

**SCR 53**

**SD1**

**SR 27**

**SD1**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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April 13, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 53/S.R. 27, S.D. 1 - 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: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.C.R. 53/S.R. 27, S.D. 1, 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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

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.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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April 11, 2011

To: The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2011  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director  
Office of Community Services  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**Re: SCR 53/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.**

Good Morning Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the committee, my name is Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director for the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. OCS serves the state as the coordinating office for Low-income Persons, Immigrants, and Refugees. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of this measure.

You have our testimony from the previous measure in support; we apologize for the typographical error stating we testified in opposition. To reiterate, we strongly support the inclusion of COFA migrants in federally-funded programs otherwise excluded by PRWORA. We are concerned this may not be an option for the Federal government, as COFA benefits were negotiated between nations through sanctioned proceedings.

Since the resolution remains substantially the same, our position remains static. As a State, we must continue to advocate for what is in our best interests, and OCS believes this includes the inclusion of as many strategies as possible to address all facets of this formidable challenge.

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**From:** Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 6:48 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: SCR 53, SDI/SR 27

Testimony: SCR 53, SD1/SR 27, Strongly urging the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Congress to provide additional federal aid to the state of Hawai'i 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.

Thursday, April 14, 2011  
1:20 pm  
Conference Room 225  
State Capitol

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi (POL), the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this measure. Whether we are Native Hawaiians or not or Islanders from these nations, we are all island people. This is a complex issue but at the core it reflects a very simple principle – "If you break it, you own it." The United States Government took on the responsibility of trustee for the Indigenous Peoples of Micronesia after World War II. Subsequently, the US Government proceeded to destroy the homeland and the health of many islanders by conducting Atomic tests on their islands over a period of more than ten years. The fact that there is now a "Compact" in place for these nations which are struggling for their independence only magnifies the responsibilities of the United States to these people given the strategic importance of this area to the US military.

Further, POL would like to state for the record that it is critical that until the United States Government lives up to its responsibilities that the State of Hawai'i can not step back and not provide any needed and required health care services to individuals from these nations who are currently residing in Hawai'i and eligible for our Health Quest program. The former Administration's attempt to limit these services is not consistent with our values as island people and, indeed, our courts are in agreement. We would ask the current Administration to strongly support this position as well

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director  
Papa Ola Lokahi (Native Hawaiian Health Board)  
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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 4:33 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** srearnest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR53 on 4/13/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/13/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR53

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sr. Earnest Chung  
Organization:  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [srearnest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:srearnest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:35 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** ajc@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR53 on 4/13/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/13/2011 9:30:00 AM SCR53

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alika Campbell  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ajc@aloha.net](mailto:ajc@aloha.net)  
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

**Comments:**

I support this resolution to involve the federal government addressing the growing unintended impacts of the Compact of Free Association. Clearly the United States owes a historical debt to the people, and it is time that the federal government stepped up and did their share.