
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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; DEEM MIGRANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FUNDED FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDE DIALYSIS AND CHEMOTHERAPY CENTERS IN MICRONESIA AND ALL AREAS WITHIN THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS.

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

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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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- 1 (2) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Office
2 of Community Services -- \$717,360 to provide social
3 services, including employment readiness training and
4 cultural awareness education, to 503 Compact of Free
5 Association migrants;
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- 7 (3) Department of Health -- \$6,829,020 to provide a
8 variety of community-based and direct health care and
9 health-related education, most notably related to
10 tuberculosis, Hansen's disease, and other communicable
11 diseases, which are over-represented within the
12 populations making up the Compact of Free Association;
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- 14 (4) Department of Defense -- \$21,130 to provide
15 educational and intervention services directed at
16 children and young adults who are considered at risk
17 for becoming juvenile offenders, who come from needy
18 families, or who receive services from the State's
19 Department of Human Services;
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- 21 (5) Department of Education -- \$53,586,418 to educate
22 students from the Compact of Free Association nations
23 who typically require specialized language services
24 that utilize extra resources of the Department of
25 Education;
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- 27 (6) The University of Hawaii -- \$1,958,627 in foregone
28 revenue due to the practice of allowing all students
29 from the Compact of Free Association nations to pay
30 the lower state resident tuition, regardless of the
31 date of their initial residence in Hawaii
32 (discontinued beginning with the 2008 fall semester
33 due to budget restrictions);
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- 35 (7) Department of Public Safety -- \$839,500 for costs of
36 1,425 arrests on 2,509 charges resulting in 613
37 convictions and 224 incarcerations of Compact of Free
38 Association migrants. Costs are exacerbated by a
39 shortage of qualified and reliable interpreters that
40 can result in delayed hearings and additional cost;
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- 42 (8) Judiciary -- \$82,796 for interpreter services; and
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1 (9) Office of the Public Defender -- \$12,250 for
2 interpretation services necessary to provide legal
3 defense; and
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5 WHEREAS, migrants from the Compact of Free Association
6 nations are proportionally over-represented in the population of
7 persons who receive various state social services in Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities
10 Reconciliation Act of 1996 prevents needy persons from the
11 Compact of Free Association nations from receiving federally
12 funded financial and medical assistance; and
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14 WHEREAS, when that law went into effect in 1997, Hawaii
15 continued to provide equivalent services for the Compact of Free
16 Association migrants using state funds; and
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18 WHEREAS, if the Personal Responsibility and Work
19 Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 is amended to allow the
20 Compact of Free Association migrants to receive federally funded
21 financial and medical assistance, the State would not have to
22 expend state funds to provide the equivalent services, thus
23 allowing more of the State's general funds to be used for
24 services and programs for which federal funding is not
25 available; and
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27 WHEREAS, there is a need for dialysis and chemotherapy
28 centers in Micronesia and all areas within the Compact of Free
29 Association nations; and
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31 WHEREAS, the federal government must address the issue of
32 additional federal support for the State to continue providing
33 state services arising from the unique federally created
34 relationship the United States has with the Compact of Free
35 Association nations; now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the United States
40 Department of the Interior and the Congress of the United States
41 are strongly urged to provide additional federal aid to the
42 State of Hawaii for the provision of various state services to
43 migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
 2 the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, is strongly urged to
 3 review the funding of the Compact Impact Assistance grant and to
 4 make every effort to increase the amount of direct assistance
 5 available to Hawaii to offset costs incurred by the State; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
 8 strongly urged to support federal legislation to amend the
 9 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 10 of 1996 to render Compact of Free Association migrants eligible
 11 to receive federally funded financial and medical assistance;
 12 and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
 15 the Interior is strongly urged to provide dialysis and
 16 chemotherapy centers in Micronesia and all areas within the
 17 Compact of Free Association nations; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
 20 the Interior is strongly urged to identify and secure other
 21 forms of direct assistance to the State and the Compact of Free
 22 Association population in the United States, including grants
 23 from other sources and federal programs; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 27 United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the
 28 Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, the Majority Leader
 29 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
 30 House of Representatives, the members of Hawaii's congressional
 31 delegation, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the
 32 Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
 33 the Adjutant General, and the Directors of Human Services, Labor
 34 and Industrial Relations, Health, and Public Safety, the Chief
 35 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and the Public Defender.
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OFFERED BY: John Cabanilla
