
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO
ESTABLISH A CREWMEMBER'S VISA FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS WORKING
IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY.

1 WHEREAS, a major media investigation and report in
2 September 2016 revealed that hundreds of undocumented workers
3 are employed in a peculiar sector of the United States
4 commercial fishing industry, which, due to a loophole in federal
5 law, allows them to work but exempts them from most basic labor
6 protections; and

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8 WHEREAS, many of these workers are men who come from
9 impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific Island nations,
10 including Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Kiribati, to
11 take these difficult and dangerous jobs, which can pay as little
12 as 70 cents per hour; and

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14 WHEREAS, with no legal status on United States soil, these
15 workers are at the mercy of their American captains on American-
16 flagged, American-owned vessels, catching prized fish, such as
17 swordfish and ahi tuna, that can sell for hundreds or thousands
18 of dollars; and

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20 WHEREAS, because these workers lack visas, they are
21 technically not allowed even to set foot on shore when the
22 fishing boats on which they toil are docked at American ports;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, this entire system contradicts other state and
26 federal laws; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the United States Customs



H.C.R. NO. 187

1 and Border Protection is requested to establish a crewmember's
2 visa for foreign citizens working in the commercial fishing
3 industry; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
7 United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
8 Commissioner of the United States Customs and Border Protection,
9 and each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: _____

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MAR 10 2017

