

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3718

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 24 2006

RE: H.C.R. No. 145
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 145, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO LEGALIZE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL AND STATE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES TO THIS POPULATION IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support a resolution to the immigration problem facing this country and to support the provision of emergency medical services to undocumented immigrants.

A representative of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, Na Loio Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center, Hawaii Human Rights Center, and one individual submitted testimony in support of this measure.

It is estimated that approximately eleven million undocumented immigrants currently reside in the United States. Though undocumented, many of these immigrants are law-abiding, hard working taxpayers who contribute to the cultural, social, and economic vibrancy of our nation.

Hawaii has been a forerunner in the area of immigrant rights and consistently promotes tolerance and respect for all people.

2006-2743HCR SSCR SMA.doc



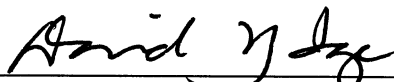
The State should denounce far-reaching and harsh federal immigration reform that will do nothing to enhance national security. Therefore, your Committee finds that the State should urge the United States President and Congress to create a pathway for undocumented immigrants to legalize their status.

Upon further consideration, your Committee amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the State supports:
 - (A) A pathway for undocumented immigrants to legalize their status; and
 - (B) Reimbursing health care providers so that they can continue to provide emergency medical treatment to this population;
- (2) Focusing the measure by deleting certain provisions related to prior attacks against immigrants and minorities;
- (3) Adding and rewording substantive provisions to support the revised purpose of this measure; and
- (4) Making technical, non-substantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 145, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 145, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Intergovernmental
Affairs,



DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO CREATE A
PATHWAY FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS TO LEGALIZE THEIR
STATUS AND REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO ADEQUATELY REIMBURSE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS SO THAT THEY
CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT TO THIS
POPULATION.

1 WHEREAS, throughout its history, the United States has
2 benefited from the hard work and contributions made by
3 immigrants to the cultural, social, and economic vibrancy of our
4 society; and

5
6 WHEREAS, at present, there are approximately 11,000,000
7 undocumented immigrants residing in the United States, the vast
8 majority of whom are law-abiding, hard workers who pay taxes;
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, there are ongoing efforts in the United States
12 Congress to implement measures to deport certain immigrants who
13 do not have proper documentation and strip them of due process
14 of law in the name of national security; and

15
16 WHEREAS, these measures would pose immense difficulties to
17 other immigrants, including immigrants seeking political asylum
18 and the children of parents with temporary protected status who
19 now face possible deportation; and

20
21 WHEREAS, this attack on immigrants is an attack on the
22 rights of all American citizens, including our fundamental right
23 to fair and equal treatment; and

24
25 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of immigrants and their
26 supporters all across the country have already taken to the
27 streets to rally for these rights; and

28
29 WHEREAS, one solution proposed by the United States Senate
30 is to have undocumented workers register with the government,



1 pay a significant fine, pass security checks, and earn the
2 privilege of permanent legal status over time; and

3
4 WHEREAS, under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and
5 Labor Act, the public, including undocumented immigrants, is
6 entitled to emergency medical treatment at hospitals that offer
7 emergency services, regardless of ability to pay; and

8
9 WHEREAS, health care providers do not always receive
10 adequate reimbursement for these services, thereby causing undue
11 financial hardship to the facilities; and

12
13 WHEREAS, each year the United State Social Security
14 Administration maintains billions of dollars of Social Security
15 contributions in an account for W-2 forms that cannot be matched
16 to the correct social security number; and

17
18 WHEREAS, these funds are believed to be attributable, in
19 large part, to undocumented workers who will never claim their
20 benefits; and

21
22 WHEREAS, these funds could be used to fund the
23 reimbursement of health care providers that provide emergency
24 medical treatment to undocumented immigrants and others to
25 ensure this population continues to receive emergency medical
26 treatment; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Hawaii has played a leading role in the protection
29 of immigrant rights and has consistently promoted tolerance and
30 respect for all residents, including immigrants and their
31 families; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the State should denounce far-reaching and harsh
34 federal legislation that will do nothing to enhance national
35 security and instead, should support a comprehensive policy that
36 will create a pathway for undocumented immigrants to legalize
37 their status; now, therefore,

38
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby
42 supports comprehensive immigration reform that provides just and
43 humane treatment for all immigrants and urges the United States



1 President and Congress to create a pathway for undocumented
2 immigrants to legalize their status; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
5 State and the federal government to adequately reimburse health
6 care providers so that they can continue to provide emergency
7 medical treatment to this population; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
11 United States, Speaker of the United States House of
12 Representatives, President of the United States Senate, and
13 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

