
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OR PASS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS FROM COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL CARE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States government entered into a
2 Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreement with the Federated
3 States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the
4 Marshall Islands, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
5 Islands; and
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7 WHEREAS, citizens of COFA nations are eligible to enlist in
8 the United States armed services, and over the years, the United
9 States has vigorously recruited Pacific Islanders from COFA
10 nations to serve in the United States military; and
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12 WHEREAS, Pacific Islanders from COFA nations have a long
13 and distinguished history of military service stretching back to
14 World War II; and
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16 WHEREAS, upon completing their military service and
17 returning to their respective communities, veterans from COFA
18 nations are unable to secure Department of Veterans Affairs
19 services, especially Department-approved basic medical services,
20 which are non-existent in their own communities; and
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22 WHEREAS, veterans from COFA nations must fly to Hawaii, at
23 enormous cost to their personal financial well-being, to obtain
24 proper medical care at Tripler Army Medical Center; now,
25 therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



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1 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's Congressional
 2 delegation is urged to work closely with the United States
 3 Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a program or pass
 4 legislation to provide veterans from Compact of Free Association
 5 nations with access to high-quality medical care within their
 6 respective communities; and

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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 10 United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary
 11 of Defense, each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation,
 12 and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

OFFERED BY:

Ken Ho

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[Signature]

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MAR 10 2017

