COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

<u>www.hawaii.gov/labor</u> Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099 Email: <u>dlir.director@hawaii.gov</u>

January 31, 2008

To:

The Honorable Alex Sonson, Chair

and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Date:

February 1, 2008

Time:

10:30 a.m.

Place:

Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From:

Darwin L.D. Ching, Director

Sam Aiona, Executive Director

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Office of Community Services

Testimony Supporting the Intent (With Concerns) for

<u>H.B. 3290 – Relating to Assisting Persons Under a Compact of Free</u> <u>Association</u>

I. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROPOSED LEGISLATION

House Bill 3290 appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("Department") for the creation of a full-time State Coordinator position. The State Coordinator position is intended to assess and promote the enhancement of self-sufficiency services provided to Compact of Free Association ("COFA") migrants.

Additionally, the State Coordinator will promote partnerships between government agencies, community-based organizations, and the citizens-at large of the State in an effort to improve the living conditions of COFA migrants.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, the Department's Office of Community Services ("OCS") provides for the coordination of services to the COFA community.

III. SENATE BILL

H.B. 3290 January 31, 2008 Page 2 LATE TESTINONY

The Department supports the intent of H.B. 3290, however, we cannot support the current language or appropriation. Further, we believe this legislation is premature because the COFA Task Force is still working on its findings.