
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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, according to United States census data, it is
16 estimated that over twelve thousand Freely Associated States
17 citizens have migrated to Hawaii; and

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

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

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28 WHEREAS, it is reported that the education, health, public
29 safety, and social services cost of migrants from the Freely
30 Associated States to Hawaii alone was \$628,752,280 between 2004



1 and 2010, with education and health care costs accounting for
2 the largest shares; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,
5 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated
6 States; and

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8 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of
9 services to this population; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted S.R. No. 142, S.D. 1, during
12 the Regular Session of 2007, which requested the Attorney
13 General to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate
14 the provision of services to migrants from the Freely Associated
15 States; and

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17 WHEREAS, another task force should be convened to
18 investigate and coordinate the provision of medical,
19 educational, housing, and social services to migrants from
20 Freely Associated States; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
24 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
25 the Attorney General is requested to convene a task force to
26 investigate and coordinate the provision of medical,
27 educational, housing, and social services to migrants from
28 Freely Associated States; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
31 include:

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33 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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35 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
36 designee;
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38 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Education or the
39 Chairperson's designee;
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41 (4) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations or the
42 Director's designee;



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- 2 (5) A professor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
- 3 John A. Burns School of Medicine, or the professor's
- 4 designee;
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- 6 (6) The President of the Micronesian Community Network or
- 7 the President's designee;
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- 9 (7) The President of Micronesians United or the
- 10 President's designee;
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- 12 (8) The Director of the Institute for Human Services or
- 13 the Director's designee; and
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- 15 (9) A professor from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu or
- 16 the professor's designee; and

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

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- 20 (1) Consult with the Department of the Interior's Office
- 21 of Insular Affairs in Hawaii regarding what federal
- 22 funds and services are available to assist Freely
- 23 Associated States citizens in Hawaii;
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- 25 (2) Consult with the United States Census Bureau on
- 26 obtaining information in future national or regional
- 27 censuses on the number of Freely Associated States
- 28 citizens living, working, and attending school in
- 29 Hawaii; and
- 30
- 31 (3) Investigate the medical, educational, housing, and
- 32 social services needs of migrants from Freely
- 33 Associated States, including the impact these service
- 34 needs have on schools, and make recommendations
- 35 regarding how to plan for and coordinate the provision
- 36 of services to this population; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
39 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
40 prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session on any
41 actions taken, information gathered, and recommendations made by
42 the task force; and



