

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1369

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2019

RE: S.R. No. 161

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.R. No. 161 entitled:

"SENATE 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 and three 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.

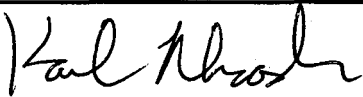
As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 161 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SR 161	HMS, WAM	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				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes