
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES NATIONALS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN HAWAII AND TO REVIEW THE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THIS POPULATION UNDER THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii needs to determine a reliable
2 number of Freely Associated States citizens, which includes
3 individuals from the Federated States of Micronesia, the
4 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau,
5 that have resettled in the State; and
6

7 WHEREAS, due to the lack of current and credible census
8 numbers, social service agencies and health providers are unable
9 to plan and adapt budgets to fit the needs of this population;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS, state emergency homeless shelters are reporting as
13 much as ninety per cent Freely Associated States families
14 utilizing shelter services without ample budgets with which to
15 serve this population's varied needs that are substantially
16 different from those of locally residing homeless populations;
17 and
18

19 WHEREAS, rates of tuberculosis, Hansen's disease, and
20 Hepatitis B are reported to be high among Freely Associated
21 States citizens according to the Department of Health, with no
22 mandatory screening upon entry into the State; and
23

24 WHEREAS, this gap in screening places communities at risk
25 and makes outreach and treatment services prohibitive and time
26 consuming; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has no centralized plan for
29 the provision of services for this population, upon their
30 arrival, and many citizens arrive lacking language and job



1 skills and are in need of various types of medical services that
2 tend to be chronic in nature; and

3

4 WHEREAS, there is little knowledge amongst providers about
5 standard services and benefits for which Freely Associated
6 States citizens are eligible under the guidelines of the Compact
7 of Free Association; now, therefore,

8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of the
12 Attorney General is requested to convene a task force to
13 determine the number of Freely Associated States nationals
14 currently residing in Hawaii and to review the infrastructure
15 supports that are available to this population, under the
16 Compact of Free Association; and

17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
19 study the needs of the Freely Associated States population,
20 including the necessity of mandatory testing for communicable
21 diseases upon entry, and necessary services for establishing a
22 comprehensive infrastructure of support for members of this
23 population; and

24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
26 identify and examine any regulations or guidelines within the
27 Compact of Free Association as they apply to the State of
28 Hawaii; and

29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
31 General is requested to report to the Legislature on the
32 findings and recommendations of the task force no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2008; and

35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General of
38 Hawaii.

