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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO EASE RESTRICTIONS ON THE  
ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY VISAS AND EXTEND THE STAY LIMIT TO  
ALLOW FOREIGN MEDIATORS AND PARTIES IN NEED OF MEDIATION  
SERVICES TO ENTER THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
FACILITATING COMMUNICATION AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PARTIES  
TO RESOLVE DISPUTES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the most racially diverse places  
2 in the world and it continues to attract people from throughout  
3 Asia including China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a multicultural and highly skilled  
6 community of alternative dispute resolution professionals  
7 including mediators, arbitrators, negotiators, and facilitators;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii seeks to provide dispute resolution  
11 services and training to enable businesses and organizations  
12 throughout the United States to build successful relationships  
13 with their counterparts in Asia Pacific countries through the  
14 use of dispute prevention and resolution techniques and systems;  
15 and  
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17 WHEREAS, the use of alternative dispute resolution,  
18 especially mediation, is a preferred way of dealing with  
19 problems and disputes, especially among Asian and Pacific  
20 peoples; and  
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22 WHEREAS, in times when it may take as long as a year to get  
23 a judicial resolution in our overburdened judicial system, and  
24 multiple years if a case is appealed, the mediation alternative  
25 often provides a more timely way of resolving disputes; and  
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27 WHEREAS, mediation is a technique used throughout the world  
28 to resolve disputes between parties; and  
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1 WHEREAS, parties involved in a dispute are generally more  
2 satisfied with solutions that have been mutually agreed upon, as  
3 opposed to solutions that are imposed by a court of law; and  
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5 WHEREAS, mediation demands trust and excellent  
6 communication skills as well as an understanding of cultural  
7 differences and needs; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii is optimally situated in the middle of the  
10 Pacific to become a hub for international dispute resolution,  
11 and a bridge between East and West; and  
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13 WHEREAS, easing the visa requirements for foreign mediators  
14 and for those people and companies from foreign countries in  
15 need of mediation services will both strengthen international  
16 ties and facilitate the growth of trade and investment between  
17 the United States and Asia Pacific; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the United States  
22 is urged to ease restrictions on the issuance of temporary visas  
23 and to extend the stay limit by a minimum of thirty days to  
24 allow foreign mediators and parties in need of mediation  
25 services to enter the United States, including the State of  
26 Hawaii, for the purposes of facilitating communication and  
27 negotiation between parties to assist them in reaching a  
28 voluntary agreement regarding their dispute; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
32 United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United  
33 States Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the  
34 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and members  
35 of Hawaii's congressional delegation.  
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