
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR RESIDENTS OF
PUBLIC HOUSING AND EMERGENCY TRANSITIONAL SHELTER HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, under the terms of the Compacts of Free
2 Association (COFA or Compact) with the Federated States of
3 Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the
4 Republic of Palau, citizens from the Freely Associated States
5 have the right to freely travel to, and work and reside in, the
6 United States without durational limit; and
7

8 WHEREAS, a significant number COFA migrants in the State of
9 Hawai'i arrive with serious medical care needs, one of the most
10 significant of which is screening for and treatment of
11 tuberculosis (TB); and
12

13 WHEREAS, a significant number of COFA migrants in the State
14 are also in need of housing assistance, and may reside in public
15 housing and emergency transitional shelter housing; and
16

17 WHEREAS, TB is a highly infectious communicable disease
18 that can be transmitted from person to person by physical
19 contact or through airborne particles, especially in situations
20 in which an infected person is in close proximity or physical
21 contact with other individuals; and
22

23 WHEREAS, TB is a health risk to all persons, and not
24 exclusive to COFA migrants; and
25

26 WHEREAS, emergency transitional shelter housing is often
27 provided in a congregate setting in which the residents are in
28 close proximity and physical contact with each other, with
29 limited privacy and with little separation between personal
30 spaces; and
31

32 WHEREAS, public housing, as distinct from emergency
33 transitional shelter housing, is often provided in dwellings in



1 which large numbers of people reside together in close proximity
2 and physical contact with each other; and
3

4 WHEREAS, public housing and emergency transitional shelter
5 housing provided by private agencies often includes a
6 requirement that a person provide a TB clearance before entering
7 the facility as a resident; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i, through the Hawai'i Public
10 Housing Authority (HPHA), currently provides public housing and
11 emergency transitional shelter housing to qualified needy
12 families, many of whom are COFA migrants; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the HPHA does not currently require a person to
15 provide a TB clearance prior to entering a facility as a
16 resident; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the State Department of Health provides TB
19 screening and treatment services to needy individuals, Hawai'i
20 residents and visitors alike, including COFA migrants, in
21 various locations throughout the islands; and
22

23 WHEREAS, one of the tasks set out for the COFA Task Force,
24 convened by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to
25 Senate Resolution No. 142, S.D. 1, 2007, was to investigate the
26 medical, educational, housing, and social services needs of
27 migrants from Freely Associated States including the impact
28 these services needs have on schools, and to make
29 recommendations regarding how to plan for and coordinate the
30 provision of services to this population; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the COFA Task Force has identified health care and
33 housing as two issues that are of concern to the COFA migrant
34 community, and has recommended coordinating the provision of
35 services by state agencies whenever possible; now, therefore,
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
39 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
40 Health and the HPHA are requested to collaborate in:
41

- 42 (1) Determining whether and to what extent the imposition
43 of TB screening and treatment should be considered as



1 an appropriate and effective public health practice
2 and as a condition before any person enters public
3 housing and emergency transitional shelter housing, as
4 a resident;

5
6 (2) Determining whether and to what extent screening and
7 treatment for TB could be provided within public
8 housing projects and emergency transitional shelter
9 housing, and in conjunction with other services
10 provided to residents of public housing, regardless of
11 whether it is made a requirement for residents; and
12

13 (3) Implementing TB screening and treatment services to
14 the extent the agencies determine it is possible; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
18 Director of Health, the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Public
19 Housing Authority, the Attorney General, and the members of the
20 COFA Task Force, as convened by the Department of the Attorney
21 General.
22
23
24

OFFERED BY: _____

[Handwritten signatures and names]
Tom Brown
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

