
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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

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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



1 funds are not nearly enough to cover the additional costs to all
2 affected jurisdictions; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress passed the Personal
5 Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA),
6 which provided that most non-citizens in the U.S., with limited
7 exceptions, became ineligible for federally-funded welfare
8 programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
9 Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income, thereby
10 exacerbating an already tenuous fiscal situation; and

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12 WHEREAS, COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups
13 that became ineligible for federally-funded public assistance
14 programs under PRWORA despite the fact that they are legal
15 residents in the U.S. and are more like citizens than immigrants
16 or other legally residing non-citizens in terms of their ability
17 to reside, work, and attend school in the U.S.; and

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19 WHEREAS, despite losing access to federal funds for
20 services to COFA migrants because of PRWORA, the State of Hawaii
21 has continued to make the services available through equivalent
22 state-funded services to address the housing needs of COFA
23 citizens who legally reside in the state, just as it provides
24 them to other legal residents; and

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26 WHEREAS, the State has consistently reported increasing
27 costs each year for the services provided to COFA migrants, the
28 majority of which are not reimbursed by the federal government;
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, the federal government created the relationship
32 with the COFA states that allows their citizens to freely reside
33 in the U.S. with few limitations; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby
38 urges the U.S. Government to seek reimbursement from the
39 Federated States of Micronesia for homeless services provided in
40 Hawaii to migrants under COFA; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
44 United States, each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation,



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1 the Governor, and Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Housing
2 Authority Board.

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OFFERED BY: *Rida Cubonilla Arakawa*

MAR 04 2010

