

SCR 53

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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March 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, &
Military Affairs

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 53/S.R. 27 - 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.**

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.C.R. 53/S.R. 27 is to strongly urge 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.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this resolution. Providing funding for services to citizens of the Compact of Free Association nations is a federal responsibility which has been shifted to the states with significant consequences.

Due to its proximity to the Compact of Free Association nations, Hawaii has experienced a significant economic burden not shared by other states from this national commitment to provide opportunities and services agreed to by the United States government. The amount of funding provided by the federal government does not begin to compensate for the costs absorbed by the State of Hawaii.

The cost to DHS alone to provide medical, financial, housing, and other social services to Compact citizens was over \$51.3 million in FY 2010. This included \$33 million for medical assistance, \$14 million for financial assistance, \$3.8 million for housing assistance and over \$439,000 for other social services.

Citizens of nations that are party to a Compact of Free Association (COFAs) with the United States, i.e. Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, are considered non-immigrants and are ineligible for Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal financial assistance. As a result, services to Compact citizens are mostly fully state-funded. An exception is that COFA children and pregnant women have since become eligible for federal medical assistance under the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Providing improved access to and scope of services available in the member nations of the Compact may allow a number of people who come here solely for the purpose of receiving life-saving treatments, such as dialysis, to remain in their country.

Increasing federal aid to provide services for the citizens from Compact of Free association Nations is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Date: 03/21/2011

Committee: Senate Health
Senate Public Safety, Government
Operations, and Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 053(SR27)

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: (none)

Department's Position: The Department supports this resolution.

In recent years the number of Compact of Free Association (COFA) students enrolled in public schools has risen sharply from approximately 6,162 in 2007 to 9,076 in 2011. Using the FY2009-10 average per pupil spending of \$11,695, the Department estimates that the approximately 9,076 COFA students enrolled this year will cost the State approximately \$106 million.

Any federal support to off-set the fiscal impact to the Department would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.