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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE FACILITATION OF A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR  
IMMIGRANTS FROM PARTIES TO THE COMPACTS OF FREE  
ASSOCIATION.

1           WHEREAS, from 1946 to 1958, the United States conducted  
2 sixty-seven nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, including  
3 above-ground testing and detonation of a bomb with a magnitude  
4 of over one thousand times that of the Hiroshima bombing; and  
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6           WHEREAS, partially as compensation for the loss of life,  
7 poor health conditions, displacement, and loss of land use due  
8 to nuclear testing, the Compacts of Free Association (COFA)  
9 between the United States, the Federated States of Micronesia  
10 (Yap, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae), the Republic of Palau, and the  
11 Republic of the Marshall Islands were established starting in or  
12 around 1986; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the United States has a continuing military  
15 interest and presence in the region and COFA provides the United  
16 States sole access to and substantial military and veto power  
17 over areas of these island nations, which are considered of  
18 great strategic value; and  
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20           WHEREAS, COFA allows citizens of COFA nations to live and  
21 legally work in the United States without visas as "non-  
22 immigrants"; and  
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24           WHEREAS, while citizens of COFA nations present in the  
25 United States are eligible to receive some social and health  
26 services that other immigrants and United States citizens can  
27 receive, they are ineligible for other services, including  
28 Medicaid; and  
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1           WHEREAS, under United States immigration law, there is no  
2 path to United States citizenship for citizens of COFA nations;  
3 now, therefore,  
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5           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
7 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the United States  
8 Congress is encouraged to facilitate a path to citizenship for  
9 immigrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic  
10 of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and  
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12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United States Immigration and  
13 Customs Enforcement is requested to refrain from deporting the  
14 aforementioned immigrants; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of  
18 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
19 Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
20 and Director of United States Immigration and Customs  
21 Enforcement.

