



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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**STATE OF HAWAII WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO  
COFA RESIDENTS**

HONOLULU – Attorney General David M. Louie announced today that the State of Hawaii will continue to provide benefits to the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) residents until a full and final resolution of the issues in Korab v. McManaman is reached. “The State will make sure that COFA residents continue to have uninterrupted access to their health benefits while this lawsuit is pending” said Attorney General Louie.

In early April 2014, the Ninth Circuit ruled that when Congress enacted the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 and eliminated all federal funding for health benefits for COFA residents, the State of Hawaii could not be mandated to fund the federal government’s portion of the benefits. The Ninth Circuit’s decision confirms that the federal government cannot impose a duty on States to perform a function for which it does not provide funds.

This ruling was a preliminary finding by the appellate court; there are still other proceedings that may occur.

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