

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO ALLOW
MIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES FROM COMPACTS OF FREE
ASSOCIATION STATES TO BENEFIT FROM FEDERAL EMERGENCY AID.

1 WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association are international
2 agreements between the United States and the Federated States of
3 Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of
4 Palau; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the compacts allow citizens of these states to
7 live and work in the United States without requiring visas; and

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9 WHEREAS, under the current compacts, the United States has
10 agreed to provide federal aid when disasters occur in the
11 associated states; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 1996, welfare reform laws prohibited migrants
14 to the United States from Compacts of Free Association states
15 from accessing most federal aid and federal benefits; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
18 Assistance Act also prevents the Federal Emergency Management
19 Agency from using federal funds to support non-citizens,
20 including migrants from Compacts of Free Association states; and

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22 WHEREAS, these laws have prevented some migrants from
23 Compacts of Free Association states in Hawaii from accessing
24 federal aid, housing, and services following the devastating
25 2023 Maui wildfires; and

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27 WHEREAS, multiple bipartisan bills have been introduced in
28 Congress to restore access to federal benefits, including
29 federal emergency aid, for migrants from Compacts of Free
30 Association states; now, therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 223

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
4 Congress is urged to pass legislation to allow migrants to the
5 United States from Compacts of Free Association states to
6 benefit from federal emergency aid; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
10 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
12 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. O.', written over a horizontal line.