

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU



OER

Office of Economic
Revitalization



April 6, 2023

**OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION**

Where is Micronesia



The People of Micronesia

- Federated States of Micronesia: More than 100,000 residents.
- Chuuk: 46,000 residents.
- Kosrae: 6,600 residents.
- Pohnpei: 36,196 residents.
- Yap: 11,377 residents.
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: 42,500 residents.
- Republic of Palau: 18,024 residents.
- Citizens of these nations are **legally referred to as citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS)**, not COFA



Compact Provisions

U.S. right to:

- Block other nations military activities.
- Allow U.S. exclusive access to the lands, waterways, and airspace of the FAS.
- Indefinite U.S. authority for defense and security.
- Serve in the U.S. armed forces.

In return: FAS citizens are provided with certain immigration privileges

- Receive economic support in each country.
- To live, work, and study in the United States **indefinitely**.
- Without a visa (with reciprocal benefit for U.S. citizens entering both FSM and RMI).



FAS Citizens in Hawai‘i

- Legal and citizenship status:
 - I-94 documentation.
 - Nonimmigrants without visas.
- Status limits their access to many public benefits.
- For those eligible for programs, it is only through U.S. born children.
- Unable to vote but can serve in the U.S. armed services.
- Hawai‘i population: 18,504 (2013-2017), or 1.3% of the state population.



Jobs for FAS Citizens

Occupation	% FAS in Hawai'i	Compared to Hawai'i Average
Food Prep and Serving	24.8%	+17.1%
Building and Grounds Maintenance and Cleaning	15.3%	+9.6%
Transportation and Materials Cleaning	14.5%	+9.5%
Education, Training and Library	1.6%	-4.46%
Healthcare	0.3%	-4.8%



Going Forward

Ongoing projects:

- Partnering with City departments such as DPR, HPD, DMV, DEM to share concerns and building partnership.
 - Hosting webinars about good jobs to encourage communities to apply.
 - Working with government on education outreach and talk story sessions about COFA.
 - Partnering with DOE to create career and college pathways with Micronesian students.
- Connecting community members to education and career development opportunities.
 - Visiting schools to speak to Micronesian students to encourage and empower.



Challenges with Employment

- Understand COFA/FAS citizens **do not have Visa/Alien Registration numbers.**
- I-94 inaccessible or lost (database issue).
- Passport expiration and renewal (ID issue).
- Employment ID issue.



Help with Immigration or I-94

CONTACT THE CONSULATE OFFICES:

FSM Consulate Office

Citizens of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap

3049 Ualena Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96919

(808) 836-4775

RMI Consulate Office

Citizens of Marshall Islands

188 Lusitana Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 545-7767





How to Say Mahalo!

- In Chuukese: "Killisou!"
- In Kosraean: "Kulo!"
- In Yapese: "Kamagar!"
- In Pohnpeian: "Kalangan!"
- In Marshallese: "Kommol Tata!"
- In Paulauan: "Sulang!"



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