



LATE

SR18

Measure Title: URGING UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO IMMEDIATELY RESUME BIOMETRIC INTAKE AND INTERVIEWS ON THE COUNTIES OF HAWAII, MAUI, AND KAUAI.

Report Title: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; Mobile Interview and Biometric Intake; Resumption of Services; Neighbor Islands; Immigrants and Migrants; Hawaii Coalition for Immigration Rights

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.R. 18
URGING UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO
IMMEDIATELY RESUME BIOMETRIC INTAKE AND INTERVIEWS ON THE COUNTIES
OF HAWAII, MAUI, AND KAUAI

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 1:20 p.m., Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Nishihara Vice-Chair Espero, and Members of the Committee:

As a resident of Kaua'i, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this resolution and for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.R. 18, which urges U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to return mobile fingerprinting and interviews to Kaua'i, as well as to other neighbor islands, on a quarterly basis.

USCIS must provide a meaningful immigration process to all Hawai'i residents and adapt its operations to the reality that our state is a set of islands. In 2009, USCIS completely discontinued basic immigration services to the neighbor islands citing budgetary constraints. Immigrant residents must now travel to Honolulu to undergo basic biometric intake and interviews required for most immigration processes. This failure poses a serious, practical challenge for many immigrants, and represents a systemic access to justice issue. In the light of security requirements and the fact that only one airline company provides travel service between islands, time and cost have become considerable obstacles to anyone wishing to obtain American citizenship in our state.

Accordingly, I SUPPORT S.R. 18. I respectfully request that your Committee PASS the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gilmore R. Guirao
P. O. Box 677
Kekaha, HI 96752