

SCR 108

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.



SCR108

SR74

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.

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs,
Senate Committee on Human Services, and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

March 25, 2013

1:34 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR108 and SR74, which urges the Federal government to restore access to federal benefits, including Medicaid, for the indigenous peoples and citizens of the Freely Associated States rightfully residing in the United States.

This resolution recognizes the United States' responsibility to provide equality, opportunity, and justice for our Pacific Islander community members, who have sacrificed and contributed their lands, culture, and people to the interests and welfare of the United States for over sixty years. As noted in these measures, these contributions include, but are not limited to, substantial support for the U.S. military, the sacrifice of their 'āina and people for nuclear weapons testing and human radiological experiments, and finally their cultural contributions, that have given all Pacific islanders renewed pride in our shared cultural heritage and achievements – including the preservation of traditional and highly advanced ocean wayfaring techniques which greatly informed the modern Hawaiian renaissance movement.

Additionally, extending eligibility for federal programs to FAS citizens residents may also result in a significant influx of federal monies to enhance Hawai'i's social and healthcare infrastructure. OHA's strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents our commitment to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and quality of life by reducing the onset of chronic diseases. An influx of federal monies for health and social services would benefit all the people of Hawai'i who may have a need for such fundamental societal services, including OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

These resolutions will encourage specific decisionmakers in our federal Congress to address these issues and move towards addressing the United States' responsibilities to our Pacific islander allies.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

PHONE: 523-8464 EMAIL: honolulu@jacl.org WEBSITE: www.jaclhonolulu.org

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Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Monday, March 25, 2013 at 1:34 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol – Room 224

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SR74

Dear Chair English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter supports the passage of Senate Resolution No. 74, 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.

JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization with over 20,000 members. Locally our organization has consistently supported efforts to ensure equal rights to all citizens of this state.

The JACL Honolulu Chapter remains committed in its support of the Micronesian community working with State and Federal leaders to restore Federal benefits, including Medicaid, for people from the nations covered by the Compact of Free Association ("COFA") agreement.

We believe that passing Senate Resolution No. 74 will be a meaningful signal to the United States Congress regarding the impacts and importance of including 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.

We urge you to pass out the measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kent Mori Walther
Legislative Committee Chair

March 24, 2013

Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 108/Senate Resolution 74

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 contribution to the United States of America.

Date: Monday March 25, 2013

Time: 1:34pm.

Place Conference Room 224, State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Senators, English, Delacruz, Chun Oakland, Green, Espero and Baker:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony to this important resolution seeking support of expanding key federal programs for our Micronesian resident families here in Hawaii.

My name is Barbara Tom and I chair the Nations of Micronesia Committee (NOM), I've also participated in the Attorney Generals COFA Task Force (2007) and currently serve as Advisor to two Micronesian Groups, The Micronesian Community Network and Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition. These organizations work tirelessly to improve the infrastructure of their communities through preventative health programs for their youth and families, providing a forum for communication within their community and supplying qualified interpreters to the state to ensure their voices are heard.

I am currently a retired Public Health Nurse, but during my 23 years of service working with families, communities, and schools, I saw first hand how providing access to federal programs can impact the Micronesian communities and support our economy here in Hawaii. The families I dealt with had many challenges in health such as access to healthy food, access to quality healthcare and lack of adequate housing, which served as significant barriers to their health and wellbeing.

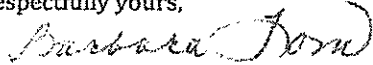
The obstacles they face are much greater than most due to the lack of qualified interpreters to help them navigate the confusing system of services making acculturation difficult. They migrate to Hawaii for the same reasons our ancestors migrated, for a better life for their families; better job opportunities, and education for their children. Many work at jobs contributing to Hawaii's economy and are serving in the US military, yet they are unable to take advantage of basic federal programs offered to other immigrants no matter how long they reside here as residents. Many have children who are born here and become US citizens by birth, these children will become our future workforce of tomorrow and the future of our state.

In order to create a "Healthier State", we need to focus on the health and welfare of our most vulnerable population. Closing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation

Act loophole and including the COFA residents as qualified aliens eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges their contributions and sacrifices, which will benefit not only our COFA residents, but our community as a whole.

For these reasons, I support this resolution and ask for your support on Senate Concurrent Resolution 108 and Senate Resolution 74.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Tom".

Barbara Tom RN
Chair Nations of Micronesia
Advisor, Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition
Advisor, Micronesian Community Network

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Measure: SCR 108 and SR74

Date: Monday, March 25th, 2013

Time: 1:30 PM p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224

From: David Derauf, Executive Director, Kokua Kalihi Valley Health Center

Re: In Strong Support of SCR 108 and SR 74

Aloha Kākou e Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, and Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, and Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Kokua Kalihi Valley wishes to offer **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108** and **SR74**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

The former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. These contributions date back to WWII and strongly continue to the present. In our own community we see FAS residents working hard to make a better life for themselves, and their extended families just as countless others coming to the shores of Hawaii have done before them. We see them serving in the United States Military in Iraq and Afghanistan. We see them finding ways to keep their own cultures alive, whilst becoming part of their new home here in Hawaii.

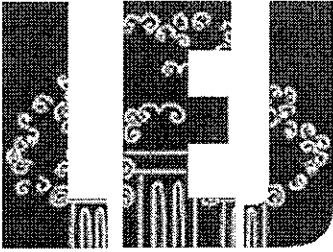
The 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for not only for FAS residents here in the United States and Hawaii, (particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity) but for all residents of Hawaii who have been asked to bear the full brunt of this Federal Decision that it had no say in. It has created a perverse situation in which FAS residents though "freely associated" are not eligible for the same consideration given to immigrant groups coming to our shores. Our health center has seen the terrible impact of that for our patients who face huge barriers to getting good health services as well as increased discrimination, and the impact on our ability to serve the larger Kalihi community due to diminished resources.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Respectfully submitted,

David Derauf, MD
Executive Director
Kokua Kalihi Valley Health Center



Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SCR 108 and SR 74
Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs; Human Services; and
Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs
Scheduled for Hearing Monday, March 25, 2012 1:34 PM, Room 224

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 108 and Senate Resolution 74, which seeks to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association.

The former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have made sacrifices and great contributions to our state and country. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. However, in 1996 Congress overlooked the ongoing contributions and sacrifices of the FAS when it failed to include FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, Social Security, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance, and others.

By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i. Many of these residents are heavily disenfranchised, facing significant cultural, economic, language, and social barriers to opportunity and achievement.

Hawai'i should lead the way in advocating on the national level for our FAS community members and seek to restore access to basic federal programs. Equal opportunity is not only a question of justice—denying residents basic medical care will ultimately contribute to our state's overall health expenditures. However, federal program funds will help boost our economy and health care infrastructure. Moreover, the provision of medical services through federal assistance will allow FAS residents here to spend their income on other life necessities. Hawai'i has the highest cost of living in the United States, so access to necessary benefits is particularly critical here. No one should have to decide between life-saving medical care and providing basic necessities for their families.

FAS residents face enough barriers to advancing in our community; restoring access to federal programs will remove one of the biggest. Our country made a promise to the FAS, and we must honor it. We also must take responsibility by making amends for the harms imposed by the U.S. on the FAS. This resolution will help address current and past injustices and provide equal opportunity to our FAS community members.

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
COFA COMMUNITY ADVOCACY NETWORK
for
SCR108/SR74

Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs
Human Services and
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Welina mai kākou Committee Chairs and Honorable Members of the Senate,

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR108 and SR74. The demonstration of support from the members of this body for equality for our COFA community members has been both inspiring and extremely heartening for the COFA Community Advocacy Network (COFA CAN), which has been working for several years to restore COFA residents' equal access to important federal programs, including Medicaid, that remain available for almost all other members of our community -- including both citizens and most legal permanent residents.

These resolutions will send a clear message to key federal policymakers that Hawai'i believes in equality and justice for members of our community, who are present under the Compacts of Free Association. As you may know, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa has introduced a measure, H.R. 912, that would restore federal Medicaid benefits for some of our country's strongest and most loyal supporters. By passing these resolutions, our state legislature will provide Congresswoman Hanabusa and her allies with ample evidence and strong arguments of support for this progressive and life-saving measure.

COFACAN believes that amending the PRWORA law of 1996, as urged in this resolution, will provide the following benefits to Hawai'i as well as the United States:

- 1. Closing the PRWORA loophole will benefit all in our state who seek medical treatment.** Including our COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for life-saving Medicaid funds under PRWORA will lead to the investment of substantial federal monies in our Hawai'i's medical infrastructure, which will boost our economy and bring a higher quality of care for anyone in our state who needs to go to the doctor.
- 2. A responsible adult cleans up their own mess.** The United States has made a huge mess of the islands and lives of the indigenous peoples of the Freely Associated States, and it must take responsibility in cleaning up this mess. Reinstating federal benefits for U.S. resident taxpayers, workers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association will help the United States take ownership of this ongoing responsibility, just as a responsible adult would.
- 3. No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home.** By denying healthcare eligibility for our Pacific Islander residents, PRWORA may force the

chronically ill and seriously injured to choose between saving their own lives, or ensuring that their families have the basic necessities of life. Aspiring nurses, doctors, or engineers may have to drop out of college just to pay off a relative's healthcare costs, impacting not just their families, but our economy and our society as a whole. Closing the PRWORA loophole and including COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices of our Pacific Islander neighbors, which will benefit not just our COFA residents, but our broader society as well.

4. We can affirm America as the land of opportunity, where individuals are given a fair shake to pursue the American Dream. America's strength and pride come from its basic ideal as a land of opportunity, where all individuals should be given a fair shake in their pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. However, the exclusion of our Pacific Islander neighbors and allies under the PRWORA denies them the same opportunity as all other legal residents, including the ability to pursue adequate healthcare, social security, and other public safety nets intended to uphold our enlightened social contract. Closing the PRWORA loophole will ensure that America keeps its promise of opportunity to our Pacific Islander allies lawfully residing here under the Compacts of Free Association.

5. We can uphold America's vision of justice. America prides itself on its sense of justice, and despite its historic contradictions, has struggled to ensure that we do acknowledge and address the injustices of our past. However, some of the darkest moments in our recent history have yet to be fully acknowledged and addressed, threatening to leave a long and ugly scar in our reputation as a land of justice, and freedom. Closing the PRWORA loophole and fulfilling the intent of the Compacts of Free Association will take America one step forward towards its vision of liberty and justice for all.

Therefore, COFA CAN urges these Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on these important measures.

SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013
12:00 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	giambay_olter@yahoo.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 11:36 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cinzia Olter	Healthy Pacific Organization	Support	No

Comments: To the Honorable Members of the Committee, Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR108, SR74, HCR117, and HR88, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawaii's Pacific Islander community. As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawaii. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawaii's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawaii, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states. This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS these resolutions, and help Hawaii make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community. Sincerely, Cinzia Olter

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HEALTHYPACIFIC.ORG

restoringjusticehi@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

SCR108 AND SR74

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.

Senate Committees on Tourism and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

March 25, 2013

1:34 P.M.

Capitol Room 224

Aloha Kākou e Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the other Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108** and **SR74**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS

residents as “qualified aliens” eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for members of Hawai'i's community, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, HealthyPacific.Org respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on these measures.

SCR108 and SR 104

Sunday, March 24, 2013
12:30 PM

Subject	SCR108 and SR 104
From	<u>Louis Erteschik</u>
To	TIA Testimony
Sent	Friday, March 22, 2013 6:43 PM

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is in strong support of these measures scheduled to be heard on March 25, 2013 at 1:34 PM

Louis Erteschik
Executive Director

SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013
12:03 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	clarkfsm@hotmail.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 10:49 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clark Graham	SHIP-HOOPS	Support	No

Comments: The US must provide medical assistance to FAS citizens. To deny them medical care is to condemn them to a life of uncertainty. The Compact provides the US with sole military rights to Micronesia which, counting the ocean, is the size of the continental United States. The US must live up to its agreement and should be ashamed of the way it has treated Microneians. Clark Graham

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SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:08 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	Kenakinaka@aol.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:08 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Teruya Akinaka	Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, and Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, and Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR108 and SR74, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community. The former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home. By denying healthcare eligibility for our Pacific Islander residents, the PRWORA may force the chronically ill to choose between saving their own lives, or ensuring that their families have the basic necessities of life in the U.S. Closing the PRWORA loophole and including COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices of our Pacific Islander neighbors, which will benefit not just our COFA residents, but our broader society as well. The PRWORA denies them the same opportunity as all other legal residents, including the ability to pursue adequate healthcare, social security, and other public safety nets intended to uphold our enlightened social contract. Closing the PRWORA loophole will ensure that America keeps its promise of opportunity to our Pacific Islander allies lawfully residing here under the Compacts of Free Association that was made with the in exchange for our military access to thousands of strategic nautical miles in the Pacific near Asia and using the home lands for Atomic bomb testing. We need to uphold America's vision of justice. America prides itself on its sense of justice, and despite its historic contradictions, has struggled to ensure that we do acknowledge and address the injustices of our past. The reparations given to the 110,000 Japanese and the American children, who were wrongfully interned in WWII, was an effort to make up for the wrong that was done to them. However, some of the darkest moments in our recent history have yet to be fully acknowledged and addressed, threatening to leave a long and ugly scar in our reputation as a land of justice, and freedom. Closing the PRWORA loophole and fulfilling the intent of the Compacts of Free Association will take America one step forward towards its vision of liberty and justice for all. Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing

contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states. Some of these Hawaii residents have been here as long as thirty years and many of their children are American citizens who vote in our Democratic Process, yet their parents are denied proper medical care for in some cases chronic diseases like cancers or kidney disease caused by our atomic bombing testing of their home countries due to our treaty agreements. This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community. Sincerely, Ken Akinaka, MRA Cell 808-221-6204

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Dina Shek
737 Olokele Avenue, #803
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 734-6316

March 24, 2013

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT FOR SCR108 and SR74

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.

Dear Committee members,

I write to express my **strong support for SCR108 and SR74** which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who

continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,



Dina Shek

Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
Committee on Human Services
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Monday, March 25, 2013
1:34 p.m.
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SCR108/SR74 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.

Position: In Strong Support

Dear Members of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs, Members of the Committee on Human Services, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

I am writing to testify **in strong support** of SCR 108/SR 74.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** these resolutions, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community. America prides itself on its sense of justice, and despite its historic contradictions, has struggled to ensure that we do acknowledge and address the injustices of our past. However, some of the darkest moments in our recent history have yet to be fully acknowledged and addressed, threatening to leave a long and ugly scar in our reputation as a land of justice, and freedom. Closing the PRWORA loophole and fulfilling the intent of the Compacts of Free Association will take America one step forward towards its vision of liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Amy Sojot
Mililani, HI

Aloha Kākou e Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, and Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, and Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108** and **SR74**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as “qualified aliens” eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,

Joakim Jojo Peter

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 108 / Senate Resolution 74

Urging the United States Congress to include resident citizens of the Freely Associated States who lawfully reside in the United as "Qualified Aliens" under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 in recognizing their unique historic and ongoing sacrifices and contribution to the United States of America.

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013

TIME: 1:34 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224, State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha kakou Senators English, Dela Cruz, Chun Oakland, Josh Green, Will Espero, and Rosalyn Baker:

My name is Richard Salvador. I am originally from the Republic of Belau (Palau). I have lived and worked in Honolulu since the 1990s. I came here to attend graduate school at UH-Manoa but decided to live here. For the past 8 years, I have been a teacher at McKinley Community School, teaching English and working as a Test Proctor in our school's Testing Center.

I was the first president of the Micronesian Community Network and, beginning in 2004, we appeared here and in various venues seeking assistance of one sort or another to help empower our Compact of Free Association communities in Hawaii. In that capacity, I served as a member of the Attorney-General's COFA Task Force which the legislature requested in 2007. That task force studied the issues and challenges facing COFA communities in Hawaii, then published its report, and presented it to the 2008 legislative session.

That COFA Task Force Report studied carefully all COFA related expenses in Hawaii and all available funding mechanisms under State and Federal programs and made a few recommendations. The report identified existing federal funding and then hinted at some possible federal programs that, if expanded, could go a long way to supplement current State funding for COFA residents' health care, etc.

We come here today to request Hawaii State's support for expansion of a key federal program that is at the core of the two Senate resolutions under consideration right now, the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act of 1996. I would like to quote from that COFA Task Force Report:

In 1997, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility [and] Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), a groundbreaking piece of legislation that reformed the welfare system... With the enactment of PRWORA, most non-citizens in the United States, with some limited exceptions, became ineligible for federally funded welfare programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families..., Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income... COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups excluded, and not included as one of the exceptions, despite the fact that they are legal residents in the United States, and are more like citizens than any immigrants or other legally resident non-citizens, in terms of their ability to reside, work and attend school in the United States. The State has continued to make the services available through equivalent State-funded services.

The federal government created the relationship with these nations that allows their citizens to freely reside in the U.S. with few limitations. The Task Force believes that extending eligibility for federal assistance to the COFA migrants would better support the purposes underlying the COFA. *Providing federal assistance for COFA migrants additionally would alleviate much of the burden on the State's budget while still maintaining the same level of services for the COFA migrants* (See 2007 COFA Task Force Report, pp. 6-7, italics mine, used for emphases).

The Task Force goes on to say that in 2007, former US Senator Daniel Akaka and the late Senator Dan Inouye had introduced a bill into the US Senate seeking similar extension of these benefits. In the US House, at that time, our current Governor Neil Abercrombie and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono had done the same!

Right now, in the US House, Representative Colleen Hanabusa has done the very same thing. Her bill, *H.R. 912 - Restoring Medicaid for Compact of Free Association Migrants Act of 2013* attempts to amend Title IV of PRWORA, which restricts access to federal public benefit programs and effectively bars COFA migrants from access to Medicaid.

Part of our efforts here today is to ensure that the State as a whole has not wavered in its determination to push forward these policies at the federal level and to build the case for strong support behind Hanabusa's bill. Representative Tulsi Gabbard is a co-sponsor of Hanabusa's bill as are Representatives Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, Gregorio Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa. And we are hoping that Senators Hirono and Schatz will seek support with a similar Senate bill as well.

Hanabusa's bill has wide support. The Pacific Islander American Health Forum (PIAHF) in San Francisco, CA has declared its strong support. Their president and CEO Kathy Ko Chin had this to say about the bill: "This bill is sorely needed to fulfill our diplomatic and strategic military commitments and to restore safety net health care coverage for COFA migrants who contribute to the American economy, yet are unfairly denied access to quality health care programs."

The texts of SCR 108 and 74 say what I strongly believe are historical obligations of the United States Government for the lingering environmental and human health effects of its nuclear testings in the Marshall Islands specifically and, generally, with the impacts of its colonial legacy on the capacities of the COFA nations as nation-states, with their large populations now residing in Hawaii and various cities and territories of the United States.

Lastly, I recount the last statement of our "Talking Points" that we distributed to you all as we made our rounds in the State Capitol a couple of weeks ago seeking support for the resolutions from legislators:

We...uphold America's vision of justice. America prides itself on its sense of justice, and despite its historic contradictions, has struggled to ensure that we do acknowledge and address the injustices of our past. However, some of the darkest moments in our recent history have yet to be fully acknowledged and addressed, threatening to leave a long and ugly scar in our reputation as a land of justice, and freedom. Closing the PRWORA loophole and fulfilling the intent of the Compacts of Free Association will take America one step forward towards its vision of liberty and justice for all

Please pass these resolutions. Mahalo Nui Loa for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Richard N Salvador
Member - COFA Community Advocacy Network of Hawaii

3419 East Manoa Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

(See attachment: *COFA Community Advocacy Network, COFA Resolution Talking Points*)

[COFA Community Advocacy Network, COFA Resolution Talking Points]

Other Talking Points:

1. Closing the PRWORA loophole will benefit all in our state who seek medical treatment.

Including our COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for life-saving Medicaid funds under PRWORA will lead to the investment of substantial federal monies in our Hawai'i's medical infrastructure, which will boost our economy and bring a higher quality of care for anyone in our state who needs to go to the doctor.

2. A responsible adult cleans up their own mess. The United States has made a huge mess of the islands and lives of the indigenous peoples of the Freely Associated States, and it must take responsibility in cleaning up this mess. Reinstating federal benefits for U.S. resident taxpayers, workers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association will help the United States take ownership of this ongoing responsibility, just as a responsible adult would.

3. No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home. By denying healthcare eligibility for our Pacific Islander residents, the PRWORA may force the chronically ill and seriously injured to choose between saving their own lives, or ensuring that their families have the basic necessities of life in the U.S. Aspiring nurses, doctors, or engineers may have to drop out of college just to pay off a relative's healthcare costs, impacting not just their families, but our economy and our society as a whole. Closing the PRWORA loophole and including COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices of our Pacific Islander neighbors, which will benefit not just our COFA residents, but our broader society as well.

4. We can affirm America as the land of opportunity, where individuals are given a fair shake to pursue the American Dream. America's strength and pride come from its basic ideal as a land of opportunity, where all individuals should be given a fair shake in their pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. However, the exclusion of our Pacific Islander neighbors and allies under the PRWORA denies them the same opportunity as all other legal residents, including the ability to pursue adequate healthcare, social security, and other public safety nets intended to uphold our enlightened social contract. Closing the PRWORA loophole will ensure that America keeps its promise of opportunity to our Pacific Islander allies lawfully residing here under the Compacts of Free Association.

5. We can uphold America's vision of justice. America prides itself on its sense of justice, and despite its historic contradictions, has struggled to ensure that we do acknowledge and address the injustices of our past. However, some of the darkest moments in our recent history have yet to be fully acknowledged and addressed, threatening to leave a long and ugly scar in our reputation as a land of justice, and freedom. Closing the PRWORA loophole and fulfilling the intent of the Compacts of Free Association will take America one step forward towards its vision of liberty and justice for all

To the Honorable Members of the
Committee,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify
in **STRONG**
SUPPORT of **SCR108**, **SR74**, **HCR117**, and
HR88, which seek to restore access to
important and fundamental federal programs
for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers,
students, and community members present
under the Compacts of Free Association,
many of whom are also members of
Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As a social anthropologist and researcher
specializing in Micronesian societies since
1979, and working through their Community
Action Agencies to support their health, I am
disturbed that one of the results of current
budget cuts is a law which to my
understanding breaks the Compact of Free
Association between the United States and
the Freely Associates States (FAS) of the
Micronesian nations. This appears legally
questionable.

However the more important issue is that
this abridges the rights of workers who

reside, work (thus paying tax) and seek education and healthcare in the US) which is within their rights! Is this law in alignment with American's vision of Justice? I sincerely hope that you will reconsider passing this resolution.

Closing the PRWORA loophole will benefit ALL in our state who seek medical treatment. No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions

and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as “qualified aliens” eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai‘i’s community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai‘i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** these resolutions, and help Hawai‘i

make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,

Professor Karen L. Nero

PhD, University of California, Berkeley 1987

Micronesian specialist

SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013
11:56 AM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	steincia@gmail.com
Sent	Sunday, March 24, 2013 11:25 AM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steincia Olter	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To the Honorable Members of the Committee, Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR108, SR74, HCR117, and HR88, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community. As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states. This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS these resolutions, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community. Sincerely, Steincia Olter

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To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

Fakkun Kilisou Chapeur for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108, SR74, HCR117, and HR88**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as “qualified aliens” eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** these resolutions, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,

Kind K. Kanto

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108** and **SR74**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home. By denying healthcare eligibility for our Pacific Islander residents, the PRWORA may force the chronically ill and seriously injured to choose between saving their own lives, or ensuring that their families have the basic necessities of life in the U.S. Aspiring nurses, doctors, or engineers may have to drop out of college just to pay off a relative's healthcare costs, impacting not just their families, but our economy and our society as a whole. Closing the PRWORA loophole and including COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices of our Pacific Islander neighbors, which will benefit not just our COFA residents, but our broader society as well.

This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,

Jean Adair-Leland

SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:20 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIAtestimony
Cc	bisaki@gmail.com
Sent	Friday, March 22, 2013 9:13 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Hawai'i's senators, Closing the PRWORA loophole will benefit all in our state who seek medical treatment. Including our COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for life-saving Medicaid funds under PRWORA will lead to the investment of substantial federal monies in our Hawai'i's medical infrastructure, which will boost our economy and bring a higher quality of care for anyone in our state who needs to go to the doctor. Sincerely, Bianca Isaki, Ph.D.

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SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013
11:59 AM

Subject	*Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM*
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	jr_7040@yahoo.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 11:44 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lucas	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:02 PM

Subject	*Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM*
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIAtestimony
Cc	Skmfreitas@gmail.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 11:10 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharde Mersberg Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:03 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	r91125005@gmail.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 11:01 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yu-Chien Huang	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To the Honorable Members of the Committee, Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR108, SR74, HCR117, and HR88, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community. As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in the United States, much like any other U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Unfortunately, the 1996 PRWORA law overlooked these ongoing contributions and sacrifices when it neglected to include our FAS residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for such basic federal programs as Medicaid, SSI, nutritional supplements, and others. By effectively revoking their previous eligibility for these programs, this law has resulted in harsh consequences for Hawai'i's community members, particularly for those seeking necessary medical treatment or basic educational or economic opportunity here in the U.S. and Hawai'i, and especially for those who continue to face significant cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers to equal opportunity here in the states. This resolution seeks to address this injustice and restore access to basic federal programs for FAS members of our Pacific Islander community, so that they may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in our society and pursue the American Dream as promised under the Compacts of Free Association. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS these resolutions, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community. Sincerely, Yu-Chien Huang

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SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013
12:04 PM

Subject	Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIAWitness
Cc	wctanaka@gmail.com
Sent	Saturday, March 23, 2013 9:30 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/23/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you very much for hearing these important measures (SCR108 and SR74), and for your support of our struggle for justice and equality in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

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March 12, 2013

Aloha Kākou e Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, and Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, and Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I write today to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR108** and **SR74**, which seek to restore access to important and fundamental federal programs for U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and community members present under the Compacts of Free Association, many of whom are also members of Hawai'i's Pacific Islander community.

Closing the PRWORA loophole will benefit all in our state who seek medical treatment. Including our COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for life-saving Medicaid funds under PRWORA will lead to the investment of substantial federal monies in our Hawai'i's medical infrastructure, which will boost our economy and bring a higher quality of care for anyone in our state who needs to go to the doctor.

No one should have to choose between going to the doctor to save their life, or keeping food on their family's table, or a roof over their child's home. By denying healthcare eligibility for our Pacific Islander residents, the PRWORA may force the chronically ill and seriously injured to choose between saving their own lives, or ensuring that their families have the basic necessities of life in the U.S. Aspiring nurses, doctors, or engineers may have to drop out of college just to pay off a relative's healthcare costs, impacting not just their families, but our economy and our society as a whole. Closing the PRWORA loophole and including COFA residents as "qualified aliens" eligible for federal healthcare protections acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices of our Pacific Islander neighbors, which will benefit not just our COFA residents, but our broader society as well.

I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** SCR108 and SR74, and help Hawai'i make a strong statement about justice and equality for these U.S. resident workers, taxpayers, students, and members of our island community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miwa Tamanaha', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miwa Tamanaha
94-1144 Mo'olelo St
Waipahu, HI 96797

Aloha Committee Chair English, Committee Chair Chun Oakland, and Committee Chair Espero, Committee Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Vice Chair Green, and Committee Vice Chair Baker, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and International Affairs, Human Services, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR108 which seek to restore access to federal programs for migrants from the Compacts of Free Association.

As these resolutions remind us, the former trust territories of the Freely Associated States (FAS) have over sixty years of history of sacrifices and contributions to the United States, and to Hawai'i. As a result, FAS citizens have earned the right to reside, work, and seek educational and healthcare opportunities in Hawaii, and the greater United States without persecution or accusation.

This is a wonderful step toward achieving health equality in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Megan Hagiwara, MPH

University of Hawaii at Manoa Public Health Doctoral Student

SCR108

Sunday, March 24, 2013

12:18 PM

Subject	*Submitted testimony for SCR108 on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM*
From	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To	TIATestimony
Cc	brycegroff@gmail.com
Sent	Friday, March 22, 2013 9:24 PM

SCR108

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for TIA/HMS/PSM on Mar 25, 2013 13:34PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryce Groff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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