

Letter of Support

February 4, 2022



Senate Bill 1538 Support Letter

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

We are writing on behalf of Living Islands Non-Profit to urge your ongoing support for Senate Bill 1538, **"Relating to dental care for Pacific Islanders legally residing in Oregon under the Compact of Free Association."** The following brief statement of the essential features of Senate Bill 2706 as introduced.

Establishes COFA Dental Program in Oregon Health Authority to provide dental care to low-income citizens of Pacific Islands in Compact of Free Association who reside in Oregon.

Living islands is a non-profit organization located in Lake Oswego, Oregon, serving the people of Micronesia. Our focus is on bringing education, health, and sustainability to our communities, both here in Oregon and the Pacific Islands regions of Micronesia. Particularly in Oregon, we bring cross-cultural education and awareness about the three island nations under the Compact of Free Association. We also understand the importance and impact of proper health care in doing so. We continuously work toward ensuring that our communities can get the support needed to allow us to live and work equally with all other Oregon residents effectively.

The Oregon Legislators have historically righted the wrong by implementing the COFA Premium Assistance Program. The COFA Premium Assistance Program is working successfully, and it was passed unanimously but without dental care. Senate Bill 1538 would provide COFA Dental Care program for the COFA Islanders residing in Oregon. Our organization proudly supports Senate Bill 1538. We urge you to pass Senate Bill 1538.

Respectfully,

Kianna Juda Angelo
Executive Director/Founder
Living Islands Non-Profit