
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM
THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN
HAWAII TO MIGRANTS UNDER THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

1 WHEREAS, in 1986, the United States (U.S.) entered into a
2 Compact of Free Association (COFA or Compact) with the Federated
3 States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands
4 that created a unique relationship between the U.S. and the COFA
5 states; and
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7 WHEREAS, the terms of the Compact set out mutually
8 beneficial rights and obligations in several areas, including
9 economic development and defense, and created the right of
10 citizens from the COFA states to freely travel to, and work and
11 reside in, the U.S. without durational limit; and
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13 WHEREAS, a significant number of COFA citizens travel to
14 and reside in the State of Hawaii because of the geographic
15 location and cultural similarity; and
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17 WHEREAS, many COFA migrants find it difficult to adjust to
18 Hawaii's high cost of living and as a result, require state
19 assistance; and
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21 WHEREAS, in the amended Compact of 2003, Congress
22 recognized there could be a significant effect on the resources
23 of the places to which COFA citizens migrated and explicitly
24 stated that, "*it is not the intent of Congress to cause any*
25 *adverse consequences for an affected jurisdiction*"_P.L. 108-188,
26 section 104(e)(1) (emphasis added); and
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28 WHEREAS, in support of the intent to ease the burden on
29 areas defined as an "affected jurisdiction," including Hawaii,
30 Congress set aside \$30,000,000 in grant funds; however, those
31 funds are not nearly enough to cover the additional costs to all
32 affected jurisdictions; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress passed the Personal
2 Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA),
3 which provided that most non-citizens in the U.S., with limited
4 exceptions, became ineligible for federally-funded welfare
5 programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,
6 Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income, thereby
7 exacerbating an already tenuous fiscal situation for the states;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups
11 that became ineligible for federally-funded public assistance
12 programs under PRWORA despite the fact that they are legal
13 residents in the U.S., and are more like citizens than
14 immigrants or other legally-residing non-citizens in terms of
15 their ability to reside, work, and attend school in the U.S.;

16 and
17
18 WHEREAS, despite losing access to federal funds for
19 services to COFA migrants because of PRWORA, the State of Hawaii
20 has continued to make the services available through equivalent
21 state-funded services to address the needs of COFA citizens who
22 legally reside in the state, just as it provides them to other
23 legal residents; and

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25 WHEREAS, the State has consistently reported increasing
26 costs each year for the services provided to COFA migrants, the
27 majority of which are not reimbursed by the federal government;
28 and

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30 WHEREAS, the federal government created the relationship
31 with the COFA states that allows their citizens to freely reside
32 in the U.S. with few limitations; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2010, that this body hereby urges the U.S. Government to seek
37 reimbursement from the Federated States of Micronesia for
38 services provided in Hawaii to migrants under COFA; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
3 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, Governor, Director of Human
4 Services, Director of Health, Superintendent of Education,
5 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, and Chairperson of
6 the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board.

