

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

SHIPPING (REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN VESSELS) BILL 2018

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Tawaki Kam, MP

25 January 2018

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to introduce to this House today a Bill that will create opportunities for the Republic in the shipping and fisheries arena. It is a positive way to start off 2018 and our independence celebrations.

Mr Speaker, last year, I introduced a Bill to amend the Shipping Registration Act 1968 to allow for the appointment of a Registrar of foreign vessels and establishment of a vessel registry. However, recent developments in international maritime law require a stand-alone and comprehensive law to establish an open vessel registry. These developments have resulted in this Bill.

The Bill establishes the Nauru registry of foreign vessels. This is to be administered by a Foreign Vessel Administrator appointed under the proposed Bill. The registration of a foreign vessel in the Nauru registry will mean that a foreign vessel will fly the flag of Nauru and be subject to our laws.

Mr Speaker, this initiative will provide opportunities for employment on Nauru flag vessels as skilled crew and observers. There will be flag

associated fees and revenue generated from authorisation for Nauru flag vessels under charters in other jurisdictions. Nauru flag vessels are also expected to participate in the high seas fisheries.

The Bill is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining the Bill in more detail.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.