
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS STATE SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, migrants from Federated States of Micronesia, the
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, are
3 allowed to enter the State of Hawaii under the Compact of Free
4 Association; and

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6 WHEREAS, the cost to the State to provide various state
7 services to the Compact of Free Association migrants continues
8 to increase each year; and

9
10 WHEREAS, for example, in 2006, the State spent \$91,443,066
11 to provide services for these migrants and in 2007, the State
12 spent an estimated \$101,163,113 in state funds; and

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14 WHEREAS, many state agencies provide a broad range of
15 health and social services to migrants from the Compact of Free
16 Association who have moved to Hawaii; and

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18 WHEREAS, for example, in 2007, various state agencies spent
19 a total of \$101,163,113 as follows to provide services to the
20 Compact of Free Association migrants in Hawaii:

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22 (1) Department of Human Services -- \$37,116,012 to provide
23 services including, among other things, financial
24 assistance, medical assistance, and emergency housing
25 and outreach for homeless persons;

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27 (2) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Office
28 of Community Services -- \$717,360 to provide social
29 services, including employment readiness training and
30 cultural awareness education, to five hundred three
31 Compact of Free Association migrants;

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- 1 (3) Department of Health -- \$6,829,020 to provide a
2 variety of community-based and direct health care and
3 health-related education, most notably related to
4 tuberculosis, Hansen's disease, and other communicable
5 diseases, which are over represented within the
6 populations making up the Compact of Free Association;
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- 8 (4) Department of Defense -- \$21,130 to provide educational
9 and intervention services directed at children and young
10 adults who are considered at risk for becoming juvenile
11 offenders, who come from needy families, or who receive
12 services from the State's Department of Human Services;
13
- 14 (5) Department of Education -- \$53,586,418 to educate
15 students from the Compact of Free Association nations
16 who typically require specialized language services that
17 utilize extra resources of the Department of Education;
18
- 19 (6) The University of Hawaii -- \$1,958,627 in foregone
20 revenue due to the practice of allowing all students
21 from the Compact of Free Association nations to pay the
22 lower state resident tuition, regardless of the date of
23 their initial residence in Hawaii (discontinued
24 beginning with the 2008 fall semester due to budget
25 restrictions);
26
- 27 (7) Department of Public Safety -- \$839,500 for costs of
28 1,425 arrests on 2,509 charges resulting in 613
29 convictions and 224 incarcerations of Compact of Free
30 Association migrants. Costs are exacerbated by a
31 shortage of qualified and reliable interpreters that
32 can result in delayed hearings and additional cost;
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- 34 (8) Judiciary -- \$82,796 for interpreter services; and
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- 36 (9) Office of the Public Defender -- \$12,250 for
37 interpretation services necessary to provide legal
38 defense; and
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40 WHEREAS, migrants from the Compact of Free Association
41 nations are proportionally over represented in the population of
42 persons who receive various state social services in Hawaii; and
43



1 WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities
2 Reconciliation Act of 1996 prevents needy persons from the
3 Compact of Free Association nations from receiving federally
4 funded financial and medical assistance; and

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6 WHEREAS, when that law went into effect in 1997, Hawaii
7 continued to provide equivalent services for the Compact of Free
8 Association migrants using state funds; and

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10 WHEREAS, if the Personal Responsibility and Work
11 Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 is amended to allow the
12 Compact of Free Association migrants to receive federally funded
13 financial and medical assistance, the State would not have to
14 expend state funds to provide the equivalent services, thus
15 allowing more of the State's general funds to be used for
16 services and programs for which federal funding is not
17 available; and

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19 WHEREAS, the federal government must address the issue of
20 additional federal support for the State to continue providing
21 state services arising from by the unique federally created
22 relationship the United States has with the Compact of Free
23 Association nations; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2009, that the United States Department of the Interior and
28 the Congress of the United States are strongly urged to provide
29 additional federal aid to the State of Hawaii for the provision
30 of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free
31 Association nations; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
34 the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, is strongly urged to
35 review the funding of the Compact Impact Assistance grant and to
36 make every effort to increase the amount of direct assistance
37 available to Hawaii to offset costs incurred by the State; and

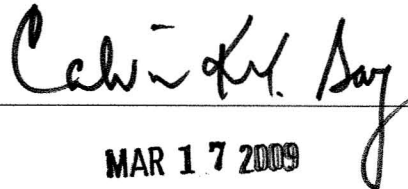
38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
40 strongly urged to support federal legislation to amend the
41 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
42 of 1996 allow the Compact of Free Association migrants to once
43 again receive federally funded financial and medical assistance;
44 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
3 the Interior is strongly urged to identify and secure other
4 forms of direct assistance to the State and the Compact of Free
5 Association population in the United States, including grants
6 from other sources and federal programs; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
10 the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the
11 Office of Insular Affairs, the Majority Leader of the United
12 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
13 Representatives, the members of Hawaii's congressional
14 delegation, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the
15 Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
16 the Adjutant General, and the Directors of Human Services, Labor
17 and Industrial Relations, Health, and Public Safety, the Chief
18 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and the Public Defender.
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OFFERED BY:


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