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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE AND COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING, AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

1           WHEREAS, The Compact of Free Association defines the  
2 relationship that the Federated States of Micronesia, the  
3 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau have  
4 as associated states with the United States; and

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6           WHEREAS, under the Compact, the United States provides  
7 direct economic assistance, federal services, and military  
8 protection to the associated states in exchange for defense  
9 rights; and

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11           WHEREAS, under the Compact of Free Association, Freely  
12 Associated States citizens can migrate in and out of Hawaii  
13 without visas or other immigration requirements; and

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15           WHEREAS, it is estimated that over eight thousand Freely  
16 Associated States citizens have migrated to Hawaii; and

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18           WHEREAS, this migration has had a significant financial  
19 impact on Hawaii in terms of un-reimbursed health care,  
20 education, public safety, and welfare costs; and

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22           WHEREAS, since the federal government continues to provide  
23 inadequate federal medical and welfare assistance to Freely  
24 Associated States citizens who migrated to Hawaii and other  
25 parts of the United States, many rely on state aid; and

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27           WHEREAS, it is reported that the health care and education  
28 cost of migrants from the Freely Associated States to Hawaii  
29 alone was \$86,000,000 between 1996 and 2000; and

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31           WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,  
32 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated  
33 States; and

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1 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of  
2 medical and social services to this population; and

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4 WHEREAS, a task force should be convened to investigate and  
5 coordinate the provision of medical and social services to  
6 migrants from Freely Associated States; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
10 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to  
11 convene a task force to investigate and coordinate the provision  
12 of medical and social services to migrants from Freely  
13 Associated States; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a  
16 representative of:

- 17 (1) The Department of Health;
- 18 (2) The Department of Human Services;
- 19 (3) The Department of Education;
- 20 (4) The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
- 21 (5) The University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns
- 22 School of Medicine;
- 23 (6) The Micronesian Community Network;
- 24 (7) Micronesians United;
- 25 (8) The Institute for Human Services; and
- 26 (9) The University of Hawaii- West Oahu; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

- 38 (1) Consult with the Department of the Interior's Office
- 39 of Insular Affairs in Hawaii regarding what federal
- 40 funds and services are available to assist Freely
- 41 Associated States citizens in Hawaii;
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1 (2) Research whether a current census exists regarding the  
2 number of Freely Associated States citizens living,  
3 working, and attending school in Hawaii, and if no  
4 data exists, consult with the United States Census  
5 Bureau on obtaining this information in future  
6 national or regional census; and  
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8 (3) Investigate the medical, educational, housing, and  
9 social services needs of migrants from Freely  
10 Associated States, including the impact these service  
11 needs have on schools, and make recommendations  
12 regarding how to plan for and coordinate the provision  
13 of services to this population; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
16 submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than twenty  
17 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session, and to  
18 submit a final report to the Legislature no later than twenty  
19 days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session on the  
20 actions taken, information gathered, and any recommendations  
21 made by the task force; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, the Director  
25 of Health, the Director of Human Services, the Chair of the  
26 Board of Education, the Director of Labor and Industrial  
27 Relations, the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the  
28 Dean of the University of Hawaii- West Oahu, the Director of the  
29 Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in  
30 Hawaii, the President of Micronesians United, the President of  
31 the Micronesian Community Network, the Director of the Institute  
32 for Human Services, and the members of Hawaii's delegation to  
33 the Congress of the United States.

