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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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URGING UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES TO  
IMMEDIATELY RESUME BIOMETRIC INTAKE AND INTERVIEWS ON THE  
COUNTIES OF HAWAII, MAUI, AND KAUAI.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is among the top five states with the  
2 highest share of immigrants in their population; and  
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4 WHEREAS, approximately 74,000 immigrants reside on the  
5 neighbor islands; and  
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7 WHEREAS, approximately 34,000 immigrants on the neighbor  
8 islands are not naturalized United States citizens and must  
9 undergo immigration processes adjudicated by United States  
10 Citizenship and Immigration Services; and  
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12 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
13 terminated quarterly interview services to the neighbor islands  
14 in 2007; and  
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16 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
17 terminated quarterly biometric intake to the neighbor islands in  
18 2009; and  
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20 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
21 only performs basic immigration services, such as mandatory  
22 interviews and biometric intake, in Honolulu; and  
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24 WHEREAS, immigrants on the neighbor islands do not have  
25 equal access to the immigration process as immigrants who reside  
26 on Oahu; and  
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28 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
29 gives only one week's advance notice of scheduled biometric  
30 intake or interview on Oahu and rescheduling can take up to  
31 three months; and  
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1 WHEREAS, fees related to immigration applications are steep  
2 and difficult to manage for many newcomers; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the cost of roundtrip air travel to Honolulu  
5 presents an additional substantial barrier to the immigration  
6 process and the lowest airfare rates are available thirty days  
7 in advance; and  
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9 WHEREAS, immigrants who have not yet naturalized are more  
10 likely to be one hundred percent below the poverty level than  
11 naturalized immigrants; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the majority of immigrants in Hawaii are women and  
14 foreign-born women who are naturalized citizens earn  
15 approximately \$8,500 more per year than foreign-born women who  
16 have not yet naturalized; and  
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18 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
19 now has a greater ability to conduct mobile biometric intake on  
20 neighbor islands because of improvements in technology since the  
21 routes were discontinued in 2009; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, limited exceptions and travel waivers for those  
24 physically unable to travel to Honolulu do not provide  
25 meaningful access to the immigration process for the majority of  
26 neighbor island immigrants; and  
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28 WHEREAS, social service providers on the neighbor islands  
29 report that the termination of United States Citizenship and  
30 Immigration Services mobile routes to the neighbor islands has  
31 resulted in immigrant clients not renewing their green cards  
32 because it is too expensive to travel to Honolulu; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the lack of basic immigration services on all  
35 islands directly undermines the White House Task Force on New  
36 Americans and new programs that encourage legal permanent  
37 residents in Hawaii to apply for citizenship; and  
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39 WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
40 is unwilling to contract biometric intake and interviews to a  
41 third party, such as a law enforcement agency or private  
42 government contractor; and



WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigration Rights, which represents over seventy nonprofit and legal organizations that directly serve immigrants in Hawaii, has been campaigning for the resumption of mobile interview and biometric intake for over two years; and

WHEREAS, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has an obligation to provide a feasible process to all immigrants and migrants; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is urged to immediately resume mobile biometric intake and interviews to the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Field Office Director for the Honolulu Field Office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

OFFERED BY:

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