

Submitter: David Anitok  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SCR16

Warm greetings and Yokwe: Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules, Friends.

On behalf of the COFA Alliance National Network of Washington, we care to submit a written testimony to share our enthusiasm support for SCR 16, the intention to codify the Compact of Free Association treaty as part of Oregon's statute. As mentioned in the the text of SCR 16, "Whereas COFA immigration status is an anomalous status that has unique challenges because it is tied to the COFA treaties but is also written into federal law as P.L. 108-188, which creates what is considered a nonimmigrant status with visa-free entry into the United States and with no limits on the duration of stay in the United States and its territories; and Whereas due to the fact that COFA status is not a traditional legal status under U.S. immigration law, there is no pathway to legal permanent residency or citizenship for COFA islanders who enter the United States under that status". Therefore, passing SCR 16 to showcase the intention to bend the arc of justice the right way for the COFA islanders who're unique population of Oregon for four decades now and in to the future. Our COFA islanders in Oregon do not want to only survive, but to thrive as equitably as Oregonians. Upon passing the SCR 16, the CANN-WA and other CANN chapters in Texas, Arizona, and other states community partner will work to follow your lead. Thank you and Kommol tata.  
David Anitok