A RESOLUTION

Respectfully requesting the State of Hawaii to continue to provide comprehensive health care benefits to Micronesians legally residing in Hawaii pursuant to the Compact of Free Association, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the United States of America and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have been in a Compact of Free Association (Compact) since 1986; and

WHEREAS, under the Compact, citizens of the FSM may travel freely, reside, work and attend school in the United States without durational limits; and

WHEREAS, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act passed in the United States in 1996 made Micronesians legally residing in the United States ineligible for many federally funded services, including federal matching funds for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has acted in a most humanitarian manner by continuing to provide Medicaid, known as Med Quest, to Micronesians living in Hawaii without federally matched funds; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Human Services is attempting to implement a new health insurance program for low-income adults who are not U.S. citizens, including Micronesians, called Basic Health Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 census reported approximately 13,000
Micronesians living in Hawaii, and it is anticipated that the 2010 census will reflect a great increase in that number; and

WHEREAS, many Micronesians currently living in Hawaii need and receive life-saving treatment, including chemotherapy, dialysis and treatment for cardiopulmonary diseases, under the current Med Quest insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Basic Health Hawaii insurance program contains many reductions in benefit coverage compared to the current Med Quest insurance coverage, including elimination of coverage for chemotherapy and dialysis patients, and limited coverage for people suffering from cardiopulmonary diseases; and

WHEREAS, Micronesians in need of life-saving and life-sustaining treatments will be irreparably harmed by denial of necessary health benefits if the Basic Health Hawaii program is implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Reform Bill passed by the United States House of Representatives, H.R. 3200, included language that would reinstate the eligibility for federal matching Medicaid funds for Micronesians living in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, additional time is needed by the people of the FSM to find a solution to the health care needs of Micronesians living in Hawaii, including time to learn the outcome of the final HealthCare Reform measure currently pending in the United States Senate and to determine the accurate number of Micronesians living in Hawaii based on the 2010 census results;
now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Second Special Session, 2009, that the Congress hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the State of Hawaii for providing Micronesians living in Hawaii with the Med Quest insurance coverage since 1997; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Second Special Session, 2009, respectfully requests that the State of Hawaii continue to provide Micronesians living in Hawaii insurance coverage under the current Med Quest, or a comparable, program while the leaders of the FSM dutifully search for solutions and adequate alternative health coverage for our citizens whose lives depend on their current medical coverage under Med Quest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, the President of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, and the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Date: 12/3/09

Introduced by: /s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul

Date: 12/3/09

Introduced by: /s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto