
SENATE CONCURRENT 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 (USCIS) has proposed instituting substantial fee
3 increases for citizenship applications, visa applications, and
4 other basic services; and

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6 WHEREAS, immigration services fees would increase by an
7 average of 86 percent under the proposal; and

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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

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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

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

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27 WHEREAS, USCIS is the only federal agency funded almost
28 entirely by the fees it charges; and



1 WHEREAS, the U.S. is an immigrant nation strengthened by
2 the contributions of newcomers of all backgrounds, and it is
3 clearly in the national interest to invite immigrants to
4 integrate into American society through naturalization and to
5 support family unity through family-based visa petitions; and
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7 WHEREAS, the proposed fee increases are contrary to the
8 nation's tradition of welcoming and assimilating immigrants and
9 convey the wrong message to immigrants at a time when they are
10 seeking to embrace American citizenship and strengthen their
11 family ties; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
16 strongly opposes the fee increases proposed by USCIS,
17 particularly those that affect the attainment of U.S.
18 citizenship and the preservation of family unity; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature strongly urges
21 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to support a legislative
22 inquiry into the proposed fee increases and to also support
23 increased federal funding for USCIS; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
27 United States through the Secretary of Homeland Security,
28 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate,
29 Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of
30 Representatives, members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation,
31 and the Director, Regulatory Management Division, of the United
32 States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of
33 Homeland Security.

