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Terrence R. Fong

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March 17, 2026

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-210
Re: Bill No. 11-206

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. 11-206, entitled,

> "A BILL FOR AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF $2,620.64, PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED BY YAP STATE LAW NO. 11-117, FROM THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND OF THE STATE OF YAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REMAINING FUNDING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)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.

On March 13, 2026, Governor Francis Itimai transmitted his request for Legislative appropriation of a Federal Grant funds pursuant to UOG Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network. According to the transmittal, the request is for the remaining unobligated amount of $2,620.64 that had lapsed on December 31, 2025. The whole award was previously appropriated under Yap State Law No. 11-117, but because it lapsed, the remaining unobligated balance remained. A new subcontract was executed for the remaining balance to start on January 1, 2026 and lapse on March 31, 2026. It was designated as Governor's Communication No. 11-540 and assigned to your Committee on Finance.

Floor Leader Terrence R. Fong, by request, is introducing Bill No. 11-206 in today's session (3/17/2026), and it is also being assigned to your Finance Committee.

Your Committee, after receipt and assignment of the communication, has decided to forgo conducting a public hearing as the request and bill is straightforward. The funding is now still available for appropriation, under the attached fund status, agreement and advice of allotment. The Committee would recommend approval of the bill, pursuant to the request.

Your Committee notes, however, that the final signatures on the accompanying agreement was February 19, but the request did not reach the Legislature until almost a month later. This Committee cannot stress enough the need to facilitate such funding requests as soon as practicable. As is, it leaves only about two weeks until the funds lapse, and the Constitutional procedures for each bill to become law takes longer than that – potentially a maximum of 40 days after initial transmittal of an act. Your Committee urges the relevant offices and agencies to ensure this type of "short notice" is avoided in the future. As of now, it would take a lot of coordination and cooperation from appropriate branches to get the funding appropriated and signed into law again, if approved by relevant parties.

Therefore, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill No. 11-206 and recommends passage on first and final reading in its original form.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Talimeisei - Chairman — 3/17/26 Date

Anne-Marie Laamar - Vice Chairman — 3/17/26 Date

Ted Rutun - Member — 3/17/26 Date