

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1479

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2021

RE: S.R. No. 177
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.R.
No. 177 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to recognize the
contributions of the Compact of Free Association community in the
State of Hawai'i.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Republic of Palau, the Republic
of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia
have small populations, economies, and land sizes but stretch over
two million square miles of ocean. Your Committee further finds
that shortly after World War II, the United States assumed
administration of the islands composing these nations and that,
upon granting them independence, signed Compact of Free
Association (COFA) agreements with them, allowing establishment of
bases and access to territorial waters of these nations to the
exclusion of other nations. Your Committee additionally finds
that treaties arising out of the special and unique relationship



that has existed between the three COFA island nations and the United States allow island citizens to enter the United States without work permits or student visas, live, and work, and to access benefits available to United States citizens, such as driver licenses and health care. Your Committee also finds that COFA migrants make significant contributions to the economy, cultural traditions, and communities of the State, and that the COFA island families residing in this country should be treated with honor and respect in recognition of their contributions and the special and unique relationship between the COFA islands and the United States.

In addition, your Committee notes that rule 61 of the Rules of the Hawaii Senate prohibits resolutions that are "congratulatory, commemorative, or memorial" in nature and lack any substantive direction, and that the removal of language to conform with rule 61 does not indicate disagreement with the removed language.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing nonsubstantive language expressing the recognition of the Legislature;
- (2) Requesting the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to research contributions made to the State by COFA migrants and submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
- (3) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 177, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 177, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

Karl Rhoads

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SR 177</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">JDC</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">3/29/2024</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt			✓	
TOTAL	6	0	1	0
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-left: 20px;">Karl Rhoads</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**