

Date: 03/10/2011

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 044(HR38) 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.

Purpose of Resolution: (no description)

Department's Position: The Department of Education strongly supports HCR 44 and HR 38. Since 1988 the number of Micronesian students and the cost of educating these students has grown dramatically. From 227 students at a cost of \$812,785 in 1988 to 9,076 students at a projected cost of \$106,146,908 in 2011. For 2011 the average cost per student is \$11,695.34. The information for school years 2006-2008 have been recently adjusted to reflect an increase in the numbers of students and cost per year. Several Micronesian languages that were previously coded as "other language" and not reported, have now been assigned unique language codes allowing for a more accurate count of the of the Micronesian students. The impact to the Department of Education is substantial and the federal government should keep its promise to the people of Micronesia and provide support to the many states such as Hawaii who expend state dollars to provide educational and many other services to the Micronesians.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
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Email to: HUSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 10, 2011
Conference Room #329

DATE: March 8, 2011

TO: House Committee on Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Support for HCR 44 / HR 38 Resolution regarding Federal Aid respective to Migrants

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure. I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva.

We support this resolution that requests that the United States Department of the Interior and the Congress of the United States 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.

Our basic principle regarding the plight of our immigrant brothers and sisters is clear (and consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church): We respect the right of nations to enforce their borders and to enforce reasonable immigration laws. At the same time, we regard every person, illegal immigrant, legal immigrant, or citizen, with the mind of Christ: a human person worthy of dignity and respect.

In his 1996 message for World Migration Day, Pope John Paul II wrote that "For Christians, the migrant is not merely an individual to be respected in accordance with the norms established by law, but a person whose presence challenges them and whose needs become an obligation for their responsibility. 'What have you done to your brother?'"ⁱ The answer should not be limited to what is imposed by law, but should be made in the manner of solidarity."ⁱⁱ We strongly agree!

Our diocese, most especially through our community partners Catholic Charities and Office for Social Ministry, has welcomed these brothers and sisters into our State and helped them meet their needs. We will continue to provide these needs, but urge that the financial burden not rest alone on the backs of our citizens.

ⁱ Genesis 4:9

ⁱⁱ "Undocumented Migrants," *Message of Pope John Paul II for the World Migration Day, 1996, Nos. 3,5*

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 5:24 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HR38 on 3/10/2011 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 3/10/2011 10:45:00 AM HR38

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alika Campbell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ajc@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/7/2011

Comments:

I am writing to support this resolution. As someone who has worked for over 13 years with individuals and families experiencing homelessness I have seen firsthand the impact of the influx of migrants under CoFA. I do not believe the intent of the compact was to have so many individuals and families end up homeless in Hawaii and I believe that we can and should do a better job of providing options and services, both to our long-time residents and these new members of our ohana. I believe that the responsibility for providing services and funding should be shared and that federal agencies/departments should be more involved. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony in support of this resolution.
Alika Campbell, MSW