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## HOUSE 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

7  
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

13  
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, that the United States Customs and Border Protection is  
31 requested to establish a crewmember's visa for foreign citizens  
32 working in the commercial fishing industry; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
3 the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Commissioner of the  
4 United States Customs and Border Protection, and each member of  
5 Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: *Redy*

*Maximus*

MAR 10 2017

