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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY OPPOSING THE FEE INCREASES PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
2 Services has proposed instituting substantial fee increases for  
3 citizenship applications, visa applications, and other basic  
4 services; and

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6           WHEREAS, immigration services fees would increase by an  
7 average of eighty-six per cent under the proposal; and

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9           WHEREAS, the increase in fees constitutes a substantial  
10 economic barrier for many immigrants: the fee for citizenship  
11 will increase from \$400 to \$675 and the fee for filing a legal  
12 permanent resident application will increase from \$325 to \$905;  
13 and

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15           WHEREAS, fees for naturalization and other immigration  
16 matters have increased at a rate faster than inflation while, at  
17 the same time, immigrants and their families have endured, and  
18 are still facing, continuing backlogs and delays in processing  
19 naturalization requests and other applications; and

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21           WHEREAS, Hawaii has the fourth largest immigrant population  
22 per capita in the United States, with 17.5 per cent of its  
23 population being foreign born, and 18.6 per cent of its  
24 immigration population living at or below federal poverty  
25 guidelines; and

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27           WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
28 Services is the only federal agency funded almost entirely by  
29 the fees it charges; and

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31           WHEREAS, the United States is an immigrant nation  
32 strengthened by the contributions of newcomers of all



1 backgrounds, and it is clearly in the national interest to  
2 invite immigrants to integrate into American society through  
3 naturalization and to support family unity through family-based  
4 visa petitions; and

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6 WHEREAS, the proposed fee increases are contrary to the  
7 nation's tradition of welcoming and assimilating immigrants and  
8 convey the wrong message to immigrants at a time when they are  
9 seeking to embrace American citizenship and strengthen their  
10 family ties; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the legislature  
15 strongly opposes the fee increases proposed by the United States  
16 Citizenship and Immigration Services, particularly those that  
17 affect the attainment of United States citizenship and the  
18 preservation of family unity; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature strongly urges  
21 Hawaii's congressional delegation to support a legislative  
22 inquiry into the proposed fee increases and to also support  
23 increased federal funding for the United States Citizenship and  
24 Immigration Services; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
28 United States through the Secretary of Homeland Security, the  
29 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the  
30 Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States House of  
31 Representatives, members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation,  
32 and the Director, Regulatory Management Division, of the United  
33 States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of  
34 Homeland Security.

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OFFERED BY: *Richard Cabrallo*  
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*...* *...* *...*  
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