

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7797

To establish a comprehensive, long-term United States strategy and policy for the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2020

Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BERA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a comprehensive, long-term United States strategy and policy for the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Boosting Long-term U.S. Engagement in the Pacific
6 Act” or “BLUE Pacific Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Authority to consolidate reports; form of reports.

TITLE I—DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

- Sec. 101. Diplomatic presence in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 102. Maritime security in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 103. International Law Enforcement Academy for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 104. Security assistance for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 105. Transnational crime in the Pacific Islands.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Sec. 201. USAID presence in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 202. Trade development with the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 203. Trade capacity building initiative for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 204. Education and training program for natural disaster preparedness and emergency management professionals in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 205. Peace Corps in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 206. Public health in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 207. Education cooperation between the United States and the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 208. Climate change in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 209. Climate resilient infrastructure and energy security in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 210. Coordination with other Federal agencies and cooperation and participation of nongovernmental United States entities.

TITLE III—PROMOTION OF SHARED VALUES

- Sec. 301. Freedom of the press in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 302. U.S. Agency for Global Media.
- Sec. 303. Gender equality.
- Sec. 304. Pacific Islands Leadership Development Initiative.
- Sec. 305. Civil society engagement and development.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Pacific Islands—

6 (A) are spread over a broad expanse of the
 7 Pacific Ocean, including the three sub-regions
 8 of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia;

1 (B) are home to some 2.3 million residents
2 constituting diverse and dynamic cultures and
3 people; and

4 (C) face shared challenges and opportuni-
5 ties in development, including climate change,
6 geographic distances from major markets and
7 vulnerability to external shocks such as natural
8 disasters.

9 (2) The United States is a Pacific country with
10 longstanding ties and shared values and interests
11 with the Pacific Islands, including through the Com-
12 pacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated
13 States, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the
14 Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of
15 Palau.

16 (3) The United States has vital national secu-
17 rity interests in the Pacific Islands, including—

18 (A) protecting regional peace and security,
19 including through a regional order that fully re-
20 spects the sovereignty of all nations;

21 (B) advancing economic prosperity through
22 trade and development free from coercion; and

23 (C) supporting good governance, the rule
24 of law, and human rights and fundamental free-
25 doms.

1 (4) The United States National Security Strat-
2 egy released in December 2017 outlines a United
3 States foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific region based
4 on strengthening alliances and partnerships old and
5 new, promoting regional development including
6 through fair and reciprocal trade, and maintaining a
7 strong defense to protect regional peace and secu-
8 rity. The National Security Strategy includes a com-
9 mitment to “shore up fragile partner states in the
10 Pacific Islands region to reduce their vulnerability to
11 economic fluctuations and natural disasters”.

12 (5) At the 30th Forum Partners Dialogue of
13 the Pacific Islands Forum held in Nauru in Sep-
14 tember 2018, then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan
15 Zinke stated: “The United States is deeply com-
16 mitted to the security and prosperity of our friends
17 and neighbors in the Pacific . . . We see all of the
18 Pacific Islands as an essential part of our free and
19 open Indo-Pacific policy . . . When the United States
20 invests in the Pacific Islands, we do so as a partner
21 committed to a shared future that advances national
22 sovereignty, regional cooperation, and trust.”.

23 (6) The Department of Defense’s June 2019
24 Indo-Pacific Strategy Report identified the Pacific
25 Islands as “critical to U.S. strategy because of our

1 shared values, interests, and commitments” and
2 committed the United States to “building capacity
3 and resilience to address maritime security; Illegal,
4 Unreported, and Unregulated fishing; drug traf-
5 ficking; and resilience to address climate change and
6 disaster response”.

7 (7) The United States has deepened its diplo-
8 matic engagement with the Pacific Islands through
9 several recent meetings, including—

10 (A) a historic White House meeting be-
11 tween President Trump and the three Presi-
12 dents of the Freely Associated States on May
13 21, 2019;

14 (B) attendance at the 2018 and 2019 Pa-
15 cific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue by the
16 Secretary of the Interior;

17 (C) Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert
18 Wilkie’s attendance at the inauguration of
19 President David Panuelo of the Federated
20 States of Micronesia in July 2019; and

21 (D) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s visit
22 to the Federated States of Micronesia in Au-
23 gust 2019.

24 (8) The Boe Declaration on Regional Security,
25 signed by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in

1 2018, affirmed that climate change “remains the
2 single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and
3 wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific” and asserted
4 “the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its
5 national affairs free of external interference and co-
6 ercion”.

7 (9) The Asian Development Bank has estimated
8 that the Pacific Islands region needs upwards of
9 \$2.8 billion a year in investment needs through
10 2030, in addition to \$300 million a year for climate
11 mitigation and adaptation over the same period.

12 (10) The Pacific Islands swiftly enacted effec-
13 tive policies to prevent and contain the spread of the
14 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (commonly referred to as
15 “COVID–19”) pandemic to their populations. To as-
16 sist the Pacific Islands in their response, the United
17 States has provided over \$32,000,000 in funding
18 and coordinated its efforts with the Pacific Joint In-
19 cident Management Team. However, priorities must
20 be met to ensure continued success in preventing the
21 spread of the COVID–19 pandemic and long-term
22 economic recovery in the Pacific Islands, including—

23 (A) expanding testing capacity and acquisi-
24 tion of needed medical supplies through a reli-
25 able supply chain;

1 (B) planning for lifting of lockdowns and
2 reopening of economic and social activities; and

3 (C) mitigating the impacts of lost tourism
4 revenue and other economic damages caused by
5 the pandemic.

6 (11) Since 1966, thousands of Peace Corps vol-
7 unteers have proudly served in the Pacific Islands,
8 building strong people-to-people relationships and
9 demonstrating the United States commitment to
10 peace and development in the region. Prior to the
11 COVID–19 pandemic, the Peace Corps maintained
12 presence in four Pacific Island countries. Peace
13 Corps volunteers continue to be in high demand in
14 the Pacific Islands and have been requested across
15 the region.

16 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 It is the policy of the United States—

18 (1) to develop and commit to a comprehensive,
19 multifaceted, and principled United States policy for
20 the Pacific Islands that—

21 (A) promotes peace and security for all
22 countries through a rules-based regional order
23 that respects the sovereignty and political inde-
24 pendence of all nations;

1 (B) preserves the Pacific Ocean as an open
2 and vibrant corridor for international maritime
3 trade and promotes trade and sustainable devel-
4 opment that supports inclusive economic growth
5 and autonomy for all nations;

6 (C) improves civil society, strengthens
7 democratic governance and the rule of law, and
8 promotes human rights;

9 (D) assists the Pacific Islands in pre-
10 venting and containing the spread of the
11 COVID–19 pandemic and in pursuing long-
12 term economic recovery; and

13 (E) supports existing regional architecture
14 and international norms;

15 (2) to support the vision, values, and objectives
16 of the Pacific Islands Forum and other existing re-
17 gional institutions and frameworks, including—

18 (A) the 2014 Framework for Pacific Re-
19 gionalism;

20 (B) the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional
21 Security; and

22 (C) the Boe Declaration Action Plan;

23 (3) to extend and renew the provisions of the
24 Compacts of Free Association and related United
25 States law that will expire in 2023 for the Republic

1 of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of
2 Micronesia and in 2024 for the Republic of Palau
3 unless they are extended and renewed; and

4 (4) to work closely with United States allies
5 and partners with existing relationships and inter-
6 ests in the Pacific Islands in advancing common
7 goals.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
14 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
15 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
16 Representatives; and

17 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
18 the Committee on Armed Services, and the
19 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
20 Affairs of the Senate.

21 (2) **PACIFIC ISLANDS.**—The terms “Pacific Is-
22 lands” means the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji,
23 the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Mar-
24 shall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
25 the Republic of Nauru, Niue, the Republic of Palau,

1 the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the
2 Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands,
3 the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of
4 Vanuatu.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS; FORM OF**
6 **REPORTS.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS.**—Any
8 reports required to be submitted to the appropriate con-
9 gressional committees under this Act that are subject to
10 deadlines for submission consisting of the same units of
11 time may be consolidated into a single report that is sub-
12 mitted to appropriate congressional committees pursuant
13 to such deadlines and that contains all information re-
14 quired under such reports.

15 (b) **FORM OF REPORTS.**—Each report required by
16 this Act shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
17 contain a classified annex.

18 **TITLE I—DIPLOMATIC PRESEN-**
19 **ENCE AND SECURITY CO-**
20 **OPERATION**

21 **SEC. 101. DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC IS-**
22 **LANDS.**

23 (a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that the Secretary of State should implement a
25 strategy to expand the diplomatic presence of the United

1 States in the Pacific Islands, including by increasing the
2 number of missions and diplomats in the region and by
3 expanding and elevating United States participation in re-
4 gional forums.

5 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
7 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
8 port on the diplomatic presence of the United States in
9 the Pacific Islands, including—

10 (1) a description of gaps in diplomatic presence;

11 (2) a description of limitations of such gaps on
12 United States strategic objectives;

13 (3) a description of the extent of United States
14 membership and participation in regional forums
15 and organizations; and

16 (4) a strategy to expand and elevate diplomatic
17 presence to fill such gaps, including by establishing
18 new missions, expanding participation in regional fo-
19 rums, and elevating United States representation in
20 regional forums.

21 **SEC. 102. MARITIME SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

22 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that the United States should seek to participate in
24 and support efforts to coordinate a regional response to-
25 ward maritime security, including participation by the

1 United States and the Pacific Islands in the Pacific Fu-
2 sion Centre and the Information Fusion Centre.

3 (b) SHIPRIDER AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of
4 State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordi-
5 nation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall
6 develop and implement a plan to expand cross-border mar-
7 itime law enforcement operations (commonly known as
8 “shiprider agreements”) with the Pacific Islands.

9 (c) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of State, in consultation with other Federal
13 agencies as appropriate, shall submit to the appro-
14 priate congressional committees a report on United
15 States efforts to promote maritime security in the
16 Pacific Islands.

17 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
18 required in paragraph (1) shall include—

19 (A) a description of issues and challenges
20 affecting maritime security for the Pacific Is-
21 lands;

22 (B) a description of existing regional ef-
23 forts to promote maritime security, including
24 shiprider agreements and other operations be-

1 between the United States and the Pacific Is-
2 lands;

3 (C) an assessment of areas in which the
4 United States can bolster and contribute to ex-
5 isting regional efforts, including to expand
6 shiprider agreements;

7 (D) a multi-year strategy for the imple-
8 mentation of the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security
9 Initiative in the Pacific Islands, including core
10 objectives; and

11 (E) measures of success for the strategy.

12 (d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each
14 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
15 section.

16 **SEC. 103. INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**
17 **FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

18 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall de-
19 velop and implement a plan to expand coverage of the
20 International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA) pro-
21 gram for the Pacific Islands, including by—

22 (1) expanding coverage of the regional program
23 located in Bangkok, Thailand to the Pacific Islands;
24 or

1 (2) establishing a new regional program for the
2 Pacific Islands.

3 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The plan required
4 by subsection (a) shall include consultation and coordina-
5 tion with existing regional law enforcement entities, in-
6 cluding the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and civil soci-
7 ety, including those focused on human rights and special-
8 izing in victim-centered approaches, and take into consid-
9 eration costs of implementation, effectiveness, and capac-
10 ity of the Pacific Islands to participate in the ILEA pro-
11 gram.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
14 to the appropriate congressional committees a report that
15 contains the plan developed under this section.

16 **SEC. 104. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THE PACIFIC IS-**
17 **LANDS.**

18 (a) STRATEGY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in
20 coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall de-
21 velop and implement a strategy to provide assist-
22 ance, including through the programs and authori-
23 ties described in paragraph (2), to the Pacific Is-
24 lands for purposes of—

1 (A) enhancing law enforcement, counter-
2 narcotics operations, and maritime enforcement
3 capabilities; and

4 (B) building the capacity of local civilian
5 and national security institutions to provide es-
6 sential services to civilian populations and to re-
7 spond to humanitarian challenges.

8 (2) PROGRAMS AND AUTHORITIES DE-
9 SCRIBED.—The programs and authorities described
10 in this paragraph are the following:

11 (A) The International Military Education
12 and Training program.

13 (B) The Foreign Military Financing pro-
14 gram.

15 (C) The Overseas Humanitarian Disaster
16 and Civic Aid program.

17 (D) The authority to build the capacity of
18 foreign security forces under section 333 of title
19 10, United States Code.

20 (E) The authority to provide excess de-
21 fense articles under section 516 of the Foreign
22 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

23 (3) NATIONAL POLICE FORCES AND COAST
24 GUARDS.—The national police forces and coast
25 guards of the Pacific Islands shall be eligible to re-

1 ceive assistance under the programs and authorities
2 described in paragraph (2) for purposes of the strat-
3 egy required by this subsection.

4 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
5 quired by subsection (a) shall seek to preserve peace and
6 regional stability in the Pacific Islands and take into con-
7 sideration and seek to build upon but not duplicate exist-
8 ing assistance provided by United States allies and part-
9 ners.

10 (c) REPORT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to the appropriate congressional
14 committees a report that contains the strategy devel-
15 oped under this section.

16 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
17 required by paragraph (1) shall identify—

18 (A) security challenges to the Pacific Is-
19 lands;

20 (B) demonstrated needs of the Pacific Is-
21 lands for assistance, including excess defense
22 articles, to fulfill such needs;

23 (C) existing assistance programs and ef-
24 forts in the Pacific Islands, including programs

1 and efforts provided by United States allies and
2 partners;

3 (D) programs for training and sustainment
4 with respect to such excess defense articles;

5 (E) national police forces and coast guards
6 of the Pacific Islands receiving assistance under
7 the strategy;

8 (F) a plan to provide humanitarian assist-
9 ance and disaster relief, if necessary, through
10 the Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic
11 Aid program; and

12 (G) measures of success for the strategy.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated \$75,000,000 for each
15 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
16 section.

17 **SEC. 105. TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THE PACIFIC IS-**
18 **LANDS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
20 nation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall
21 develop and implement an interagency strategy to combat
22 counterfeiting, cybercrime, crimes associated with illegal,
23 unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug traf-
24 ficking, sex trafficking, and other forms of transnational
25 crime affecting the Pacific Islands.

1 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy required
2 under this section shall be coordinated with existing re-
3 gional efforts and regional institutions and frameworks,
4 including the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and the Pa-
5 cific Transnational Crime Network.

6 (c) REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary shall submit to the appropriate congressional
10 committees a report that contains the strategy devel-
11 oped under this section.

12 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
13 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
14 fication of—

15 (A) threats and challenges of transnational
16 crime in the Pacific Islands;

17 (B) existing law enforcement programs and
18 efforts in the Pacific Islands, including pro-
19 grams and efforts provided by United States al-
20 lies and partners; and

21 (C) objectives, means of implementation,
22 and measures of success for the strategy.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each

1 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
2 section.

3 **TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT** 4 **INITIATIVES**

5 **SEC. 201. USAID PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States
8 Agency for International Development shall submit to the
9 appropriate congressional committees a report on—

10 (1) the Agency’s presence, staffing, program-
11 ming, and resourcing of operations in the Pacific Is-
12 lands;

13 (2) gaps in such presence, including unfilled
14 full-time equivalent positions, limitations and chal-
15 lenges due to staffing and support of Pacific Islands
16 operations from the USAID office in Manila, and
17 gaps in programming and resourcing;

18 (3) limitations imposed by such gaps on United
19 States strategic objectives; and

20 (4) a strategy to expand such presence, includ-
21 ing by establishing new missions or offices.

22 **SEC. 202. TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PACIFIC IS-** 23 **LANDS.**

24 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that the United States should expand bilateral and

1 multilateral trade with the Pacific Islands to promote de-
2 velopment and mutual prosperity, particularly through the
3 negotiation of trade and investment framework agree-
4 ments with the Pacific Islands.

5 (b) STRATEGY.—The United States Trade Rep-
6 resentative shall develop and implement a strategy to ex-
7 pand and diversify trade and promote regional develop-
8 ment with the Pacific Islands, including through negoti-
9 ating trade and investment framework agreements and
10 free trade agreements, extending additional trade pref-
11 erences, and other means.

12 (c) REPORT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
15 nually thereafter, the Trade Representative shall
16 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
17 a report that contains the strategy developed under
18 this section.

19 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
20 required by paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) include a plan to negotiate and enter
22 into trade and investment framework agree-
23 ments and free trade agreements with the Pa-
24 cific Islands, as appropriate; and

1 (B) identify opportunities to work with ex-
2 isting regional frameworks to increase trade
3 and economic integration with the Pacific Is-
4 lands.

5 **SEC. 203. TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR THE**
6 **PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
8 States Agency for International Development shall develop
9 and implement a trade capacity building initiative for the
10 Pacific Islands.

11 (b) CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.—The initiative devel-
12 oped under this section shall be coordinated with existing
13 regional efforts and regional institutions and frameworks.

14 (c) ELEMENTS.—The initiative developed under this
15 section shall—

16 (1) include an initial assessment of—

17 (A) economic opportunities for which
18 United States businesses, or those of other like-
19 minded partners, would be competitive; and

20 (B) legal, economic, governance,
21 infrastructural, or other hurdles limiting United
22 States investment in the Pacific Islands;

23 (2) develop human and institutional capacity
24 and infrastructure across multiple sectors of econo-

1 mies, including digital connectivity and cybersecu-
2 rity;

3 (3) assist with development and implementation
4 of regional and international trade agreements, in-
5 cluding the World Trade Organization’s Agreement
6 on Trade Facilitation and facilitation of intra-re-
7 gional trade flows;

8 (4) support women-owned enterprises and gen-
9 der equality; and

10 (5) promote government policies that encourage
11 free and fair competition, sound governance, and
12 business environments conducive to economic
13 growth.

14 (d) REPORT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
17 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate congres-
18 sional committees a report that contains the initia-
19 tive developed under this section.

20 (2) UPDATE.—The Administrator shall submit
21 to the appropriate congressional committees an up-
22 dated report under paragraph (1) not later than
23 three years after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$400,000,000 for each
3 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
4 section.

5 **SEC. 204. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NAT-**
6 **URAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMER-**
7 **GENCY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS IN**
8 **THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
10 States Agency for International Development shall develop
11 and implement an education and training program on nat-
12 ural disaster prevention and preparedness for emergency
13 management professionals in the Pacific Islands.

14 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program devel-
15 oped under this section shall seek to—

16 (1) leverage nongovernmental expertise in the
17 United States, including from institutions of higher
18 education and nonprofit organizations;

19 (2) integrate with and assist in the coordination
20 of existing disaster mitigation and response plans in
21 the region; and

22 (3) cooperate with existing efforts by United
23 States allies and partners in the region.

24 (c) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
3 ministrators shall submit to the appropriate congress-
4 sional committees a report on the program developed
5 under this section.

6 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
7 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
8 fication of—

9 (A) disaster risks in the Pacific Islands;

10 (B) existing efforts by United States allies
11 and partners to provide assistance and training
12 for natural disaster preparedness and emer-
13 gency management; and

14 (C) objectives, means of implementation,
15 and measures of success for the program.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
18 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
19 section.

20 **SEC. 205. PEACE CORPS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that—

23 (1) the presence of the Peace Corps in the Pa-
24 cific Islands should be expanded and that the Peace
25 Corps should reopen its programs in as many of the

1 Pacific Islands as possible, including where it has
2 previously operated but has suspended operations;
3 and

4 (2) consulting like-minded regional allies and
5 partners, such as Australia and New Zealand, is
6 crucial for identifying and overcoming challenges for
7 increased Peace Corps presence in the Pacific Is-
8 lands.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Peace
11 Corps shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees a report on—

13 (1) the presence of the Peace Corps in the Pa-
14 cific Islands; and

15 (2) a strategy to expand such presence, as ap-
16 propriate, including—

17 (A) outcomes of consultations with regional
18 allies and partners on areas in which coopera-
19 tion can reduce factors limiting Peace Corps ex-
20 pansion; and

21 (B) timelines for expanding and reopening
22 programs in the Pacific Islands.

23 **SEC. 206. PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
25 States Agency for International Development, in coordina-

1 tion with the Secretary of State, shall develop and imple-
2 ment a strategy to improve public health in the Pacific
3 Islands, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
5 oped under this section shall be coordinated with existing
6 regional efforts and regional institutions and frameworks.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate congres-
11 sional committees a report that contains the strategy
12 developed under this section.

13 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
14 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
15 fication of—

16 (A) health care challenges, including health
17 systems strengthening, immunization, non-com-
18 municable diseases, and gender-based violence,
19 in the Pacific Islands;

20 (B) public health challenges and needs re-
21 lated to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pacific
22 Islands; and

23 (C) objectives, means of implementation,
24 and measures of success for the strategy.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each
3 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
4 section.

5 **SEC. 207. EDUCATION COOPERATION BETWEEN THE**
6 **UNITED STATES AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
8 States Agency for International Development shall develop
9 and implement a strategy to improve educational outcomes
10 in the Pacific Islands and increase educational exchange
11 between the United States and the Pacific Islands.

12 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
13 oped under this section shall be coordinated with edu-
14 cation initiatives in the Pacific Islands, including the Pa-
15 cific Regional Education Framework.

16 (c) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
19 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate congress-
20 sional committees a report that contains the strategy
21 developed under this section.

22 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
23 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
24 fication of—

1 (A) education challenges in the Pacific Is-
2 lands; and

3 (B) objectives, means of implementation,
4 and measures of success for the strategy.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each
7 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
8 section.

9 **SEC. 208. CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
11 States Agency for International Development shall develop
12 and implement a strategy to provide assistance to the Pa-
13 cific Islands to address climate change, with emphasis on
14 coastal zone management, marine waste management,
15 food security, and water resource management.

16 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
17 oped under this section shall be coordinated with regional
18 organizations and frameworks for climate adaptation in
19 the Pacific Islands.

20 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
22 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
23 that contains the strategy developed under this section.

24 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each

1 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
2 section.

3 **SEC. 209. CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND EN-**
4 **ERGY SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
6 States Agency for International Development, in coordina-
7 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall develop and
8 implement a strategy to invest in and improve critical in-
9 frastructure, including transport connectivity, information
10 and communications technology, and energy security and
11 access to electricity in the Pacific Islands, with an empha-
12 sis on climate resilient infrastructure and clean energy
13 programs.

14 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
15 oped under this section shall be coordinated with regional
16 organizations and frameworks for development in the Pa-
17 cific Islands.

18 (c) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—
19 The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the representa-
20 tives of the United States to the World Bank Group, the
21 International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development
22 Bank to use the voice and vote of the United States to
23 support climate resilient infrastructure projects in the Pa-
24 cific Islands.

25 (d) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
3 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development shall submit to the appro-
5 priate congressional committees a report that con-
6 tains the strategy developed under this section.

7 (2) UPDATE.—The Administrator shall submit
8 to the appropriate congressional committees an up-
9 dated report under paragraph (1) not later than
10 three years after the date of the enactment of this
11 Act.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000 for each
14 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
15 section.

16 **SEC. 210. COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-**
17 **CIES AND COOPERATION AND PARTICIPA-**
18 **TION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL UNITED**
19 **STATES ENTITIES.**

20 In carrying out sections 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, and
21 209, the Administrator of the United States Agency for
22 International Development shall—

23 (1) coordinate with existing programs and ef-
24 forts of relevant agencies of the United States Gov-
25 ernment, especially with regards to the Republic of

1 the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micro-
2 nesia, and the Republic of Palau; and

3 (2) seek the cooperation and participation of
4 United States private sector, United States non-
5 governmental organizations, and United States insti-
6 tutions of higher education.

7 **TITLE III—PROMOTION OF** 8 **SHARED VALUES**

9 **SEC. 301. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN THE PACIFIC IS-** 10 **LANDS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
12 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-
13 cy for International Development, shall develop and imple-
14 ment a strategy for routine professional exchanges and
15 other activities to strengthen the press and promote press
16 freedom and investigative journalism capacity with jour-
17 nalists and media professionals in the Pacific Islands and
18 to counter misinformation and disinformation.

19 (b) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
23 gressional committees a report that contains the
24 strategy developed under this section.

1 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
2 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
3 fication of—

4 (A) challenges to freedom of expression, in-
5 cluding for members of the press, in the Pacific
6 Islands; and

7 (B) objectives, means of implementation,
8 and measures of success for the strategy.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
11 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
12 section.

13 **SEC. 302. U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer of the
15 U.S. Agency for Global Media shall develop and implement
16 a plan to provide expanded media content to the Pacific
17 Islands and partner with journalists in the Pacific Islands.

18 (b) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Chief Executive Officer shall submit to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees a report that con-
23 tains the plan developed under this section.

24 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
25 required by paragraph (1) shall include—

1 (A) an assessment of facilities and costs to
2 expand coverage to the Pacific Islands, includ-
3 ing options to utilize Voice of America affiliates;

4 (B) an identification of objectives, means
5 of implementation, and measures of success for
6 the plan; and

7 (C) an assessment on the scope and impact
8 of media training efforts and people-to-people
9 engagements organized by other countries for
10 the Pacific Islands.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of
13 the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this sec-
14 tion.

15 **SEC. 303. GENDER EQUALITY.**

16 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress affirms the
17 importance of gender equality and women’s empowerment
18 to United States policy in the Pacific Islands and recog-
19 nizes the work of the existing regional frameworks and
20 platforms on gender equality.

21 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
22 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
23 national Development shall—

24 (1) develop and implement an initiative to en-
25 courage and support efforts by the Pacific Islands to

1 reduce and combat gender-based violence, in coordi-
2 nation with existing efforts by United States allies
3 and partners as well as regional organizations; and

4 (2) promote gender equality in political, eco-
5 nomic, social, and cultural development programs in
6 the Pacific Islands.

7 **SEC. 304. PACIFIC ISLANDS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
8 **INITIATIVE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-
10 velop and implement a program to promote educational
11 and professional development for young adult leaders and
12 professionals in the Pacific Islands with a demonstrated
13 passion to contribute to the continued development of the
14 Pacific Islands.

15 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program devel-
16 oped under this section may be carried out through—

17 (1) grants provided on a competitive basis to
18 qualified organizations with demonstrated expertise
19 relating to the Pacific Islands;

20 (2) grants in amounts not to exceed \$50,000
21 provided on a competitive basis to qualified young
22 leaders from the Pacific Islands for the purpose of
23 carrying out projects dedicated to the improvement
24 of their communities in the Pacific Islands;

1 (3) regional workshops and professional and
2 academic fellowships; and

3 (4) people-to-people exchanges.

4 (c) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
8 gressional committees a report on the program de-
9 veloped under this section.

10 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
11 required by paragraph (1) shall include an identi-
12 fication of objectives, means of implementation, and
13 measures of success for the program.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
16 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
17 section.

18 **SEC. 305. CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOP-**
19 **MENT.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
21 States Agency for International Development shall develop
22 and implement a program to promote the development of
23 civil society in the Pacific Islands for the purpose of—

24 (1) strengthening independent media and press
25 freedom;

1 (2) empowering citizens to freely organize and
2 communicate, including through existing and new
3 civic spaces;

4 (3) strengthening rule of law and increasing
5 government accountability; and

6 (4) promoting democratic political culture.

7 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The program developed
9 under this section shall be carried out in consulta-
10 tion with local civil society groups in the Pacific Is-
11 lands, including civil society groups that represent or
12 work with traditionally marginalized groups.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—The program developed under
14 this section may be carried out through—

15 (A) technical assistance and support, in-
16 cluding through training and professional and
17 academic fellowships;

18 (B) grants in amounts not to exceed
19 \$50,000 provided on a competitive basis to
20 qualified civil society organizations for the pur-
21 pose of carrying out projects and programs
22 dedicated to the objectives identified in sub-
23 section (a); and

24 (C) grants provided on a competitive basis
25 to qualified United States organizations with

1 demonstrated expertise in civil society develop-
2 ment and the Pacific Islands.

3 (c) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
6 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
7 national Development shall submit to the appro-
8 priate congressional committees a report on the pro-
9 gram developed under this section.

10 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
11 required by paragraph (1) shall include—

12 (A) an assessment of the strength and via-
13 bility of civil society sectors of the Pacific Is-
14 lands, including legal, organizational capacity,
15 financial, advocacy, services, infrastructure, and
16 public image sectors; and

17 (B) an identification of objectives and
18 measures of success for the program.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each
21 of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out this
22 section.

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