
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
INVESTIGATE AND COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL AND
SOCIAL SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

1 WHEREAS, The Compact of Free Association (Compact) defines
2 the relationship that the Federated States of Micronesia, the
3 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau have
4 as associated states with the United States; and
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6 WHEREAS, under the Compact, the United States provides
7 direct economic assistance, federal services, and military
8 protection to the associated states in exchange for defense
9 rights; and
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11 WHEREAS, under the Compact, Freely Associated States (FAS)
12 citizens can migrate in and out of Hawaii without visas or other
13 immigration requirements; and
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15 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 8,000 FAS citizens have
16 migrated to Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, this migration has had a significant financial
19 impact on Hawaii in terms of un-reimbursed health care,
20 education, public safety, and welfare costs; and
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22 WHEREAS, since the federal government discontinued federal
23 medical and welfare assistance to FAS citizens who migrated to
24 Hawaii and other parts of the United States, many rely on state
25 aid; and
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27 WHEREAS, it is reported that the health care and education
28 cost of migrants from the FAS to Hawaii alone was \$86,000,000
29 between 1996 and 2000; and
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31 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,
32 and syphilis reported among migrants from the FAS; and



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2 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of
3 medical and social services to this population; and
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5 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate and
6 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to
7 migrants from FAS; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
12 Health (DOH) is requested to convene a task force to investigate
13 and coordinate the provision of medical and social services to
14 migrants from FAS; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
17 representative of the:
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- 19 (1) DOH;
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21 (2) Department of Human Services;
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23 (3) Department of Education;
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25 (4) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
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27 (5) University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns School of
28 Medicine;
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30 (6) East-West Center;
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32 (7) Micronesian Community Network; and
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34 (8) Nations of Micronesia Committee;
35

36 and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 40 (1) Consult with the United States Department of the
41 Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii
42 regarding what federal funds and services are
43 available to assist FAS citizens in Hawaii;
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- 1 (2) Research whether a current census exists regarding the
2 number of FAS citizens living, working, and attending
3 school in Hawaii, and if no data exists, consult with
4 the United States Census Bureau on obtaining this
5 information in future national or regional censuses;
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7 (3) Investigate the medical and social services needs of
8 migrants from FAS and make recommendations regarding
9 how to plan for and coordinate the provision of
10 services to this population; and
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12 (4) Research the adequacy of the cost reimbursement
13 formula used by the recently renegotiated Compact;

14 and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
17 submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than 20
18 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session, and to
19 submit a final report to the Legislature no later than 20 days
20 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the
21 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations
22 made by the task force; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
26 Director of Human Services, Chair of the Board of Education,
27 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Dean of the John A.
28 Burns School of Medicine, President of the East-West Center, and
29 Director of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular
30 Affairs in Hawaii.

