

August 18, 2022

Mr. Leon Panuelo Jr.  
Administrator  
FSM Social Security Administration

Dear Mr. Panuelo:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Social Security Administration (the Administration) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 (on which we have issued our report dated August 18, 2022), in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we considered the Administration's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Administration's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Administration's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, in connection with our audit, we identified, and included in the attached Appendix I, other matters as of December 31, 2021 that we wish to bring to your attention.

We have also issued a separate report to the Board of Trustees, also dated August 18, 2022, on our consideration of the Administration's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters.

The definition of a deficiency is also set forth in the attached Appendix I.

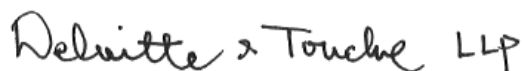
A description of the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting and of the objectives of and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, is set forth in the attached Appendix II and should be read in conjunction with this report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, others within the organization, and the Office of the FSM National Public Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We will be pleased to discuss the attached comments with you and, if desired, to assist you in implementing any of the suggestions.

We wish to thank the staff and management of the Administration for their cooperation and assistance during the course of this engagement.

Very truly yours,



## SECTION I - OTHER MATTER

We developed the following recommendations concerning other matters related to the Administration's internal control:

### 1. Retirement System Funded Ratio

Condition: In April 2021, the Administration obtained an actuarial valuation of the Retirement Fund as of January 1, 2020. The valuation reported actuarial accrued liabilities for the Fund of \$304,445,000 and a funded ratio of 15.4%. As of December 31, 2021, the Administration recorded total fiduciary net position of \$63,423,153 in the Retirement Fund, as funds available to fund future benefit obligations. This condition indicates that the Administration should not increase future or current benefits until a long-term trend of decreasing the unfunded accrued liability is realized.

Recommendation: The Administration should continue to implement procedures to increase the retirement system funded ratio.

## SECTION II - DEFINITION

The definition of a deficiency is as follows:

A *deficiency* in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when (a) a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or (b) an existing control is not properly designed so that, even if the control operates as designed, the control objective would not be met. A deficiency in operation exists when (a) a properly designed control does not operate as designed, or (b) the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or competence to perform the control effectively.

A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

**MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND THE OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF, INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The following comments concerning management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting and the objectives and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting are adapted from auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Management's Responsibility**

The Administration's management is responsible for the overall accuracy of the financial statements and their conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. In this regard, management is also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.

**Objectives of Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Internal control over financial reporting is a process affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel and designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control over the safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition may include controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally, controls that are relevant to an audit of financial statements are those that pertain to the entity's objective of reliable financial reporting (i.e., the preparation of reliable financial statements that are fairly presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles).

**Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.