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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID TO AND REIMBURSE THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR EXPENSES RELATING TO HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED TO MIGRANTS UNDER THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

1           WHEREAS, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic  
2 of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, entered into  
3 an agreement with the government of the United States known as  
4 the Compact of Free Association (Compact); and  
5

6           WHEREAS, the Compact allows migrants from the Federated  
7 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and  
8 the Republic of Palau, to freely immigrate to the United States;  
9 and  
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11           WHEREAS, when the Compact was first agreed to, migrants had  
12 access to federally-funded medical assistance; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities  
15 Reconciliation Act of 1996 prevents migrants from Compact  
16 nations from receiving federally-funded medical assistance; and  
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18           WHEREAS, since the enactment of the Personal Responsibility  
19 and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996, the State of  
20 Hawaii has continued to offer migrants from Compact nations  
21 medical assistance through a variety of state-funded programs;  
22 and  
23

24           WHEREAS, it is in the spirit of aloha that the State of  
25 Hawaii has and will continue to provide medical assistance to  
26 Compact migrants, despite the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals  
27 ruling that the State has "no constitutional obligation to fill



1 the gap left by Congress's withdrawal of federal funding for  
2 [Compact] residents"; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, in state fiscal year 2012-2013 alone, the State of  
5 Hawaii Department of Human Services spent \$47,600,000 on  
6 citizens from Compact nations; and

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8 WHEREAS, the federal government must address the issue of  
9 additional federal support for the State to continue providing  
10 state services arising from the unique federally created  
11 relationship the United States has with the Compact of Free  
12 Association nations; now, therefore,

13  
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
16 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the  
17 United States and the United States Department of the Interior  
18 are strongly urged to provide additional federal aid to and  
19 reimburse the State of Hawaii for expenses relating to health  
20 care assistance to migrants from Compact of Free Association  
21 nations; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Insular Affairs  
24 of the United States Department of the Interior is strongly  
25 urged to review the funding of the Compact Impact Assistance  
26 grant and to make every effort to increase the amount of direct  
27 assistance available to the State of Hawaii to offset costs  
28 incurred by the State; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is  
31 strongly urged to support federal legislation to amend the  
32 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act  
33 of 1996 to render Compact of Free Association migrants eligible  
34 to receive federally funded financial and medical assistance;  
35 and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
39 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
40 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
41 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the United States  
42 Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the Office of Insular

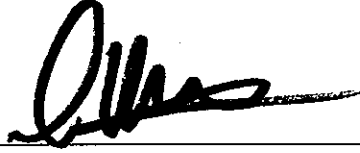


# H.C.R. NO. 208

1 Affairs, the Commander, United States Pacific Command, the  
2 Director of Human Services, the Director of Health, and the  
3 Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 13 2015

