



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-12

RE: COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee to Wait on the President was duly appointed on September 15, 2026, consisting of Members Johnson A. Asher, Jermy W. Mudong, Perpetua S. Konman, and Andy P. Choor; Member Andy P. Choor was designated as the chair. The meeting took place with the President, Vice President, and key Executive cabinet officials and staff on September 15, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. The Chairman of your Committee thanked the President on behalf of Congress for the opportunity to meet, and reported that Congress was in session and ready to transact business. The President opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee on behalf of himself, the Vice President, and Executive staff present. Following an opening prayer, the President expressed his appreciation to Congress for convening the session. The President and your Committee then opened discussion on the priorities of the session.

The President noted two priorities are completion of the FY 2027 Budget and extension of the Emergency Declaration.

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As for the FY 2027 Budget, your Committee shared that the timeline for final markup is planned for early next week. The President expressed appreciation for all of the work your committees have put into finalizing the budget, and indicated that cabinet members will remain on island and available to provide any additional information as needed.

Regarding the Emergency Declaration, the President noted that an extension is requested as the Declaration currently expires on September 16, 2026. The President referred to the letter transmitted to Congress with the proposed resolution extending the emergency to December 15, 2026, and indicated that DECCEM was available to work with Congress and answer any questions about the necessity of the extension.

Your Committee expressed appreciation for the work done by the Executive regarding the relief efforts, and noted that this is the first time accessing disaster relief under the new Compact. The President informed your Committee that the U.S. accepted the joint damage assessment of \$96 million. As for expenditure reports, the President stated that they were waiting to submit the reports until the Emergency is completed, but will submit the reports now as requested. The President noted one concern is that people from outer islands and neighboring islands that have been affected by the disaster have not received their share of relief assistance.

Your Committee expressed that due to the Declaration expiring September 16, 2026, there may not be time to hold a hearing on the request for an extension, and asked for clarification on what the impact would be if the Declaration is not extended.

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The representative from DECCEM stated that the current challenge is mobilizing goods and supplies to deliver to the islands, and having the Declaration extended will assist in expediting procurement of supplies, especially since the Navigator is going out for an overdue dry-dock.

Moving on to additional priorities, the President mentioned the following items as matters he hopes Congress can undertake this session:

- Pursuant to the audit report, a bill establishing an accounting and monitoring mechanism for Compact funds that are passed to the States as subrecipients. The representative from Department of Finance indicated this bill must become law by October 1, 2026, or the FSM is in danger of not receiving the Compact funds for FY 2027.
- The pending cybersecurity bills, especially in light of the recent cyber fraud incident.
- The Google cable and repurposing the \$1.9 million COM infrastructure grant; time is important as inflation could lead to increased costs of the project, and the connection is critical to telecom infrastructure.
- In order to continue to stabilize fuel prices, the President asks Congress to support a narrow exception to allow access to the FSM Trust Fund, specifically the States' shares of their sub-accounts.
- While there has not been an FY2026 supplemental request, the President notes a few standalone appropriation bills have been transmitted to Congress, including \$300,000 to fund official activities commemorating the 40th anniversary of our Nation's independence.

The President then mentioned that nominations have been

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transmitted for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Counsel General of the FSM in Portland, and Executive Director of the National Seabed Resources Authority. A number of grants have also been transmitted for consideration, and the President noted that there are two large grants he hopes Congress can approve this session: \$5 million from Asian Development Bank for water security, and \$16 million from the FAA.

The President then asked cabinet members and key Executive staff if there were other matters to discuss, and the following items were brought to you Committee's attention:

- The bill establishing an accounting and monitoring mechanism for Compact funds that are passed to the States as subrecipients must be acted on this session, before the next cycle of Compact grants starts.
- In addition to the Navigator going out for overdue dry-docking, the Voyager is also in need of repair and is grounded under dry-docking in late November.
- C.B. No. 24-120, to allow for former FSM citizens, of military service, to deem not having renounced citizenship and consider as having maintained FSM citizenship with retroactive application.

Finally, your Committee inquired as to the status of the outbreak in Chuuk State. The representative from Department of Health indicated that things have calmed down, there is personnel in Chuuk providing support, and currently there are no requests for medicine. However, there have been fatalities associated with the outbreak, and the source is still being investigated but food contamination is being considering and/or toxin from marine life. Investigation into the source of illness continues.

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Your Committee offers this report as a summary of its meeting and stands ready to address any questions the members may have.

Respectfully submitted,



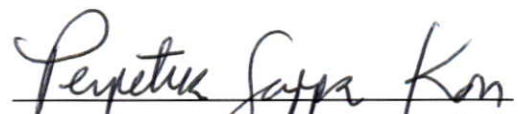
Andy P. Choor, chairman



Johnson A. Asher, member



Jermy W. Mudong, member



Perpetua S. Kohman, member