

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1368

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2019

RE: S.C.R. No. 201

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 201 entitled:

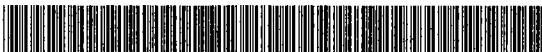
"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO CREATE A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION ADVISORY
BODY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the
Department of Human Services to create a Compact of Free
Association Advisory Board to make recommendations on different
aspects of health care coverage for Compact of Free Association
residents.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Human Services, Filipina Advocacy Network,
Save Medicaid Hawaii, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic
Justice, Kokua Kalihi Valley, and six individuals.

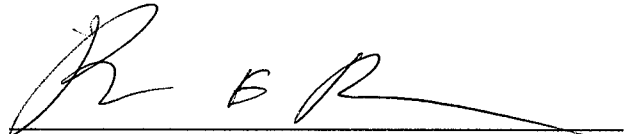
Your Committee finds that individuals who have immigrated to
Hawaii from the independent nations of the Republic of the
Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of
Palau are referred to as the Compact of Free Association (COFA)
residents, face the usual prejudices but additionally face special
challenges due to their unique immigration status. COFA
residents' immigration status excludes them from receiving
essential benefits enjoyed by United States citizens and legal
permanent residents, and there have also been public debates about



the allocation of equitable resources for education, housing, employment, and health care for COFA residents. Such inequity is contrary to the values of care and aloha of the Native Hawaiian culture, which has historically embraced newcomers. Your Committee recognizes the unique circumstances COFA residents face while navigating their way through systems of care that can struggle to meet their needs, particularly in the areas of health insurance and health care. Therefore, establishing an advisory board to recommend the best approach for providing parity in state-funded health coverage for otherwise eligible COFA residents will ensure that equitable health care is available for all of Hawaii's residents.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 201 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,



RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SCR 201	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 3/18/19		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (C)	✓			
RHOADS, Karl (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes