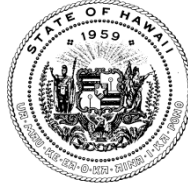


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 12:55 pm

**Testimony by:**  
JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 23, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 429

**H.C.R. 104**  
**STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION**  
**TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF MIGRANTS UNDER THE COMPACTS OF FREE**  
**ASSOCIATION FOR PURPOSES OF THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005 TO PROMOTE**  
**FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW**

House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.C.R. 104, which strongly urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to clarify the status of migrants under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) for the purposes of REAL ID Act of 2005 to promote fairness and equality under the law.

The DOT recognizes its responsibility to follow the Federal REAL ID regulations concerning the issuance of Hawaii's REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and identification cards.

The DOT is also compassionate to the needs of all of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Should the Federal REAL ID regulations be amended to address the concerns raised in this resolution regarding the issuance of Hawaii's REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and identification cards to the COFA residents, the DOT will abide by those regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 23, 2018  
Rm. 429, 10:15 a.m.

To: The Honorable Matthew S. Lopresti, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs,  
& Culture and the Arts

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair  
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.C.R. No. 104 / H.R. No. 90

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

**The HCRC supports H.C.R. No. 104 / H.R. 90, with a suggested amendment.**

H.C.R. No. 104 / H.R. 90 urges the United States Congress to pass legislation to correct and clarify the status of migrants under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) for the purposes of the Real ID Act of 2005. Enactment of such clarifying legislation would relieve the burden on Hawai‘i residents who are citizens COFA nations, who have an unlimited duration of stay in the United States, from the requirement that they be issued only a one-year driver’s license that has to be renewed annually.

Under the Compacts of Free Association, we have a special relationship with COFA nations and their citizens, one that developed from a historical trust relationship. Citizens of COFA nations may enter into, work, and establish residence in the United States, but do not have a pathway to U.S. citizenship. These COFA citizens who enter and reside in Hawai‘i under a Compact of Free Association do not have limited authorized stays in the United States. They

should be able to get driver's licenses that expire on their first birthday occurring not less than eight years after the date of issuance, not a shorter duration. This would be fair, helping these COFA Hawai'i residents avoid unnecessary cost and inconvenience.

The HCRC suggests that H.C.R. No. 104 / H.R. No. 90 be amended to add an additional resolution clause, urging the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to consider and implement changes in the Systemic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system, to clarify the status of residents who are COFA citizens, to confirm legal presence and unlimited duration of stay, to the extent that they can exercise their authority and capability to do so under current law.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 8:59 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 10:22:48 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Khara Jabola-Carolus	Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 11:17:02 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kandhi A. Elieisar	Micronesia Consulate General	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members,

I am testifying to House Committee Resolution 104/HR90, and wish to preface my brief testimony by thanking you and honorable members of your Committee for taking the time to consider this important resolution which, at its core, addresses equal and fair treatment of Micronesians under the law for purposes of the REAL ID ACT of 2005.

Once again, we are seeing another federal legislation (the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 was the first), which totally ignores the unique status of Micronesians as "non-immigrants" under the bilateral treaty that Compact Nations have with the United States. As Committee members know, this treaty affords Micronesians visa-free access to and unlimited stay in the United States as part of a reciprocal arrangement package. By virtue of this special relationship, Micronesians can reside, work for a living, engage in voluntary community work, attend school, create businesses, provide and receive care, avail themselves of other social and economic programs, pay taxes, serve in the U.S. Military and make ultimate sacrifices, and contribute to the overall economy of the communities in which they live.

Yet, Micronesians continue to face social and institutional discrimination, and are often looked askance in the making of federal law which further exacerbates their systemic exclusion from fair and equal treatment. Despite the fact that they are granted "unlimited length of stay" or no "end of stay" as non-immigrants as can be shown on their US-issued I-94 form, Micronesians find themselves being lumped together with other residents who are unable to prove their lawful presence. Unlike other I-94 form recipients, Micronesians are not required to provide additional documentations to justify their legal presence because they have a right to an unlimited duration of stay. Nonetheless, Micronesians abide by all the standard requirements necessary to obtain a driver license or identification card in Hawaii including the provision of documentations to prove their identity and residency.

The REAL ID ACT of 2005 simply fails to recognize the status of Micronesians under the Compact bilateral treaty as evidenced in its erroneous reference to the long-defunct Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In fact, none of the categories referenced in the ACT captures accurately their migrant status. Consequently, they are mistakenly

subjected to the one-year driver license requirement and other state identification card renewal requirement typically used for state residents who are unable to proof their legal presence in Hawaii.

This technical oversight in the REAL ID ACT has affected the lives of thousands of Micronesians who must cope with burdensome annual requirement of license and identification renewals to ensure that they hold onto their jobs, education, healthcare, housing and other essential services. We have also learned of the negative impact of this technical oversight on the use of time and resources on behalf of the State of Hawaii and the County/City of Honolulu, especially during this time of fiscal austerity.

While a cure-all fix can be done at the federal level, I would join others in urging an administrative resolution by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in terms of clarifying the legal status of Micronesians in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. Similarly, perhaps the Hawaii Department of Transportation can also provide a report to the State Legislature addressing the predicament faced by Micronesians who only need an I-94 for employment purposes and whether the SAVE program can be modified to accept I-94 forms as proof of residency authorized for an indefinite period of stay.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Chairman and honorable members of your esteemed Committee, for this opportunity. May I ask your favorable action on this life-enhanced resolution in the name of justice and respect for which this Aloha State is well-known and for our mutual benefits in our shared State of Hawaii.

With my high esteem, I am,

Kandhi A. Elieisar

Consul General

FSM Consulate General in Honolulu

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:56:11 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther I Lokboj	COFA	Support	No

Comments:

"I, Esther I Lokboj, SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA). As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time. However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongfully disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members. In addition, in implementing federal requirements, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year. Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure, and insert an additional BE IT RESOLVED clause to read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is strongly urged to delineate COFA status as a specific category in the SAVE system and to clarify that their "unlimited length of stay" is sufficient for the same renewal period as legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens for purposes of driver's license and identification renewals, and other entitlements and benefits that may otherwise require an "end date of stay" entry;" Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure."

Very Respectfully,

Esther I. Lokboj,

Job Resource Specialist III,

American Job Center, Work Hawaii,

City & County of Honolulu.



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 8:59 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 10:36:15 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cinzia Olter	COFACAN	Support	No

Comments:

**I SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time. However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongfully disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members. In addition, in implementing federal requirements, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, **and insert an additional BE IT RESOLVED clause to read as follows:**

**"BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is strongly urged to delineate COFA status as a specific category in the SAVE system and to clarify that their "unlimited length of stay" is sufficient for the same renewal period as legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens for purposes**

**of driver's license and identification renewals, and other entitlements and benefits that may otherwise require an "end date of stay" entry;"**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure."

Mahalo nui!

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 9:00 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 11:42:11 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Healthy Pacific	HealthyPacific.Net	Support	No

Comments:

Please also support amendments urging USCIS to explore an administrative fix via the SAVE processing software. Mahalo nui for your consideration of this matter!

**HAWAII INTERPRETER ACTION NETWORK**  
P.O. Box 236024  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823-3519

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[hawaii.interpreters@gmail.com](mailto:hawaii.interpreters@gmail.com)

To: Chair, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti; Vice-chair, Rep. Beth Fukumoto  
Members, House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs,  
and Culture and the Arts

From: Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.  
Hawaii Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter, Tier 4  
President, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network

Re: **HCR 104 and HR 90, SUPPORT**

Date: Friday, March 23, 2018, 10:15 a.m., Room 429

Chair LoPresti, Vice-Chair Fukumoto, and Committee Members: Thank you for hearing these resolutions. The testimony I am submitting on them is identical.

Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, founded in 2002, is a professional association for interpreters and translators.

As healthcare, court, and community interpreters, we are very aware of the presence of the peoples of the Compacts of Free Association in Hawaii. As it happens, I live on a street where one of the blocks is basically a Micronesian neighborhood. I often see women dressed in their beautiful and distinctive skirts, going by with their children.

The situation of these peoples, as I'm sure you know, is that a family member falls ill and must travel here for treatment. Some relatives travel with the person who is ill. Other family members travel over later to help and support the person who is ill, and to share in care giving.

This is a reason for travel that is a bit unusual in the context of American history. Many of the other groups that have traveled or moved here did it for religious, political, or economic reasons. Ill health is a new reason.

Illness lands these folks in the hospitals and clinics of Hawaii, where they often need healthcare interpreters. The combination of some being Limited-English Proficient and the culture shock of being here, also lands some of them in our court system. They also need interpreters in education, social service, and other government settings.

So, there are Micronesian language interpreters—not enough for our needs here, but still quite a few. We enjoy, value, and appreciate these colleagues.

Their schedules are very full. Many of them must take time off from work, not just hours, but days, weeks, and months sometimes, to care for a relative who is sick. Sometimes they fall ill themselves. They need to attend funerals for family and friends with a frequency that is truly appalling. How they manage to withstand these losses and stresses and still keep on going is amazing.

It is sad to learn that the REAL ID Act of 2005 has not taken the people of the Compacts of Free Association into account.

The situation with the REAL ID Act of 2005 is a fairly simple thing to remedy. That is considerably unlike the multiple illnesses and other stresses that afflict these populations. Anything we can legally and fairly do to reduce the stress on these residents should be done.

Eventually, their children who are born in the US will remember how their parents, relatives, and network were treated. In Hawaii, at least, we know how that can play out. Let us do our best for the most recent group to join us here.

In the spirit of *aloha*, and for the sake of justice, please pass HCR 104 and HR 90. Thank you.

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:46:40 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 104.

These resolutions recognize the long history and ongoing relationship between the U.S. and COFA nations; the contributions of the COFA nations to Hawai'i, the U.S., and the world; the provisions of the COFA agreements that allow for indefinite residence in the U.S.; and the inequitable burdens faced by U.S. residents present under COFA under the provisions of the REAL ID Act and the computer system used to enforce it, which force them to have to renew their driver's licenses every single year; and further urge the U.S. Congress to address this issue and clarify COFA residents' status and eligibility for equal licensing opportunities.

Bianca Isaki

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 10:51 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:46:42 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HCR104 which would urge Congress to remedy the REAL ID Act to allow fairness and equality for COFA migrants residing in Hawaii. Thank you to the Committee for hearing this Resolution and for promoting equal treatment for all.

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 11:01:03 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paola Rodelas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair LoPresti and the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts:

I strongly support with amendments HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA). As an immigrant, I stand in solidarity with our COFA community.

As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time.

However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands.

Notably, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year.

I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure, and insert an additional BE IT RESOLVED clause to read as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is strongly urged to delineate COFA status as a specific category in the SAVE system and to clarify that their "unlimited length of



stay” is sufficient for the same renewal period as legal permanent residents and U.S. citizens for purposes of driver's license and identification renewals, and other entitlements and benefits that may otherwise require an “end date of stay” entry;"

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,  
Paola Rodelas Groves  
Kapahulu resident

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 12:55 pm

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 12:30:08 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Takashy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 8:57 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 5:56:35 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neal Palafox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"I **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time. However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongfully disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members. In addition, in implementing federal requirements, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, and insert an **additional BE IT RESOLVED** clause to read as follows:

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**of driver's license and identification renewals, and other entitlements and benefits that may otherwise require an "end date of stay" entry;"**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure."

Mahalo nui!

Neal Palafox

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 7:44:04 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Owen J. Milne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Owen J. Milne SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time. However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongfully disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members. In addition, in implementing federal requirements, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Very respectfully,

SFC Owen J. Milne

United States Army

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 8:58 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 8:32:20 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
robby batongtong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Robby Batongtong SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HCR104/HR90, which seek to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to drivers licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As these resolutions recognize, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades now, and are authorized to live and work in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time. However, state driver's licensing laws and an interpretation of the REAL ID Act require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike "lawful permanent residents" and others similarly authorized to reside here for an indefinite period of time. This has not only caused significant undue hardship to our COFA community members, but represents yet another manifestation of the systemic and at times explicitly invidious racism they face on a daily basis here in our islands. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongfully disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members. In addition, in implementing federal requirements, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been able to administratively clarify COFA status with respect to other federal laws, including through recent updated guidelines for I-9 forms that now specifically recognize COFA citizens as authorized to work for "duration of status," i.e. an indefinite period of time. USCIS appears to have the authority to adjust its Systematic Alien Verification System for Entitlements (SAVE), used to determine COFA and other noncitizens' eligibility for driver's licenses and other programs, to likewise recognize that COFA residents should not be required to renew their driver's licenses every single year.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Very respectfully,

SSG Robby R. Batongtong

United States Army



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 23, 2018, 8:59 am

**HCR-104**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 11:13:43 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/23/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo nui for your support of this measure!