
HOUSE 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
31 and 2010, with education and health care costs accounting for
32 the largest shares; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B,
2 and syphilis reported among migrants from the Freely Associated
3 States; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is no centralized plan for the provision of
6 services to this population; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted S.R. No. 142, S.D. 1, during
9 the Regular Session of 2007, which requested the Attorney
10 General to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate
11 the provision of services to migrants from the Freely Associated
12 States; and
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14 WHEREAS, another task force should be convened to
15 investigate and coordinate the provision of medical,
16 educational, housing, and social services to migrants from
17 Freely Associated States; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2015, that the Department of the Attorney General is
22 requested to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate
23 the provision of medical, educational, housing, and social
24 services to migrants from Freely Associated States; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
27 include:
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- 29 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 31 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
32 designee;
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- 34 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Education or the
35 Chairperson's designee;
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- 37 (4) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations or the
38 Director's designee;
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- 40 (5) A professor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
41 John A. Burns School of Medicine, or the professor's
42 designee;



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- 2 (6) The President of the Micronesian Community Network or
- 3 the President's designee;
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- 5 (7) The President of Micronesians United or the
- 6 President's designee;
- 7
- 8 (8) The Director of the Institute for Human Services or
- 9 the Director's designee; and
- 10
- 11 (9) A professor from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu or
- 12 the professor's designee; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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

35 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days

36 prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session on any

37 actions taken, information gathered, and recommendations made by

38 the task force; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

41 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of

42 Health, Director of Human Services, Chairperson of the Board of



1 Education, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Dean of
 2 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dean of the University of
 3 Hawaii-West Oahu, Director of the Department of the Interior's
 4 Office of Insular Affairs in Hawaii, President of Micronesians
 5 United, President of the Micronesian Community Network, Director
 6 of the Institute for Human Services, and members of Hawaii's
 7 congressional delegation.

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