

Closing Statement of Chairwoman Donna Christensen
Subcommittee on Insular Affairs - Oversight Hearing on the Implementation of the
Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 between the
United States and the Federated States of Micronesia
June 10, 2008

In closing, I want to again express the Subcommittee's appreciation to all the witnesses who participated in this oversight hearing and for the expertise and openness in discussing the challenges faced by the FSM and the U.S. in implementing the Compact agreement.

I recognize that the demands placed on both parties under the current Compact are a sharp departure from the first twenty year period. I believe the U.S. government, and the Congress at the time, believed that greater accountability was needed to induce more progress.

From today's proceedings, it is clear that a lot of work remains in the coming fifteen years of the Compact. I do appreciate the FSM government's observation that a goal of self-sufficiency may not be attained; however this Subcommittee will not be prepared to revisit such goal until

it is clear that both the FSM and the US have fully embraced their respective roles within this agreement.

I understand that the challenges are great, but I believe they are also surmountable. Though not discussed in-depth this morning, the Subcommittee is encouraged by the projects and reform measures the FSM is undertaking to comply with loans and technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank. The terms of the Compact, the conditions for which you receive ADB assistance, and agreements you reach with other assistance organizations should promote private sector development, reduce public sector dependency, and create opportunities for the national government to invest its energy in addressing education and healthcare for its people.

The FSM has been a good partner and ally of the United States. You have helped us secure peace and promote democracy; and the sacrifices of your young men and women serving in our U.S. military are not forgotten.

The path envisioned ahead is difficult, but we are committed to working with you and exercising our oversight responsibility throughout this term.