

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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 defines the
2 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 of Free Association, Freely
12 Associated States citizens can migrate in and out of Hawaii
13 without visas or other immigration requirements; and

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15 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over eight thousand Freely
16 Associated States citizens have 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 Freely Associated States
24 citizens who migrated to Hawaii and other parts of the United
25 States, many rely on state aid; and

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27 WHEREAS, it is reported that the health care and education
28 cost of migrants from the Freely Associated States to Hawaii
29 alone was \$86,000,000 between 1996 and 2000; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,
2 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated
3 States; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of
6 medical and social services to this population; and
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8 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate and
9 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to
10 migrants from Freely Associated States; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
15 Health is requested to convene a task force to investigate and
16 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to
17 migrants from Freely Associated States; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
20 representative of:
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- 22 (1) The Department of Health;
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- 24 (2) The Department of Human Services;
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- 26 (3) The Department of Education;
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- 28 (4) The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
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- 30 (5) The University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns
31 School of Medicine; and
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- 33 (6) The East-West Center; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 37 (1) Consult with the Department of the Interior's Office
38 of Insular Affairs in Hawaii regarding what federal
39 funds and services are available to assist Freely
40 Associated States citizens in Hawaii;
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- 42 (2) Research whether a current census exists regarding the
43 number of Freely Associated States citizens living,
44 working, and attending school in Hawaii, and if no



1 data exists, consult with the United States Census
2 Bureau on obtaining this information in future
3 national or regional census; and
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- 5 (3) Investigate the medical and social services needs of
6 migrants from Freely Associated States and make
7 recommendations regarding how to plan for and
8 coordinate the provision of services to this
9 population; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
12 submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than twenty
13 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session, and to
14 submit a final report to the Legislature no later than twenty
15 days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the
16 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations
17 made by the task force; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
21 Director of Human Services, Chair of the Board of Education,
22 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Dean of the John A.
23 Burns School of Medicine, President of the East-West Center, and
24 Director of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular
25 Affairs in Hawaii.
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