

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3632

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2022

RE: S.C.R. No. 180

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 180 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO DESIGNATE TWO FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES TO
ASSIST COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION MIGRANTS TO ENROLL IN
MEDICAID,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the
Department of Human Services to designate two full-time equivalent
(2.0 FTE) employees to assist Compact of Free Association migrants
to enroll in Medicaid, including establishing and implementing an
outreach program to inform the Compact of Free Association
community in Hawaii of the eligibility criteria and enrollment
process.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the COFA Alliance National Network. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the United States has international
treaty agreements, known as the Compacts of Free Association, with
three island nations in the Pacific--the Republic of the Marshall
Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of
Palau--collectively known as the Freely Associated States. Your
Committee further finds that citizens of the Freely Associated
States are given broad migration privileges to the United States

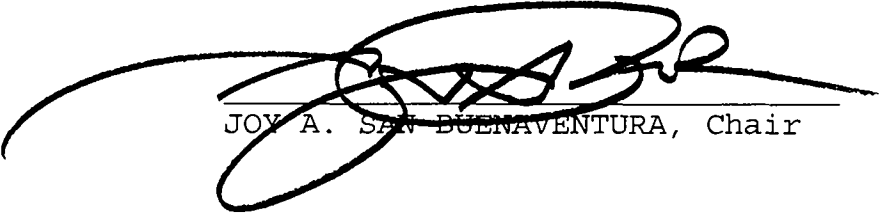


and its jurisdictions as "Compact of Free Association migrants". Compact of Free Association migrants, upon entry into the United States, are given a "non-immigrant" immigration status without an expiration date, and therefore, can freely enter, exit, reside, and work indefinitely in the United States and its jurisdictions.

Your Committee also finds that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, P.L. 116-260, restored Medicaid eligibility to Compact of Free Association migrants, which had been previously eliminated for the most part by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193. This measure will ensure that Compact of Free Association migrants in Hawaii are informed of the restoration of their Medicaid eligibility and provided with assistance in the enrollment process to receive available Medicaid coverage and services.

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. 180 and recommends its adoption.

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



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



