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TO: Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Serafin "Jun" Colmenares, Executive Director, Office of Language Access

RE: **Testimony in Support of SR43**  
Hearing: March 17, 2008, 1:30 p.m., Room 224

The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports SR43, which supports federal financial assistance for persons in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association.

There has been a large influx of COFA migrants in Hawai'i. Most of the COFA migrants do not speak English as their primary language. Consequently, they have a significant need for language assistance in meeting their basic needs in education, housing and health. Federal financial assistance would benefit COFA migrants by helping to ensure that those needs are met.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.