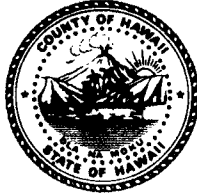


BOB JACOBSON
Councilmember



333 Kīlauea Avenue, Second Floor
Ben Franklin Building, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Mailing Address: 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 200
Phone: (808) 961-8263
Fax: (808) 961-8912
E-Mail: bjacobson@co.hawaii.hi.us

Chair, Environmental Management Committee
Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

August 8, 2007

Mattie Cohan, Senior Assistant General Counsel
Office of Legal Affairs, Legal Services Corp.
3333 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Re: Support for the Legal Representation of Micronesians Residing in the United States

Aloha:

There are many reasons to support this proposed change in rules to allow for access to legal representation. These services will help acculturate Micronesians and their families. As an elected official I know it is far more humane and cost effective to allow access to legal help for Micronesians (and others) when the need arises, thus creating a better initial understanding regarding their legal options, rather than trying to mitigate negative outcomes through the legal system. In the course of time our courts will be less clogged, as early access to informed counsel lessens the number of court hearings and usually leads to improved outcomes for both suspects and the courts. The frequency of abuses towards immigrants may be lessened as predatory individuals, lenders and employers realize that immigrants have ready access to legal services to redress their grievances. Families can benefit and remain whole as Micronesians will be able to quickly return to productive lifestyles after contact with the United States judicial system. Society as a whole may benefit while enjoying the blessings of Micronesians interacting well, enriching our culture, leading productive lives, and working to diversify our community.

Please consider these comments.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Jacobson". To the left of the signature, there are some initials and a date, possibly "MJC" and "8/8/07".

Bob Jacobson
Council Member, District 6