STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3632

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 4 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

The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Human Services HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
SCR 180	HMS		07	05/29/2022	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)		V ,			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)		V			
ACASIO, Laura					
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.		V/			
FEVELLA, Kurt					
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TOTAL		4	0	0	
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Original Original Yellow Original Original <t< td=""></t<>					

*Only one measure per Record of Votes