

MAR 12 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE RESIDENT CITIZENS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES WHO LAWFULLY RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES AS "QUALIFIED ALIENS" UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 IN RECOGNIZING 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 regions of the Pacific
5 Ocean; 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 of America, including:
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18 (1) The use of their island atolls for sixty-seven nuclear
19 tests from 1946 to 1958, which subjected Marshallese
20 people to human radiation experiments without their
21 knowledge or their consent; and
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23 (2) The occupation by the United States military of the
24 island atolls to ensure control of the Pacific; and
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26 WHEREAS, under the Compacts of Free Association, the United
27 States continues to exercise exclusive military jurisdiction
28 over the lands and waters of the Freely Associated States and



1 continues to use the atolls as part of the United States
2 National Missile Defense Program's long-range intercontinental
3 ballistic missile defense system; and
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5 WHEREAS, decades of United States administration have
6 failed to establish economic independence within the Freely
7 Associated States, contributing to a lack of adequate
8 agricultural, educational, and health infrastructure necessary
9 for a self-sufficient society; and
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11 WHEREAS, in addition to these sacrifices, the sons and
12 daughters of the citizens of the Freely Associated States
13 continue to lay down their lives in the interest of the United
14 States, representing some of the highest levels of per-capita
15 military personnel recruitment levels to the United States
16 military compared to any other jurisdiction including the fifty
17 states comprising the United States of America; and
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19 WHEREAS, the people of the Freely Associated States have
20 also contributed greatly to Hawaii's understanding of the common
21 cultural heritage and pride of all Pacific Islanders, such as
22 traditional navigation techniques that were kept alive by the
23 late "Papa" Mau Piailug; and
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25 WHEREAS, despite the limited right to travel, reside, work,
26 and take advantage of educational opportunities, and medical
27 treatment in the United States, citizens of the Freely
28 Associated States who lawfully reside in the United States
29 continue to encounter substantial and varied forms of
30 discrimination including cultural, economic, linguistic, and
31 social barriers; and
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33 WHEREAS, despite the rights to reside and seek economic
34 opportunity in the United States as granted to the citizens of
35 the Freely Associated States, the Personal Responsibility and
36 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 denied citizens of
37 the Freely Associated states who reside in the United States
38 eligibility for numerous federal benefits, including Medicaid,
39 Social Security Income, food stamps, housing, and other social
40 safety nets that are accessible by other legal resident
41 immigrants; and
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43 WHEREAS, this discrepancy has resulted in the harsh and
44 disparate treatment of a significant number of Hawaii's



1 residents who are citizens of the Freely Associated States,
2 causing them to suffer adverse health consequences and even
3 death; and

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5 WHEREAS, H.R. 912, "Restoring Medicaid for Compact of Free
6 Association Migrants Act of 2013", in the United States House of
7 Representatives, as introduced by United States Representative
8 Colleen Hanabusa on February 28, 2013, amends title IV of the
9 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
10 of 1996 to restore Medicaid coverage for citizens of the Freely
11 Associated States lawfully residing in the United States under
12 the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the
13 United States and the Governments of the Federated States of
14 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the
15 Republic of Palau, thereby providing relief from Hawaii's
16 burdensome uncompensated Medicaid costs for these individuals;
17 now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
22 Congress is urged to include citizens of the Freely Associated
23 States who lawfully reside in the United States as "qualified
24 aliens" under the Personal Responsibility And Work Opportunity
25 Reconciliation Act of 1996 in recognizing their unique historic
26 and ongoing sacrifices and contributions to the United States of
27 America; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional
31 delegation, President of the United States, President Pro
32 Tempore of the United States Senate, Majority and Minority
33 Leaders of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United
34 States House of Representatives, Majority and Minority Leaders
35 of the United States House of Representatives, Chair of the
36 Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate, Chair of
37 the Committee on Ways and Means of the United States House of
38 Representatives, and Governor.

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