
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO INVESTIGATE AND COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF
MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING, 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
5

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
10

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
14

15 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over eight thousand Freely
16 Associated States citizens have migrated to Hawaii; and
17

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
21

22 WHEREAS, since the federal government continues to provide
23 inadequate federal medical and welfare assistance to Freely
24 Associated States citizens who migrated to Hawaii and other
25 parts of the United States, many rely on state aid; and
26

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
30

31 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,
32 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated
33 States; and
34



1 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of
2 medical and social services to this population; and
3

4 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate and
5 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to
6 migrants from Freely Associated States; now, therefore,
7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
10 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to
11 convene a task force to investigate and coordinate the provision
12 of medical and social services to migrants from Freely
13 Associated States; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a
16 representative of:
17

- 18 (1) The Department of Health;
- 19
- 20 (2) The Department of Human Services;
- 21
- 22 (3) The Department of Education;
- 23
- 24 (4) The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
- 25
- 26 (5) The University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns
27 School of Medicine;
- 28
- 29 (6) The Micronesian Community Network;
- 30
- 31 (7) Micronesians United;
- 32
- 33 (8) The Institute for Human Services; and
- 34
- 35 (9) The University of Hawaii- West Oahu; and
- 36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
38

- 39 (1) Consult with the Department of the Interior's Office
40 of Insular Affairs in Hawaii regarding what federal
41 funds and services are available to assist Freely
42 Associated States citizens in Hawaii;
43



1 (2) Research whether a current census exists regarding the
2 number of Freely Associated States citizens living,
3 working, and attending school in Hawaii, and if no
4 data exists, consult with the United States Census
5 Bureau on obtaining this information in future
6 national or regional census; and
7

8 (3) Investigate the medical, educational, housing, and
9 social services needs of migrants from Freely
10 Associated States, including the impact these service
11 needs have on schools, and make recommendations
12 regarding how to plan for and coordinate the provision
13 of services to this population; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
16 submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than twenty
17 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session, and to
18 submit a final report to the Legislature no later than twenty
19 days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the
20 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations
21 made by the task force; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, the Director
25 of Health, the Director of Human Services, the Chair of the
26 Board of Education, the Director of Labor and Industrial
27 Relations, the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the
28 Dean of the University of Hawaii- West Oahu, the Director of the
29 Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in
30 Hawaii, the President of Micronesians United, the President of
31 the Micronesian Community Network, the Director of the Institute
32 for Human Services, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to
33 the Congress of the United States.

