



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-13

RE: PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 24-244

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET/SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE
CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Special Committee on Climate Change & Environmental Issues, 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 Special Committee has limited its review to those portions of the recommended budget relating to matters under its jurisdiction. These are:

- A. Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM)
 - 1. Office of the Secretary
 - 2. Division of the Environment
 - 3. Division of Climate Change
 - 4. Division of Emergency Management
- B. Grants, Subsidies and Contributions
 - 1. UNEP

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2. UNFCCC
3. UNCCD
4. SPREP
5. Waigani Convention
6. SPREP Noumea Convention
7. Earth Day Activities
8. EPA Director's Meeting
9. Basel Convention
10. Kyoto Protocol
11. WMO Membership
12. DAEF Sector Grant
13. DAEF Matching
14. Stockholm Convention Membership
15. COP 31
16. Disaster Relief Fund
- C. Capital and Human Resources and Development
 1. National & State Table Top Exercise
 2. Outer Island Disaster Risk Assessment
 3. International Disaster Day
 4. Disaster Risk Management Conference
 5. Micronesia Clean Up Awareness Campaigns

**A. NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND
EMERGENCY MANGAGEMENT**

The President's recommended budget for FY2027 for the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM) is \$1,274,985 of which \$562,843 is to be funded from the Compact Environment Sector Grant, and the remaining \$712,142 is to be funded from Domestic Revenue.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management is recommended by the President to receive funding under the section for Grants, Subsidies and Contributions for FY 2027 at \$803,542, which is recommended to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue. Further, DECEM is recommended to receive funding under the section for Capital Investment and Human Resource Development for FY2027 in the amount of \$132,000, which is also recommended to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

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Your Special Committee held hearings of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management during the May 2026 Regular Session of Congress, as well as, oversight hearings and investigation. The information received from all sources informs its recommendation below.

1. Office of the Secretary

	FY27 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Comm. Recommends
Personnel	164,544	174,918	164,544	164,544
Travel	8,816	79,918	79,729	79,729
Contract	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
OCE	8,100	20,369	8,100	8,100
Fixed Assets	-0-	5,200	5,200	5,200
Total	331,460	430,216	407,5573	407,573
# Employees	5	5	5	5

Personnel:

The President recommends that the five positions in the Office of the Secretary remain unchanged and is not recommending any change in salary for the exempt position. Your Committee concurs with the President, **and it recommends \$164,544 for Personnel category for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Travel:

Your Special Committee understands that the new proposed trips for the coming fiscal year are for conferences and meetings at the regional and international level that are necessary. In previous years there has not been enough brought back from these trips in terms of training and information sharing. The Special Committee expects to see a summary of activities for each of these trips and further information on how this new knowledge will be shared throughout DECEM. Now that the new Secretary is

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in place the Special Committee looks forward to more frequent reports in general.

The Special Committee is also requesting that the Office of the Secretary and all his relevant divisions work with the other Executive branch departments and agencies to prepare for the 2026/2027 El Nino. The predictions are dire. The Nation faces the strong possibility of long periods of drought, and severe water shortages are expected particularly in Kosrae and Yap. Your Special Committee has also been advised that due to the rapid, extreme heating of the ocean more typhoons are expected during the next six months with the potential of several being 'super typhoons'. It is very important to plan for these risks. It is hoped that while on travel, particularly domestic travel, work is also being done on this urgent matter.

In line with above commentary, **your Special Committee recommends \$79,729 for the Travel category for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Contractual Services:

It is recognized that grant writing is a specialty that can bring additional funding into DECEM while also assisting the Department with all aspects of compliance. However, the funding for this consulting contract is significant and your Special Committee will be conducting oversight in the coming fiscal year to ensure that the activities and performance of this contract justify the expense. In the meantime, the Special Committee approves the continued contract at the current rate.

For the reasons stated above, **your Special Committee recommends \$150,000 for the Contractual Services category for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Other Current Expenditures:

Your Special Committee appreciates the President's recommendation to maintain the funding for this category at the

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same rate as in previous fiscal years. As other divisions will be receiving Compact Environment Sector Grant funding it is welcomed that more Domestic Revenue has not been requested for operations.

As to align with the above comment, **your Special Committee recommends \$8,100 for Other Current Expenditures category for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Fixed Assets:

The Special Committee recognizes the necessity of upgrading the office equipment in the Office of the Secretary and agrees that the purchase of new computers is necessary.

In line with above reasoning, **your Special Committee recommends \$5,200 for the Fixed Assets category for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

In consideration of the comments made above, **your Special Committee recommends \$407,573 for the Office of the Secretary for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

2. Division of Environment

	FY26 Approp.	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 Pres. Recommend	FY27 Comm. Recommend	Domestic Revenue	Sector Grant
Personnel	198,229	198,229	198,229	198,229	-0-	198,229
Travel	22,280	76,514	33,420	33,420	33,420	-0-
Contract	500	120,500	120,500	120,500	-0-	120,500
OCE	5,800	8,500	5,800	5,800	35,800	-0-
Fixed Assets	-0-	-0-	-0-	50,000	50,000	-0-
Total	226,809	403,743	357,949	407,949	89,220	318,729
#Employees	7	7	7	7	-0-	7

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Personnel:

The same seven positions from previous fiscal years are recommended for FY27. The Special Committee appreciates that the positions and salary recommendations remain the same. Unfortunately, as there has been much activity in the area of emergency and disaster management the Special Committee has not had an opportunity to do a detailed oversight with this Division in some time. It notices its intention to do this during the coming FY27.

In line with above comment, **your Special Committee recommends \$198,229 for the Personnel category for the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Environment Sector grant.**

Travel:

The international travel necessary to maintain our relationships in important organizations and conferences has become more expensive. The Special Committee does understand the necessity of this travel, however, as stated in the previous section activities and dissemination of information needs to happen after these trips. Your Special Committee will be requesting an update on the outcomes of these trips later in FY27.

As stated in the previous section the Special Committee strongly urges that work be done all across our Nation to prepare for the 2026/2027 El Nino. Regarding the environment the Special Committee is concerned that water as a resource and a necessity of life is managed across several departments at the Executive branch. Coordination efforts between these departments and agencies must work closely together to see that access to water is maintained and the purity of the available water meets the highest standards. The Special Committee reiterates that all travel done domestically should include a component of El Nino preparedness.

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For the reason stated above, **your Special Committee recommends \$33,420 for the Travel category of the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Contractual Services:

For the coming FY27 there is a recommendation to contract an attorney with an environmental background to draft legislation and provide specialty guidance for the Division the next twelve-month period. This is another area that has needed attention for some time your Special Committee is pleased that it is being selected as a priority matter. Many areas in environmental protection are changing as better science, statistics and protection measures evolve. In order to keep up with the international norms, new laws, and regulations need to be in place. The Special Committee appreciates support for this effort in JEMCO and looks forward to the review of proposed legislation in the coming fiscal year.

In consideration of the above, **your Special Committee recommends \$120,500 for the Contractual Services category of the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Environment Sector grant.**

Other Current Expenditures:

The Special Committee is pleased with the President's recommendation to remain the operations funding for this Division the same as in previous years, **and it recommends \$5,800 for the Other Current Expenditures category for the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Fixed Assets:

The President does not recommend funding for this category. The Special Committee, however, is committed to giving the people working at the local level the resources needed to do their jobs. At the state level DECEM does significant work with all of the local partners. Especially during the coming fiscal year

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where our Nation will be faced with the increased potential of extreme weather and disasters additional vehicles at the local level will be necessary. For this reason the Special Committee is recommending a vehicle for Kosrae and Yap at \$25,000 each for FY27 and it will recommend the same for the other two states in the following fiscal year.

In the consideration of the above comments, your Special Committee recommends \$50,000 for the Fixed Assets category for the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

In consideration of the above commentary, your Special Committee recommends \$407,949 for the Division of Environment for FY27, to be funded \$318,729 from the Compact Environment Sector grant, and the remaining \$89,220 from Domestic Revenue.

3. Division of Climate Change

	FY26 Approp.	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 Pres. Recommend	FY27 Comm. Recommend	Domestic Revenue	Sector Grant
Personnel	224,314	224,314	224,314	224,314	-0-	224,314
Travel	18,674	164,323	28,011	28,011	28,011	-0-
Contract	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	-0-	6,000
OCE	8,000	14,400	8,000	8,000	-0-	8,000
Fixed Asset	-0-	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,400	-0-
Total	256,988	413,437	270,725	270,725	32,411	238,314
#Employee	7	7	7	7	-0-	7

Personnel:

The same seven positions are proposed for FY27 with the same salaries as in previous years. The Special Committee has no reason to question this recommendation. However, there are many challenges facing our Nation in the area of climate change and your Special Committee will be working closely with this Division in the planning, pre-conference meetings and the COP31 to ensure that our unique situation is understood by the

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international community and that we receive all the support available from the donor countries.

In consideration of the statement above, **your Special Committee recommends \$224,314 for the Personnel category for the Division of Climate Change for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Environment Sector grant.**

Travel:

The Special Committee notes that travel for the COP31 meetings has been proposed for a line item in the Grants, Subsidies and Contributions for the Department so there is no need to entertain requests for funding above what is recommended by the President in this category. The proposed travel is in line with the objectives of the Division of Climate Change and the Special Committee looks forward to an update on the various conferences mid-FY27.

As stated above, **your Special Committee recommends \$28,011 for the Travel category for the Division on Climate Change for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Contractual Services:

The President recommends that this category remain at the same funding level as in previous fiscal years, **your Special Committee concurs with the President, and it recommends \$6,000 for the Contractual Services category of the Division of Climate Change for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Environment Sector Grant.**

Other Current Expenditures:

The President recommends that this category remain at the same funding level as in previous fiscal years, **your Special Committee concurs with the President, and it recommends \$8,000 for the Other Current Expenditures category of the Division of Climate Change for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Compact Environment Sector grant.**

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Fixed Assets:

The President recommends funding for this category for the coming fiscal year for computers, and your Special Committee on Climate Change concurs, and therefore, recommends \$4,400 for the Fixed Assets category for FY27 for the Division of Climate Change, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

In consideration of the above commentary, your Special Committee recommends \$270,725 for the Division on Climate Change for FY27, with \$238,314 from Compact Environment Sector Grant, and the remaining \$32,411 from Domestic Revenue.

4. Division of Emergency Management

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Depart. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Comm. Recommends
Personnel	184,094	184,094	184,094	184,094
Travel	30,230	100,033	45,345	45,345
Contract	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OCE	8,100	13,400	8,100	8,100
Fixed Assets	30,000	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total	252,424	298,726	238,738	238,738
# Employees	6	6	6	6

Personnel:

The positions and salaries for the Division of Emergency Management are recommended to remain the same this coming fiscal year. The Special Committee agrees with this assessment, however, it does want to do a detailed oversight with this Division in the coming months. There have been back-to-back national emergencies during this past year and the Special Committee would like to review how to improve response times and coordination efforts between all departments and agencies.

The Special Committee by this report is also noticing its intention to do extensive research and oversight regarding the

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funds and material donations earmarked for the Chuuk Lagoon Oil Spill and for Typhoon Sinlaku. This Special Committee notes its frustration in the delays in transmitting the balances of all the accounts for the relief efforts. It does acknowledge that some of the difficulty with this issue rests with the Department of Finance and Administration, but it expects correct financial information by the September 2026 session.

To align with above, **your Special Committee recommends \$184,094 for the Personnel category for the Division of Emergency Management, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

Travel:

The Division is proposed to have international trips regarding disaster risk reduction. The Special Committee believes that these will have a beneficial impact on the work being done. It is hoped that all training and information received is widely distributed to all the relevant state and national stakeholders. The cost of travel has increased and an increase in this category is realistic and the change of venue for international conferences impacts the costs as well.

For reasons stated above, **your Special Committee recommends \$45,345 for the Travel category for the Division of Emergency Management for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

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Contractual Services:

The President does not recommend funding for this category for the coming fiscal year, and your Special Committee concurs, and it recommends -0- funding for the Contractual Services category for the Division of Emergency Management for FY27.

Other Current Expenditures:

The President recommends the same funding for this category as in previous years, your Special Committee concurs, therefore, it recommends \$8,100 for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

Fixed Assets:

There is funding recommended for a single new laptop for this Division. Given the important work done it is a very modest request which the Special Committee approves of.

As stated above, your Special Committee recommends \$1,200 for the Fixed Assets category for the Division of Emergency Management for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

In accordance with the commentary above, your Special Committee recommends \$238,738 for the Division of Emergency Management for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.

B. GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Dept. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Committee Recommends
UNEP	5,040	5,040	5,040	5,040
UNFCCC	325	325	325	325
UNCCD	195	195	195	195
SPREP	13,722	13,722	13,722	13,722
Waigani Conv.	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190

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Noumea Conv.	1,764	1,764	1,764	1,764
Earth Day	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
EPA Meeting	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Basel Conv.	272	272	272	272
Kyoto Protocol	484	484	484	484
WMO fees	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
DAEF Grant	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
DAEF matching	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Stockholm Conv.	550	550	550	550
COP31	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Disaster Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total	803,542	803,524	803,524	803,524

The membership fees and account funding under the section of Grants, Subsidies and Contributions for the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management is not proposed to change from previous years. These items have remained static for some time and your Special Committee appreciates the discipline of the Executive Branch in not recommending an increase during these challenging financial times.

In line with reasons above, **your Special Committee recommends \$803,524 for the Grants, Subsidies and Contributions section for the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

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C. INVESTMENT CAPITAL & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

	FY26 Appropriated	FY27 Depart. Proposed	FY27 President Recommends	FY27 Committee Recommends
Table Top Exercise	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Outer Island Risk Assessment	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Int'l Disaster Day	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Disaster Risk Conference	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Clean-Up Campaign	342,000	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total	474,705	132,000	132,000	132,000

The Special Committee is appreciative of the fiscal restraint used in this section, but as requested in other areas of this report it would like more detailed updates regarding the various projects being funded. By this report your Special Committee requests a summary of activities and outcomes for the four projects where continuing funding for FY27 is proposed. It is in complete agreement that preparation and planning exercises are necessary and intends to ensure that going forward they are effective.

In line with commentary above, **your Special Committee recommends \$132,000 for the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management for FY27, to be funded in its entirety from Domestic Revenue.**

CONCLUSION

Your Special Committee on Climate Change & Environmental Issues has carefully reviewed the President's Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 budget and all the supplemental information provided by the

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Executive and the entities within your Special Committee's jurisdiction. The recommended sums set forth above reflect your Special 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 & Means, your Special Committee on Climate Change & Environmental Issues recommends approval of the amounts and sources of funds identified as the Special Committee Recommendations.

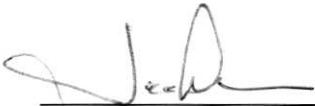
Respectfully,



Yoslyn G. Sigrah, chairwoman



Andy P. Choob, member



Johnson A. Asher, member



Peter M. Christian, member



Fabian S. Nimea, member