

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1232

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 29 2017

RE: S.C.R. No. 54

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 54 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO
PROVIDE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION VETERANS EQUAL QUALITY
AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS VETERANS IN UNITED STATES
TERRITORIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
United States Department of Veteran Affairs to take certain
actions to provide Compact of Free Association veterans equal
quality and access to health care as veterans in United States
territories.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the State Office of Veterans Affairs.

Your Committee finds that it is important to take care of all
veterans in order to promote the public well-being. The United
States entered into the Compact of Free Associations (COFA) with
the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and
Republic of the Marshall Islands for the purpose of protecting the
territorial integrity of those islands. However, unlike Pacific
Islanders from the United States territories of Guam and the
Northern Marianas Islands, those Pacific Islanders from the COFA
islands who serve the United States Department of Defense do not



receive full health benefits from the Department of Defense. The lack of health benefits for veterans of the COFA nations is a glaring inequity that should not continue. Therefore, your Committee requests that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide Pacific Islander veterans of the COFA nations full health benefits. If the Department of Veterans Affairs chooses not to provide health benefits to COFA veterans, then Department of Defense recruiters are requested to inform recruits of the lack of health care benefits after service through a signed waiver.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 54 and recommends that it be referred to your Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,



CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SCR 54	PSM, CPH/WAM	3-28-17

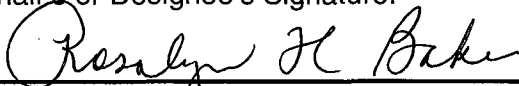
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				✓
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
TOTAL	4	-	-	1

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes