



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-45

RE: C.R. No. 24-171/ED

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,616,471 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, TO FUND THE FSM SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND SERVICES, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

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

Dear Speaker:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred
Congressional Resolution No. 24-171, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT
ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,616,471 FROM THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026
UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES
ACT (IDEA), TO THE FSM SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
AND SERVICES, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-46

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Your Committee held an hearing on C.R. 24-171 on September 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Congress hearing room. In attendance at the hearing were representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Justice, and Department of Finance & Administration.

The FSM Special Education Program operations and services provided to students with disabilities is funded by U.S. Department of Education annual grants under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). C.R. 24-171 is the first part of U.S. Department Education funding that is annually granted to the FSM Special Education Program for the fiscal year. According to the U.S. Department of Education grant award notice, the \$1,616,471 award provides funding for the July 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, budget period. A second grant award should be forthcoming in October 2026.

Representatives from the Department of Education provided a comprehensive summary of the history of the annual grant awards under IDEA, along with a description of the services provided throughout the FSM for students with disabilities.

Your Committee notes that, starting in FY 2025, the annual total grant award provided under IDEA is \$4.6 million; prior to FY 2025 the total grant award was \$3.8 million. The approximately 20% increase is to support early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities from birth to age three; with the increased grant amount, services are now provided for children from birth to age 21. Services are provided at the state level, with support from the national government. Grant funds are distributed to the States based on a formula that takes into account the student population in each state and the number of students with disabilities; the formula has been in place

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for over 10 years, and was agreed to by all State Divisions of Special Education.

According to the written impact statement provided by the Department of Education to your Committee, 1,576 students needing special education and related services, such as speech therapy, physical therapy, sign language, transportation and mobility, and occupational therapy, receive special education and related services every year. All services and personnel providing the services are paid from the IDEA grant funds. According to Department testimony, the need for programs and quality services exceeds the available funding, and the Department has looked for additional support from the United Nations, World Bank, and Australia government, focusing on assistive technology.

Your Committee inquired into whether there is overlap or redundancy in the grants received by the Department of Health for the same or similar purpose. The Department indicated that there is an ongoing interagency collaboration with the Department of Health, and that is an issue being addressed as they seek to streamline services.

Your Committee also inquired as to how students are identified as in need of special services. The Department noted that the evaluation and assessment of students is done at the state level. Each state follows a process including community outreach and public hearings encouraging parents to bring children in for available testing and screening. There is also collaboration with the Department of Health to confirm diagnoses. Despite best efforts, the Department noted that there are certainly children who have not been brought in for screening, and adults over 21 who were never tested but could have benefitted from available services. The screening is a two-prong approach: first, does the child

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have a disability; and second, does the disability adversely affects the child's learning ability.

Finally, the Department explained the some of the current challenges in providing special education services. It remains difficult to find qualified and trained personnel to provide appropriate and quality services. The salary for expats coming to the FSM is an issue; the Department is focusing efforts on networking with Guam and LA Children's Hospital to provide ongoing teaching and support for persons on island. Autism diagnoses also continue to increase, and children with autism need continuing and consistent support, not just at school but at home and in the community. An effort is being made to connect with parents and community leaders to help with providing training and skills in order to provide services in the home and community.

AMENDMENTS

Your Committee recommends the following amendments:

- Title, line 3, delete "for Fiscal Year 2026"
- Line 4, delete "2027" and insert "2026 in lieu thereof"

CONCLUSION

Your Committee has carefully reviewed Congressional Resolution No. 24-171 and the overview compiled by the Department of Education and witness testimony. Your Committee on Education is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 24-171, and recommends that C.R. 24-171 be placed on the resolution calendar for adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 24-171, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,



Merlynn Abello-Alfonso, chairwoman

Andrew R. Yatilman, vice chairman



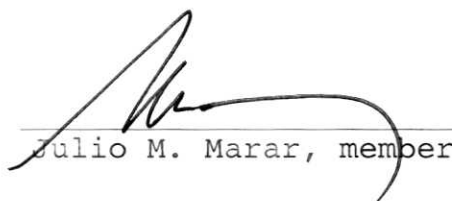
Jerry K. Mudong, member



Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member



Esmond B. Moses, member



Julio M. Marar, member



Perpetua S. Konnan