

LATE TESTIMONY**Testimony of Rev. Sekap Esah, Nu'uanu Baptist Church, Micronesian Ministry****Relating to Assisting Persons Under a Compact of Free Association**

Micronesians United supports the recommendation of the Micronesian Task Force which was established by Senate Resolution No. 142, S.D. 1, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

The key word in the recommendation is 'self-sufficiency.' Micronesians can empower themselves to become self-sufficient in Hawaii. In order for self-sufficiency to take place, it is important to implement partnerships among government agencies, community-based organizations, churches, and the grassroots people from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Please add the word 'churches' and 'grassroots people of the Micronesian states' to line 15 of the proposed bill for an Act.

It might also be useful to call for 'focus groups' from the various Micronesian communities to come up with concrete ideas of how to implement this self-sufficiency initiative. It is important to hear from the grassroots communities and get recommendations from them for the implementation of a self-sufficiency program. It would be a good step to involve our Micronesian communities in the democratic process here in Hawaii to support this proposed bill at the various hearings before the Senate and the House.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.