
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY OPPOSING THE FEE INCREASES PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration
2 Services has proposed instituting substantial fee increases for
3 citizenship applications, visa applications, and other basic
4 services; and

5
6 WHEREAS, immigration services fees would increase by an
7 average of eighty-six per cent under the proposal; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the increase in fees constitutes a substantial
10 economic barrier for many immigrants: the fee for citizenship
11 will increase from \$400 to \$675 and the fee for filing a legal
12 permanent resident application will increase from \$325 to \$905;
13 and

14
15 WHEREAS, fees for naturalization and other immigration
16 matters have increased at a rate faster than inflation while, at
17 the same time, immigrants and their families have endured, and
18 are still facing, continuing backlogs and delays in processing
19 naturalization requests and other applications; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the fourth largest immigrant population
22 per capita in the United States, with 17.5 per cent of its
23 population being foreign born, and 18.6 per cent of its
24 immigration population living at or below federal poverty
25 guidelines; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration
28 Services is the only federal agency funded almost entirely by
29 the fees it charges; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the United States is an immigrant nation
32 strengthened by the contributions of newcomers of all
33 backgrounds, and it is clearly in the national interest to
34 invite immigrants to integrate into American society through



WHEREAS, the proposed fee increases are contrary to the nation's tradition of welcoming and assimilating immigrants and convey the wrong message to immigrants at a time when they are seeking to embrace American citizenship and strengthen their family ties; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the legislature strongly opposes the fee increases proposed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, particularly those that affect the attainment of United States citizenship and the preservation of family unity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature strongly urges Hawaii's congressional delegation to support a legislative inquiry into the proposed fee increases and to also support increased federal funding for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States through the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Director, Regulatory Management Division, of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 14 2007