

“(G) MEDICAID AND TANF EXCEPTIONS FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—With respect to eligibility for benefits for the programs defined in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of paragraph (3) (relating to temporary assistance for needy families and medicaid), paragraph (1) shall not apply to any individual who lawfully resides in the United States (including territories and possessions of the United States) in accordance with a Compact of Free Association referred to in subsection (a)(2)(M).”.

(c) QUALIFIED ALIEN.—Section 431(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) an individual who lawfully resides in the United States (including territories and possessions of the United States) in accordance with a Compact of Free Association referred to in section 402(a)(2)(M).”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1108 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (g)” and inserting “subsections (g) and (h)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) The limitations of subsections (f) and (g) shall not apply with respect to medical assistance provided to an individual described in section 431(b)(8) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to benefits and assistance provided on or after that date.

STATE OF HAWAII,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
Honolulu, HI, November 9, 2005.

Sen. DANIEL K. AKAKA,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR AKAKA, I am writing in support of your legislation to reinstate eligibility for Compact migrants from the Freely Associated States for various Federal programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, and Medicaid. As you know, “Compact migrants” refers to those who have relocated to Hawaii from the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As you know, a high percentage of the Compact migrant population are poorly educated and live in poverty, and are thus part of the additional demand on the already strained social support systems of the State.

The Department of Human Services is the lead agency that administers social safety net programs for individuals and families in Hawaii. The amount of State resources that is being expended to care for Compact migrants has been steadily increasing as the number of migrants continues to grow. The costs to the State cannot be measured in the numbers of migrants alone. What is not reflected in the numbers of migrants alone, is that many of these migrants come to Hawaii with serious medical conditions that require costly intensive and extensive services. In 2004, the Department of Human Services alone spent over \$26.6 million to provide services to over 10,800 migrants in our financial assistance, medical assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and youth services programs.

Allowing Compact migrants to be served with Federal funds under the TANF, SSI, Food Stamps, and Medicaid programs would tremendously assist the State of Hawaii. I appreciate your leadership in this area and look forward to continuing to work with you on your legislative efforts to assist Compact migrants in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

LILLIAN B. KOLLER, Esq.

Director.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 318—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 27, 2005, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 318

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas everyone on the roads and highways needs to drive more safely to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas the death of almost 43,000 people a year in more than 6 million highway crashes in America has been called an epidemic by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta;

Whereas according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saved 15,434 lives in 2004; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to be careful about safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely during the heaviest traffic day of the year, and to publicize the importance of the day using Citizen’s band (CB) radios and in truck stops across the Nation;

(C) clergy to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive particularly safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) everyone to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 27, 2005, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 319—COMMENDING RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH ASIA AND URGING A COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP REBUILD CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS

Ms. MIKULSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 319

Whereas on October 8, 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan;

Whereas the epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, and approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Islamabad, with aftershocks and landslides continuing to affect the area;

Whereas the most affected areas are the North West Frontier Province, Northern Punjab, Pakistani-administered Kashmir, and Indian-administered Kashmir;

Whereas more than 75,000 people have died, nearly 70,000 are injured, and approximately 2,900,000 people are homeless as a result of the earthquake, and, according to the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 17,000 of the dead are children;

Whereas the United States has pledged a total of \$156,000,000 to provide assistance in the affected countries, with \$50,000,000 to be used for humanitarian relief, \$50,000,000 to be used for reconstruction, and \$56,000,000 to be used to support Department of Defense relief operations;

Whereas the total amount of humanitarian assistance committed to Pakistan by the United States Agency for International Development is more than \$40,000,000;

Whereas the Department of Defense has deployed approximately 875 members of the Armed Forces and 31 helicopters to aid in the earthquake relief efforts;

Whereas since October 8, 2005, United States helicopters have flown more than 1,000 missions, evacuated approximately 3,400 people, and delivered nearly 5,600,000 pounds of supplies;

Whereas the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected areas is difficult due to the mountainous terrain, cold weather, and damaged or collapsed infrastructure;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, during her October 12, 2005, visit to Pakistan, said the United States would support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan over the long-term to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquake and rebuild areas of the country devastated by the earthquake;

Whereas the cost of rebuilding the affected areas could be in excess of \$1,000,000,000; and

Whereas the recovery and reconstruction of the areas devastated by the earthquake will require the concerted leadership of the United States working with the governments of the affected countries and the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the members of the United States Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for taking swift action to assist the victims of the earthquake in South Asia that occurred on October 8, 2005;

(2) commends the international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international organizations, and various relief and nongovernmental entities;

(3) commends the Governments of Pakistan and India for their cooperation in the common cause of saving lives and providing humanitarian relief to people on both sides of the Line of Control;

(4) encourages further cooperation between Pakistan and India on relief operations and efforts to fortify and expand peace and stability in the region as they cope with the impact of the earthquake during the winter of 2005 and the spring of 2006 and seek to rehabilitate the lives of those affected;

(5) urges the United States and the world community to reaffirm their commitment to