
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO EASE RESTRICTIONS ON THE
ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY VISAS AND EXTEND THE STAY LIMIT TO
ALLOW FOREIGN MEDIATORS AND PARTIES IN NEED OF MEDIATION
SERVICES TO ENTER THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PURPOSE OF
FACILITATING COMMUNICATION AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PARTIES
TO RESOLVE DISPUTES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the most racially diverse places
2 in the world and it continues to attract people from throughout
3 Asia including China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a multicultural and highly skilled
6 community of alternative dispute resolution professionals
7 including mediators, arbitrators, negotiators, and facilitators;
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii seeks to provide dispute resolution
11 services and training to enable businesses and organizations
12 throughout the United States to build successful relationships
13 with their counterparts in Asia Pacific countries through the
14 use of dispute prevention and resolution techniques and systems;
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17 WHEREAS, the use of alternative dispute resolution,
18 especially mediation, is a preferred way of dealing with
19 problems and disputes, especially among Asian and Pacific
20 peoples; and
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22 WHEREAS, in times when it may take as long as a year to get
23 a judicial resolution in our overburdened judicial system, and
24 multiple years if a case is appealed, the mediation alternative
25 often provides a more timely way of resolving disputes; and
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27 WHEREAS, mediation is a technique used throughout the world
28 to resolve disputes between parties; and
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1 WHEREAS, parties involved in a dispute are generally more
2 satisfied with solutions that have been mutually agreed upon, as
3 opposed to solutions that are imposed by a court of law; and
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5 WHEREAS, mediation demands trust and excellent
6 communication skills as well as an understanding of cultural
7 differences and needs; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii is optimally situated in the middle of the
10 Pacific to become a hub for international dispute resolution,
11 and a bridge between East and West; and
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13 WHEREAS, easing the visa requirements for foreign mediators
14 and for those people and companies from foreign countries in
15 need of mediation services will both strengthen international
16 ties and facilitate the growth of trade and investment between
17 the United States and Asia Pacific; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the United States
22 is urged to ease restrictions on the issuance of temporary visas
23 and to extend the stay limit by a minimum of thirty days to
24 allow foreign mediators and parties in need of mediation
25 services to enter the United States, including the State of
26 Hawaii, for the purposes of facilitating communication and
27 negotiation between parties to assist them in reaching a
28 voluntary agreement regarding their dispute; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
32 United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United
33 States Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the
34 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and members
35 of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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