

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3661

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2022

RE: S.R. No. 173

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.R. No. 173 entitled:

"SENATE 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 testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. 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.R. No. 173 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.:* SR 173 | Committee Referral: HMS | Date: 03/29/2022 | | |
| <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 |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| IHARA, Jr., Les (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| ACASIO, Laura | | | | ✓ |
| MISALUCHA, Bennette E. | ✓ | | | |
| FEVELLA, Kurt | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: | | | | |
| Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy | | | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes