

Date of Hearing: March 30, 2009

Committee: House Tourism, Culture &
International Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title: H.C.R. No. 158 (H.R. 126), 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

Purpose: 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.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.C.R. No. 158 (H.R. No. 126) as the number of students from the Compact Of Free Association (COFA) nations has grown tremendously in recent years. The Department is associated with supporting the instructional and student support needs of these students (e.g., English Language Learner (ELL) Program support), far exceeds other state agencies costs and is listed at \$53,586,627. Further, the Department no longer receives Compact of Freely Associated States (CFAS) funds.

The Department appreciates the support and foresight of the Legislature to assist in its efforts by requesting additional funding to support this growing population of students, e.g., Micronesian in

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the ELL program alone have grown from about 1,000 students in school year 1997-98 to more than 3,600 in 2008-08. The Department would also like to build upon and continue providing support to COFA students via the various other programs that these students may qualify for, e.g., under McKinney Vento, and/or migrant education.

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