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February 2, 2025

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-199
Re: Bill No. 11-196

adopted 2/5/26

The Honorable Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker
Eleventh Legislature of the State of Yap
Fourth Regular Session, 2026

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred Bill No. 11-196, entitled,

> "A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE $13,600 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE OF YAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING TO FUND CHARTER FLIGHTS TO THE WOLEAI AIRPORT HANDOVER CEREMONY DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of the bill are expressed in its title.

Governor Francis Itimai transmitted his request to Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon on January 27, 2026 for funding two charter round trip flights to Woleai for the handover ceremony taking place on February 9, 2026. The request was designated as Gov. Comm. No. 11-515 and assigned to your Committee on Finance. In today's session (Feb. 5, 2026), Floor Leader Terrence R. Fong is also introducing Bill No. 11-196 for this request and it is also assigned to your Committee.

To date, there is no official information forthcoming regarding all arrangements for the two charter, including the people who are scheduled to attend the handover ceremony. Your Committee is aware that there are people from the National Government, most notably the President and certain persons from the FSM Department of Transportation and Communications (TC&I) who will be attending, and they have chartered their own two flights going out on the 8th and 9th of February. The ship will also be departing Yap and should be able to accommodate some of the attendees to the ceremony.

Due to the time constraints, your Committee has opted to forgo holding a hearing for this measure and would simply review based on our own findings and available information.

The cost of the two charter flights round trip to Woleai and back is the total of the request ($13,600). Because the National Government has already chartered the available flights for Sunday and Monday, any potential charter dates would have to be on the 6th or 7th going to Woleai and coming back on the 10th of February. Your Committee sees that the project is owned by Yap State, although all the decisions have, to date, been made by the FSM National Government, and we also acknowledge the importance of the State making an effort to be present for the event. As of the writing of this report, we have been unable to get a list of persons who will be making use of these two extra charter flights. In polling other officials, we are informed that the scheduling of the potential State chartered flights is too inconvenient for a lot of people to use. Therefore, your Committee would recommend passage of the appropriation bill, with the condition that half of the funding would be allotted to the Speaker, who would be free to use the money for the upcoming ALL4US meeting to be held in Chuuk this year, if the funds are not to be used for charter flight. We would also recommend amendments to Bill No. 11-196 for this purpose.

1. Title, line 2 - after "fund", delete "charter flights to the" and replace with "specific government operations".
2. Title, line 3 - delete "Woleai Airport handover ceremony".
3. Page 1, line 4 - delete in its entirety and replace with "specific government operations".
4. Page 1, line 5 - delete "ceremony"; after "2026.", insert "The sum appropriated shall be apportioned as follows:
   (1) Office of the Governor:
   Charter flight to Woleai for handover ceremony .... $6,800; and
   (2) Yap State Legislature:
   Charter flight to Woleai for handover ceremony ....$6,800."
5. Page 1, between lines 15 and 16 - insert "(3) The sum apportioned in Subsection (2) of Section 1 of this Act may be reprogrammed by the allottee to fund Travel expenses to the annual ALL4US meeting in Chuuk, if unexpended by March 1, 2026."
6. Page 1, line 18 - after "by", insert "Subsection (1) of Section 1 of".
7. Page 2, between lines 1 and 2 - insert "(2) The sum appropriated by Subsection (2) of Section 1 of this Act shall be allotted to the Speaker, or his designee."
8. Page 2, line 2 - delete "2" and replace with "3".

Your Committee has completed the review of this request and made necessary recommendations. We have noted that it is still within projected Local Revenue funds and thus affordable. Therefore, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill No. 11-196 and recommends passage on first and final reading in the form attached hereto as Bill No. 11-196, D1.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Talimeisei - Chairman — Date 2/5/26

Anne-Marie Laamar - Vice Chairman — Date 2/5/26

Ted Rutun - Member — Date 2/5/26