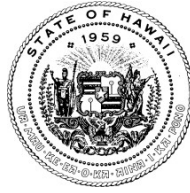


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

April 12, 2018  
11:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 429

**Testimony by:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 11, 2018, 11:19 am

**S.C.R. 148**  
**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**

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

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.C.R. 148, 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.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 11, 2018, 11:16 am



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

April 12, 2018  
Rm. 429, 11:30 a.m.

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

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

Re: S.C.R. No. 148, S.D. 1

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 strongly supports S.C.R. No. 148, S.D. 1.**

S.C.R. No. 148, S.D.1, 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 strongly supports S.C.R. No. 148, S.D. 1.

**LATE**

**RECEIVED  
Date & Time**

Apr 12, 2018, 9:42 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 9:22:33 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 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 Chairman and Your Esteemed Colleagues,

I write to register my full and unequivocal support for SCR148 which speaks to the predicament faced by Micronesians whose residency in the United States is guided and regulated by the biateral treaty between the Compact Nations like Micronesia and the United States of America. As you well know, a notable privilege granted to Micronesians on a reciprocal basis under the treaty is their unique status as "non-immigrants" affording them indefinite residency status in the United States as evidenced by issuance of I-94s from the USCIS. With this reciprocal privilege, Micronesians can work, attend schools, serve in the US Military and avail themselves of social programs as taxpayers with no termination of their staying status unless they violate the laws of the land.

Unfortunately, the drafting of DMV regulations and federal laws such as the REAL ID ACT of 2005 inadvertently miss out or contradict the Compact Treaty and impose requirements that impinge on the "indefinite staying status" being accorded to Micronesians under the bilateral treaty. Consequently, Micronesians are issued one-year driver license despite the fact that they are of similar situation as those migrants permanently residing in the United States. This is not only discriminating against Micronesians, but it provides undue and unfair burden on them in terms of requiring them to renew driver license on an annual basis. There are also implications on burdensome work for DMV stemming from processing requirements for yearly renewals.

While a federal fix would be the most ideal and lasting solution to this predicament, I would also urge consideration for an administrative fix to the issue where USCIS can simply accommodate this matter in the system. If such system could be adjusted to explain other immigration documents like the I-9, surely it could also do the same for the I-94 in terms of explaining what this important document affords Micronesians for the purpose of the REAL ID ACT of 2005.

May I humbly urge your favorable consideration of SCR148, and with my best wishes for good health, I am,

Sincerely

Kandhi A. Elieisar

Consul General

FSM Consulate General in Honolulu

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 10:07:03 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Chair; to the Honorable Beth Fukumoto, Vice Chair; and the Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR148 SD1** relating to the status of migrants under the Compacts of Free Association for purposes of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub.L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR148 SD1** and strongly supports its passage.

**SCR148 SD1** is in accord with the Democratic Platform as it: (1) urges 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, Pub.L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302, to promote fairness and equality under the law; and (2) urges the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to delineate the Compact of Free Association status as a specific category in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system and clarify that the "unlimited length of stay" of persons with that status is sufficient for the same renewal period as legal permanent residents and United States 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.

The Platform of the DPH provides that: "We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity, promotes adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, educational and cultural policies. (Platform of DPH, P.10, Lines 521-523 (2016)).

"We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in

the sciences, arts, and culture. We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rule of law." (Platform of DPH, P.5, Lines 225-228 (2016)).

Given that **SCR148 SD1**: (1) urges 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, Pub.L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302, to promote fairness and equality under the law; and (2) urges the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to delineate the Compact of Free Association status as a specific category in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system and clarify that the "unlimited length of stay" of persons with that status is sufficient for the same renewal period as legal permanent residents and United States 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, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/tel.: (808) 258-8889



FACE Hawaii

**LATE**

April 12, 2018

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 12, 2018, 9:41 am

Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts  
Thursday, April 12, 2018, 11:30 am  
Conference Room 429

Keith Webster  
State President

Napua Amina  
Maui President

Kathleen Jaycox  
Oahu President

Rev. Piula  
Ala'ilima  
Oahu  
Representative

Karen Ginoza  
Oahu  
Representative

Mary Weir  
Oahu  
Representative

Joyce Afalla  
Maui  
Representative

Thelma Akita-  
Kealoha  
Maui  
Representative

Niva Bermudez  
Maui  
Representative

Christy  
MacPherson  
Executive  
Director

Rev. Tasha  
Kama  
Maui Lead  
Organizer

**SCR148**

Aloha Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto and Committee Members:

Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) is an interfaith, grassroots community organization of over 20 congregations, a union and an ecumenical housing association on O`ahu and Maui that seeks to improve the quality of life for the residents of Hawai`i. FACE **strongly supports** SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA). Our members have been recently working alongside COFACAN and Voices of Micronesians of Maui (VOMOM) and have been made aware of their concerns around this issue. FACE also helped pass driver's license translation legislation several years ago.

There is no justifiable reason why COFA individuals should experience any different treatment than other drivers in our state. They should not have to jump through unnecessary hoops in order to be able to drive legally. To pass this bill is to say "Yes" to equity and treating everyone with respect and dignity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Members of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE)



**RECEIVED  
Date & Time**

Apr 11, 2018, 11:18 am

# **ALAN B. BURDICK**

*Attorney at Law - Retired*

**Post Office Box 51**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0051**

**Tel. 808.486.1018**

**[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com)**

April 10, 2018

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

Re: SCR 148, SD 1 - Urging the US Congress to Clarify the Status of Micronesian  
Migrants Under the Compacts of Free Association for Purposes of the "Real ID  
Act of 2005" and Urging the US Citizen and Immigration Service to Delineate  
COFA Status as a Specific Category in the Alien Verification for Entitlements  
System

Position: Strong Support

Hearing: Thursday, April 12, 2018, 11:30 a.m., Room 429

I was there "at the beginning."

Before I came to Hawai'i in 1982, I served for four years as Staff Attorney for the Political Status Commission of the Federated States of Micronesia. (I spent a total of 12 years in Micronesia.)

As Staff Attorney for the Political Status Commission, I participated in the political status negotiations from 1978 to 1982. This was when the United States Delegation proposed that Micronesians would be able to come to the United States, and the parties worked on the proposal. The proposal, as agreed, was that Micronesians from all three jurisdictions – the FSM, the Marshalls, and Palau – could come to the United States and live and work here indefinitely: This proposal became what is now Section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association. (Indeed, some of the language in Section 141 of the Compacts reflects changes from the original U.S. proposal that I personally introduced into the discussions.)

I can assure this Committee that these migration proposals were discussed at all times in terms of expectations that Micronesians from all three jurisdictions would be completely free to stay in the United States for as long as they wanted, without bureaucratic harassment, and to come and go as they pleased. We expected that, except for an actual path to citizenship, Micronesians would have all the benefits of permanent U.S. residents. This understanding is quite well reflected in the language of the Resolution before you.

Unfortunately, the history of relations between the United States and the Micronesian countries over the past 25 years or more has reflected ever-worsening backtracking, by the United States, of its promises under the three Compacts. The most serious betrayal, in my opinion, was the so-called “Welfare Reform Act” of 1996, which can also be considered the anti-immigrant act in 1996. This is the law that became the legal basis by which the U.S. Government cut off Micronesian access to Medicaid in Hawai‘i (and elsewhere) a few years ago.

Now, of course, Micronesians today are experiencing the de facto and sometimes inadvertent, but real, bureaucratic harassment under the so-called “Real ID Act” that requires them to renew their drivers’ licenses and/or state identification cards annually.

If we who participated in the Micronesian political status negotiations some 40 years ago had had even the slightest indication that the United States would backtrack on its promises to treat migrant Micronesians as long-term members of the American community, we certainly would have insisted on much stronger protective language being written into Section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association. (And in other parts of the Compacts.)

Currently, we have no real alternative other than to ask for good-faith amendment of U.S. laws and regulations that are harming Micronesians living in the United States. Alas, we have relatively little leverage at this point.

This Resolution is an important step in that process of requesting relief. Thank you very much for taking this action and for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of it.

Alan B. Burdick

**LATE**

**RECEIVED  
Date & Time**

Apr 12, 2018, 9:40 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 7:44:52 PM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joakim Peter, Ph.D.	COFA Community Advocacy Network	Support	Yes

Comments:

I SUPPORT SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, Pacific Islanders legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, workforce, 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 support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify."

Mahalo nui!

Joakim Jojo Peter Ph.D



**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 5:18:18 PM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, 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 support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this measure.

Wayne Tanaka



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 11, 2018, 11:18 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 7:49:31 PM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 11, 2018, 11:18 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 7:31:49 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 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** SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA). Thank you for your consideration of this important resolution.



**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 9:45:28 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, 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 support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 11, 2018, 11:19 am

April 11, 2018

Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts Committee (VMI)

Re: Support for SCR148

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts Committee,

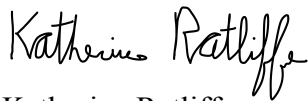
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** of SCR148, which will bring attention to unnecessary discriminatory barriers to renewing driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents who are lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As you may know, Pacific Islanders who are legally present under COFA have contributed to our communities, work force, and tax base for multiple decades, and are authorized to live and work in the US for an indefinite period of time. However, Hawai'i state driver's licensing laws require our COFA residents to renew their driver's licenses every single year, unlike other "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 institutionalized discrimination that they face on a daily basis here in our islands. These residents, having lawfully moved here in order to improve their lives, contribute to our economy, diversity, and work force, yet they often struggle with poverty and discrimination. We should abandon policies that impose financial and practical burdens on them, as well as proliferate discrimination. Notably, other states, including Oregon, have already recognized and taken action to address this wrongful disparate treatment of their long-time residents and community members.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure, and support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



Katherine Ratliffe  
Associate Professor  
Department of Educational Psychology  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa

**LATE**

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**

Apr 11, 2018, 12:55 pm

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 12:50:11 PM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dina Nishioka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **SUPPORT** SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association ( COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, 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. Much in payment for the deterioration and use of their homeland for U.S. military use. 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 support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify!

Much mahalo,

Dina Nishioka



**LATE**

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Apr 12, 2018, 9:41 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 7:30:24 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I **SUPPORT** SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, 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.

I live (in Mo`ili`ili) and work (as a registered nurse) with Hawai'i residents who were born in Freely associated states and live here sharing the same hope: to create a healthy environment where they and their families may live, learn, work and play. Everyone faces challenges and barriers but requiring someone to submit to driver license renewal every year indefinitely without reasonable justification is clearly an unnecessary barrier.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, and support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Adrienne Cadorna

**LATE**

**RECEIVED  
Date & Time**

Apr 12, 2018, 9:40 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 10:28:06 PM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SCR148, which seeks to remove unnecessarily discriminatory barriers to driver's licenses faced by Hawai'i residents lawfully present under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

As this resolution recognizes, 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 support equal treatment in driver's licensing for Hawai'i residents present under the COFA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**RECEIVED  
Date & Time**

Apr 12, 2018, 10:36 am

**SCR-148-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 10:36:04 AM

Testimony for VMI on 4/12/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments: