

FEB 28 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR RESIDENTS OF  
PUBLIC HOUSING AND EMERGENCY TRANSITIONAL SHELTER HOUSING.

1           WHEREAS, under the terms of the Compacts of Free  
2 Association (COFA or Compact) with the Federated States of  
3 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the  
4 Republic of Palau, citizens from the Freely Associated States  
5 have the right to freely travel to, and work and reside in, the  
6 United States without durational limit; and  
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8           WHEREAS, a significant number COFA migrants in the State of  
9 Hawai'i arrive with serious medical care needs, one of the most  
10 significant of which is screening for and treatment of  
11 tuberculosis (TB); and  
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13           WHEREAS, a significant number of COFA migrants in the State  
14 are also in need of housing assistance, and may reside in public  
15 housing and emergency transitional shelter housing; and  
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17           WHEREAS, TB is a highly infectious communicable disease  
18 that can be transmitted from person to person by physical  
19 contact or through airborne particles, especially in situations  
20 in which an infected person is in close proximity or physical  
21 contact with other individuals; and  
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23           WHEREAS, TB is a health risk to all persons, and not  
24 exclusive to COFA migrants; and  
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26           WHEREAS, emergency transitional shelter housing is often  
27 provided in a congregate setting in which the residents are in  
28 close proximity and physical contact with each other, with  
29 limited privacy and with little separation between personal  
30 spaces; and  
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32           WHEREAS, public housing, as distinct from emergency  
33 transitional shelter housing, is often provided in dwellings in  
34 which large numbers of people reside together in close proximity  
35 and physical contact with each other; and  
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1           WHEREAS, public housing and emergency transitional shelter  
2 housing provided by private agencies often includes a  
3 requirement that a person provide a TB clearance before entering  
4 the facility as a resident; and

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6           WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i, through the Hawai'i Public  
7 Housing Authority (HPHA), currently provides public housing and  
8 emergency transitional shelter housing to qualified needy  
9 families, many of whom are COFA migrants; and

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11           WHEREAS, the HPHA does not currently require a person to  
12 provide a TB clearance prior to entering a facility as a  
13 resident; and

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15           WHEREAS, the State Department of Health provides TB  
16 screening and treatment services to needy individuals, Hawai'i  
17 residents and visitors alike, including COFA migrants, in  
18 various locations throughout the islands; and

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20           WHEREAS, one of the tasks set out for the COFA Task Force,  
21 convened by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to  
22 Senate Resolution No. 142, S.D. 1, 2007, was to investigate the  
23 medical, educational, housing, and social services needs of  
24 migrants from Freely Associated States including the impact  
25 these services needs have on schools, and to make  
26 recommendations regarding how to plan for and coordinate the  
27 provision of services to this population; and

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29           WHEREAS, the COFA Task Force has identified health care and  
30 housing as two issues that are of concern to the COFA migrant  
31 community, and has recommended coordinating the provision of  
32 services by state agencies whenever possible; now, therefore,

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34           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2008,  
36 that the Department of Health and the HPHA are requested to  
37 collaborate in:

- 38  
39           (1) Determining whether and to what extent the imposition  
40 of TB screening and treatment should be considered as  
41 an appropriate and effective public health practice  
42 and as a condition before any person enters public



1 housing and emergency transitional shelter housing, as  
2 a resident;

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4 (2) Determining whether and to what extent screening and  
5 treatment for TB could be provided within public  
6 housing projects and emergency transitional shelter  
7 housing, and in conjunction with other services  
8 provided to residents of public housing, regardless of  
9 whether it is made a requirement for residents; and

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11 (3) Implementing TB screening and treatment services to  
12 the extent the agencies determine it is possible; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of  
16 Health, the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Public Housing  
17 Authority, the Attorney General, and the members of the COFA  
18 Task Force, as convened by the Department of the Attorney  
19 General.

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22 OFFERED BY:           *J. Kalani Egler*