

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1624

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.R. No. 112
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.R.
No. 112 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE FACILITATION OF A PATH TO
CITIZENSHIP FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM PARTIES TO THE COMPACTS OF
FREE ASSOCIATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to encourage the
facilitation of a path to citizenship for immigrants from parties
to the Compact of Free Association.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations's Office of
Community Services and Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Your Committee finds that the Compacts of Free Association
(COFA) are a series of treaties between the United States, the
Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the
Republic of the Marshall Islands. These treaties were partially
established as compensation for the loss of life, health, land,
and resources due to the numerous nuclear weapons tests on the
Marshall Islands and Bikini and Enewetak Atolls conducted by the
United States from 1946 to 1958. Your Committee further finds
that COFA allows citizens of Micronesia to live and legally work
in the United States without visas, as well as have access to
social and health services. However, under United States



immigration law there is no path to United States citizenship for citizens of COFA nations. This measure will help create a path to citizenship for citizens of COFA nations.

Your Committee has amended this measure by clarifying the legislative findings.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 112, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 112, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,




KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
 Committee on Judiciary
 JDC**

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 112 | Committee Referral: JDC | Date: 3/23/23 | | |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| RHOADS, Karl (C) | ✓ | | | |
| GABBARD, Mike (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. | ✓ | | | |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. | | | | ✓ |
| AWA, Brenton | | | ✓ | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | — | 1 | 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