A RESOLUTION

Calling upon the Department of Health and Social Affairs to dramatically improve the delivery of health services to citizens of the FSM, particularly with regard to the preventable and/or treatable communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B and syphilis, in order to be responsive to the concerns of the State of Hawaii and other affected jurisdictions concerning the health status of migrants from the FSM to those jurisdictions.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, Guam, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa are recognized as “affected jurisdictions” by the amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Untied States of America; and

WHEREAS, provisions were made by the Congress of the United States pursuant to U.S. Public Law 108-188 for annual appropriations through fiscal year 2023 for grants to affected jurisdictions as a result of increased demands placed on health, educational, social, or public safety services or infrastructure due to residence in affected jurisdictions of qualified nonimmigrants from the FSM, Republic of Marshall Islands or the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii passed resolution HR No. 94 HD 1 on 12 April 2007 calling for the Department of the Attorney General to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate the provision of medical and social services to migrants from Freely Associated States; and
WHEREAS, the Senate of Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii passed resolution SR No. 142 SD1 on 13 April 2007 calling for the Department of the Attorney General to convene a task force to investigate and coordinate the provision of medical and social services to migrants from Freely Associated States; AND

WHEREAS the aforesaid resolutions recite that there are high rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis B and syphilis reported among migrants from Freely Associated States; and

WHEREAS, it is not the intent of the Federated States of Micronesia that the Compact cause unanticipated adverse consequences or an exceptional burden on the social and health care systems of an affected jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Federated States of Micronesia to be responsive to the concerns of the State of Hawaii and other affected jurisdictions concerning the health status of its migrants to those jurisdictions, and to combat any negative attitudes or discrimination towards them while living and working abroad; and

WHEREAS, an initial step toward improved delivery of health care services within the Federated States of Micronesia was the establishment of a separated Department of Health and Social Affairs by FSM Public Law 15-09; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Federated States of Micronesia to determine the incidence of preventable and/or treatable communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B and syphilis within its population, and take all reasonable steps
to eradicate such diseases from its citizens both at home and abroad; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fifteenth Congress of the FSM calls upon the Department of Health and Social Affairs to dramatically improve the delivery of health services to citizens of the FSM, particularly with regard to the preventable and/or treatable communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B and syphilis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be provided to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs, the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, and the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii.

Date: 11/20/07

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir

Isaac V. Figir