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# HOUSE CONCURRENT 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



1 funds are not nearly enough to cover the additional costs to all  
2 affected jurisdictions; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress passed the Personal  
5 Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA),  
6 which provided that most non-citizens in the U.S., with limited  
7 exceptions, became ineligible for federally-funded welfare  
8 programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,  
9 Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income, thereby  
10 exacerbating an already tenuous fiscal situation for the states;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups  
14 that became ineligible for federally-funded public assistance  
15 programs under PRWORA despite the fact that they are legal  
16 residents in the U.S., and are more like citizens than  
17 immigrants or other legally-residing non-citizens in terms of  
18 their ability to reside, work, and attend school in the U.S.;  
19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, despite losing access to federal funds for  
22 services to COFA migrants because of PRWORA, the State of Hawaii  
23 has continued to make the services available through equivalent  
24 state-funded services to address the needs of COFA citizens who  
25 legally reside in the state, just as it provides them to other  
26 legal residents; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the State has consistently reported increasing  
29 costs each year for the services provided to COFA migrants, the  
30 majority of which are not reimbursed by the federal government;  
31 and  
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33 WHEREAS, the federal government created the relationship  
34 with the COFA states that allows their citizens to freely reside  
35 in the U.S. with few limitations; now, therefore,  
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
38 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
39 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby  
40 urges the U.S. Government to seek reimbursement from the  
41 Federated States of Micronesia for services provided in Hawaii  
42 to migrants under COFA; and



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

