
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDED IN HAWAII TO MIGRANTS UNDER THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

1 WHEREAS, in 1986, the United States (U.S.) entered into a
2 Compact of Free Association (COFA or Compact) with the Federated
3 States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands
4 that created a unique relationship between the U.S. and the COFA
5 states; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the terms of the Compact set out mutually
8 beneficial rights and obligations in several areas, including
9 economic development and defense, and created the right of
10 citizens from the COFA states to freely travel to, and work and
11 reside in, the U.S. without durational limit; and

12
13 WHEREAS, a significant number of COFA citizens travel to
14 and reside in the State of Hawaii because of the geographic
15 location and cultural similarity; and

16
17 WHEREAS, many COFA migrants find it difficult to adjust to
18 Hawaii's high cost of living and as a result, require state
19 assistance, including homeless services; and

20
21 WHEREAS, in the amended Compact of 2003, Congress
22 recognized there could be a significant effect on the resources
23 of the places to which COFA citizens migrated and explicitly
24 stated that, "*it is not the intent of Congress to cause any*
25 *adverse consequences for an affected jurisdiction*"_P.L. 108-188,
26 section 104(e) (1) (emphasis added); and

27
28 WHEREAS, in support of the intent to ease the burden on
29 areas defined as an "affected jurisdiction," including Hawaii,
30 Congress set aside \$30,000,000 in grant funds, however, those
31 funds are not nearly enough to cover the additional costs to all
32 affected jurisdictions; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress passed the Personal
2 Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA),
3 which provided that most non-citizens in the U.S., with limited
4 exceptions, became ineligible for federally-funded welfare
5 programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
6 Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income, thereby
7 exacerbating an already tenuous fiscal situation; and
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9 WHEREAS, COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups
10 that became ineligible for federally-funded public assistance
11 programs under PRWORA despite the fact that they are legal
12 residents in the U.S. and are more like citizens than immigrants
13 or other legally residing non-citizens in terms of their ability
14 to reside, work, and attend school in the U.S.; and
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16 WHEREAS, despite losing access to federal funds for
17 services to COFA migrants because of PRWORA, the State of Hawaii
18 has continued to make the services available through equivalent
19 state-funded services to address the housing needs of COFA
20 citizens who legally reside in the state, just as it provides
21 them to other legal residents; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State has consistently reported increasing
24 costs each year for the services provided to COFA migrants, the
25 majority of which are not reimbursed by the federal government;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, the federal government created the relationship
29 with the COFA states that allows their citizens to freely reside
30 in the U.S. with few limitations; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2010, that this body hereby urges the U.S. Government to seek
35 reimbursement from the Federated States of Micronesia for
36 homeless services provided in Hawaii to migrants under COFA; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
3 each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the Governor,
4 and Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board.
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OFFERED BY: *Piki Otsuiki Akakawa*

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