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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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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34 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of  
35 medical and social services to this population; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate and  
3 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to  
4 migrants from FAS; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2007, that the Department of Health (DOH) is  
9 requested to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate  
10 the provision of medical and social services to migrants from  
11 FAS; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a  
14 representative of the:  
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- 16 (1) DOH;  
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18 (2) Department of Human Services;  
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20 (3) Department of Education;  
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22 (4) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;  
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24 (5) University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns School of  
25 Medicine;  
26  
27 (6) East-West Center;  
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29 (7) Micronesian Community Network; and  
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31 (8) Nations of Micronesia Committee;  
32

33 and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:  
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- 37 (1) Consult with the United States Department of the  
38 Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii  
39 regarding what federal funds and services are  
40 available to assist FAS citizens in Hawaii;  
41  
42 (2) Research whether a current census exists regarding the  
43 number of FAS citizens living, working, and attending  
44 school in Hawaii, and if no data exists, consult with



1 the United States Census Bureau on obtaining this  
2 information in future national or regional censuses;

3  
4 (3) Investigate the medical and social services needs of  
5 migrants from FAS and make recommendations regarding  
6 how to plan for and coordinate the provision of  
7 services to this population; and

8  
9 (4) Research the adequacy of the cost reimbursement formula  
10 used by the recently renegotiated Compact;

11  
12 and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
15 submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than 20  
16 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session, and to  
17 submit a final report to the Legislature no later than 20 days  
18 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the  
19 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations  
20 made by the task force; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of  
24 Human Services, Chair of the Board of Education, Director of  
25 Labor and Industrial Relations, Dean of the John A. Burns School  
26 of Medicine, President of the East-West Center, and  
27 Director of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular  
28 Affairs in Hawaii.

