
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEGOTIATING THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND POSSIBLE SECESSION OF THE ISLAND OF CHUUK AND ENTRY OF A CHINESE MILITARY BASE IN THE REGION.

1 WHEREAS, the United States has a special relationship with
2 the Federated States of Micronesia which is codified in The
3 Compact of Free Association between the nations. Notably, this
4 agreement grants the United States control over the foreign
5 affairs and defense of the nation and the option to foreclose
6 access to or use of the Marshall Islands and the Federated
7 States of Micronesia by military personnel or for the military
8 purposes of any third country; and
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10 WHEREAS, the United States has a vested interest and historic
11 precedence for renegotiating the relationship between the United
12 States and the Federated States of Micronesia, especially in
13 view of the independence movement by the Island of Chuuk and the
14 possible breakup of the Federated States of Micronesia; and
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16 WHEREAS, if the quest for independence drives the island of
17 Chuuk to secede from the Federated States of Micronesia via a
18 plebiscite scheduled for March 2020, it will no longer be bound
19 to The Compact of Free Association. This succession may have far
20 ranging negative effects, especially given the recent overtures
21 from China to assist Chuuk in building its infrastructure, and
22 the possibility of building a military base on the island.
23 These negative effects have been outlined by United States
24 Ambassador Robert Riley with succession having the potential to
25 negatively impact the United States' strategic posture in the
26 Pacific region; and
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28 WHEREAS, Chuuk has a history of being exploited for
29 military purposes. For example, the Japanese used its deep-water



1 lagoon as a base for their combined fleet in World War II. With
 2 this in mind, and considering China's overt and aggressive
 3 expansion in the South China Sea and the Pacific region, the
 4 United States Department of State and Department of Interior
 5 should enter re-negotiations concerning the continuation of The
 6 Compact of Free Association and accompanying transfer payments;
 7 now, therefore,



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 9 BE IT RESOLVED the House of Representatives of the
 10 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 11 2020, urges the United States Department of State and Department
 12 of Interior to begin renegotiations concerning the Compact of
 13 Free Associations agreement with a view of ensuring Chuuk
 14 remains in the Federated States of Micronesia; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that special care and consideration
 17 be taken regarding the concerns and grievances of the
 18 representatives of Chuuk as well as the other Federated States
 19 members; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 23 the United States Department of State, the United States
 24 Department of Interior, and to the members of the Congress of
 25 the United States.

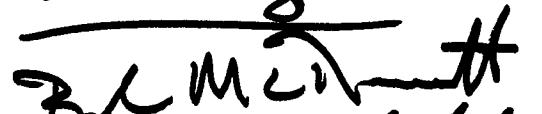
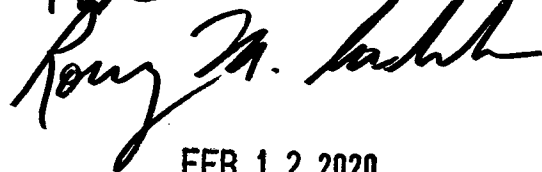
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FEB 12 2020

