

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2007

RE: S.R. No. 21

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.R. No. 21 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES' FEE INCREASE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to condemn the proposed fee increase by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and request a halt on the fee increase for all naturalization applications.

Your Committee did not receive testimony regarding this measure.

Your Committee finds that our Nation's and State's newcomers are making valuable contributions to the social, cultural, and economic life of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii.

Your Committee further finds that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed a sixty-seven per cent fee increase to begin the naturalization process, raising the fee from \$400 to \$675. This proposed fee increase would place a significant financial barrier in the path of many legal permanent residents who seek to naturalize.

Your Committee further finds that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' proposed fee increase is contrary to the spirit of our Nation's and State's tradition of



welcoming and integrating immigrants, and sends legal permanent residents the wrong message at a time when they are seeking to embrace U.S. citizenship. To this end, it is the intent of your Committee to:

- (1) Condemn the proposed fee increase;
- (2) Request a halt on the fee increase for all naturalization applications;
- (3) Request that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services provide President George W. Bush and the United States Congress with accurate information in order to ascertain the amount of federal appropriations needed for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to modernize its operations and enhance its naturalization services, without raising the naturalization fee; and
- (4) Request that President George W. Bush and the United States Congress provide appropriations to supplement fee revenues to cover costs of major United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' expenses.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 21 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs,

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes  
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
IGM

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SR 21</b>	Committee Referral: <b>IGM</b>	Date: <b>3/19/07</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes