funding is bearing fruit. There are more graduates in the healthcare profession in the past five years than in earlier years. One problem that the College highlighted was many of the healthcare majors end up working in other jobs, primarily in government, rather than in healthcare. The College requested that some thought be given to giving a stipend for the healthcare positions so they are competitive with other jobs available in the FSM. The Committee thanked the College for the information and welcomed the good news on this education front.

B. National Department of Education

The majority of items historically included in the section for the Department have been moved to the Division of Quality & Effectiveness in the main budget. As stated above much of the three core initiatives' projects expenses will now be covered by Compact Education Sector Grant. The Department has been requested to provide budget and activities breakdowns for all projects proposed for FY27. Your Committee intends to continue with more detailed oversight for the Department and these projects after the May session. The Committee is appreciative of the significant reduction in the use of domestic revenue in this section and concurs with the President's recommendations.

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Your Committee concurs with the recommendations of the President for funding for the section of Capital Investment and Human Resource Development for both the National Department of Education and the College of Micronesia-FSM for FY27 and agrees to a total funding of \$6,290,882 for FY27, with \$5,018,539 to be funded from Compact Education Sector grant (COM-FSM operations), and the remaining \$1,272,343 to be funded from Domestic Revenue.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee on Education has carefully reviewed the President's Recommend Fiscal Year 2027 budget and all the supplemental information provided by the Executive and the entities within 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 all of the coming Fiscal Year 2027.

Subject to the conditions and limitations set forth herein, and subject to the concurrence of your Committee on Ways and Means, your Committee on Education recommends approval of the amounts and sources of funds identified as Committee Recommendations.

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Respectfully submitted,



Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, chairwoman



Esmond B. Moses, member



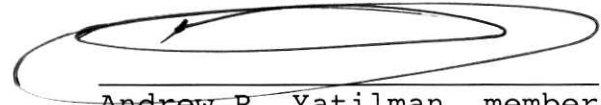
Perpetua S. Konman, member



Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member



Jermy W. Mudong, member



Andrew R. Yatilman, member

Julio M. Marar, member