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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE RESIDENT CITIZENS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES AS "QUALIFIED ALIENS" UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR UNIQUE HISTORIC AND ONGOING SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1           WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States of Palau, the  
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of  
3 Micronesia comprise a multitude of islands, languages, and  
4 cultures throughout the Micronesian region of the Pacific Ocean;  
5 and

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7           WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States were former Trust  
8 Territories of the United States and, as sovereign nations,  
9 continue to place their trust in the United States through the  
10 Compacts of Free Association; and

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12           WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association between the  
13 Freely Associated States and the United States of America  
14 recognize the historic sacrifices and contributions of the  
15 citizens of the Freely Associated States to the interests of the  
16 United States, including the use of their island atolls for 67  
17 nuclear tests from 1946 to 1958, the subjecting of Marshallese  
18 people to human radiation experiments without their knowledge or  
19 their consent, and the United States military's occupation of  
20 their islands to ensure United States control of the Pacific;  
21 and

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23           WHEREAS, under the Compacts of Free Association, the United  
24 States continues to exercise exclusive military jurisdiction  
25 over the lands and waters of the Freely Associated States and  
26 continues to use their sovereign territory for military weapons  
27 testing, including the use of their atolls as part of the United



1 States National Missile Defense Program's long-range  
2 intercontinental ballistic missile defense system; and  
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4 WHEREAS, for decades, the United States has failed to  
5 establish economic independence within the Freely Associated  
6 States, leading to a lack of adequate agricultural, educational,  
7 and health infrastructure necessary for a self-sufficient  
8 society; and  
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10 WHEREAS, in addition to these sacrifices, the sons and  
11 daughters of the citizens of the Freely Associated States  
12 continue to lay down their lives in the interests of the United  
13 States, representing some of the highest per-capita military  
14 recruitment levels to the United States military compared to any  
15 other jurisdiction, including each of the 50 states of the  
16 United States; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the people of the Freely Associated States have  
19 also contributed greatly to Hawaii's understanding of the common  
20 cultural heritage and pride of all Pacific Islanders, such as  
21 through the traditional ocean navigation techniques kept alive  
22 and rejuvenated by the late "Papa" Mau Piailug; and  
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24 WHEREAS, despite the limited right to travel, reside, work,  
25 seek educational opportunity, and seek medical treatment in the  
26 United States, citizens of the Freely Associated States who find  
27 themselves in the United States continue to encounter  
28 substantial and varied forms of discrimination, including  
29 cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers; and  
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31 WHEREAS, one of the most egregious examples of such  
32 discrimination is the treatment of citizens of the Freely  
33 Associated States present in the United States under the  
34 Compacts of Free Association as a result of the federal Personal  
35 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,  
36 which removed their previous eligibility for numerous federal  
37 benefits, including Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps,  
38 housing, and other social safety nets that all citizens and most  
39 resident legal immigrants enjoy; and  
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41 WHEREAS, this discrepancy has resulted in harsh and  
42 disparate treatment of a significant number of Hawaii's resident  
43 citizens of the Freely Associated States, including the denial



1 of medical access leading to adverse health consequences and  
2 even death; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that Congress is  
7 strongly urged to include resident citizens of the Freely  
8 Associated States as "qualified aliens" and restore their  
9 eligibility under the Personal Responsibility and Work  
10 Opportunity Reconciliation Act, in recognition of their historic  
11 and ongoing sacrifices and contributions to the United States  
12 unique to almost any other jurisdiction in the world; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President  
16 of the United States, and members of Hawaii's congressional  
17 delegation.

