

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 562

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2025

Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Ways and Means, 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 advance 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 the “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. Definitions.
 Sec. 3. Authority to consolidate reports; form of reports.

TITLE I—POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND REGIONALISM

- Sec. 101. Findings.
 Sec. 102. Statement of policy.
 Sec. 103. Strategy for Pacific Islands Partnership.
 Sec. 104. Staffing.
 Sec. 105. Strategic communications in the Pacific Islands.
 Sec. 106. Assistance with international organizations.
 Sec. 107. Allies and partners in the Pacific Islands region.
 Sec. 108. Extension of diplomatic immunities to the Pacific Islands Forum.
 Sec. 109. Ambassador's Self-Help Small Grants Program.
 Sec. 110. Establishing a senior official for the Compacts of Free Association at the Department of State.

TITLE II—PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 201. Assistance to improve public health outcomes and build public health capacity.
 Sec. 202. Assistance to promote freedom of the press.
 Sec. 203. Indo-Pacific Media Advancement Program.
 Sec. 204. Program to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals.
 Sec. 205. Education assistance.
 Sec. 206. People-to-people ties.
 Sec. 207. Pacific Islands TRADES Program.
 Sec. 208. Investment agreements.
 Sec. 209. Committee on Engagement with Civil Society Organizations in the Pacific Islands.
 Sec. 210. American Spaces in the Pacific Islands.

TITLE III—PEACE AND SECURITY

- Sec. 301. Building the capacity of local civilian and national security institutions.
 Sec. 302. Reporting.
 Sec. 303. International Law Enforcement Academy.

TITLE IV—RESOURCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 401. Trade development with the Pacific Islands.
 Sec. 402. Trade capacity building initiative for the Pacific Islands.
 Sec. 403. United States Commercial Service.

TITLE V—ENVIRONMENTAL AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

- Sec. 501. Assistance to enhance preparedness for and resilience to natural disasters and other emergencies.
 Sec. 502. Climate resilient infrastructure.

TITLE VI—OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT

Sec. 601. Oceans management.

Sec. 602. Sea level rise.

Sec. 603. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

TITLE VII—TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

Sec. 701. Digital access and inclusion.

Sec. 702. Cybersecurity.

TITLE VIII—REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS
PARTNERSHIP AND AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 801. Report on the Strategy for Pacific Islands Partnership.

Sec. 802. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “ap-
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
7 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
8 of Representatives; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
10 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
11 Senate.

12 (2) PACIFIC ISLANDS.—The terms “Pacific Is-
13 lands” means the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji,
14 the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Mar-
15 shall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
16 the Republic of Nauru, Niue, the Republic of Palau,
17 the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the
18 Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands,

1 the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of
2 Vanuatu.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS; FORM OF**
4 **REPORTS.**

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

13 (b) FORM OF REPORTS.—Each report required to be
14 submitted to the appropriate congressional committees
15 under this Act and any consolidated report described in
16 subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
17 may contain a classified annex.

18 **TITLE I—POLITICAL**
19 **LEADERSHIP AND REGIONALISM**

20 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

21 Congress finds the following:

22 (1) The Pacific Islands—

23 (A) are home to roughly 12,300,000 resi-
24 dents;

1 (B) are spread across an expanse of the
2 Pacific Ocean equivalent to 15 percent of the
3 Earth's surface, including the three subregions
4 of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia; and

5 (C) face shared challenges in development
6 that have distinct local contexts, including
7 unique environmental challenges and rising sea
8 levels, geographic distances from major mar-
9 kets, and vulnerability to external shocks such
10 as natural disasters in both slow and sudden
11 onset situations.

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

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

21 (A) protecting regional peace and security
22 that fully respects the sovereignty of all nations;

23 (B) advancing economic prosperity free
24 from coercion and unfair practices through
25 trade and sustainable development; and

1 (C) supporting democracy, good govern-
2 ance, the rule of law, and human rights and
3 fundamental freedoms.

4 (4) Successive United States administrations
5 have recognized the importance of the Pacific region,
6 including the Pacific Islands, in high-level strategic
7 documents, including the following:

8 (A) The 2015 National Security Strategy,
9 which first declared the rebalance to Asia and
10 the Pacific, affirmed the United States as a Pa-
11 cific nation, and paved the way for subsequent
12 United States engagement with the Pacific Is-
13 lands, including several new policies focused on
14 conservation and environmental resilience an-
15 nounced in September 2016.

16 (B) The 2017 National Security Strategy,
17 which includes a commitment to “shore up
18 fragile partner states in the Pacific Islands re-
19 gion to reduce their vulnerability to economic
20 fluctuations and natural disasters”.

21 (C) The 2019 Indo-Pacific Strategy Re-
22 port, which identified the Pacific Islands as
23 “critical to U.S. strategy because of our shared
24 values, interests, and commitments” and com-
25 mitted the United States to “building capacity

1 and resilience to address maritime security; Ille-
2 gal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing; drug
3 trafficking; and resilience to address climate
4 change and disaster response”.

5 (D) The 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy Re-
6 port, which recognized the need to engage fur-
7 ther with the Pacific Islands on shared security
8 goals.

9 (E) The 2022 Strategy for Pacific Island
10 Partnership, which outlined goals and methods
11 for deepening the United States partnerships
12 with Pacific Island nations.

13 (F) The 2022 National Security Strategy,
14 which identified the Pacific Islands as an area
15 of particular focus for expansion of regional
16 diplomatic, development, and economic engage-
17 ment in the broader Indo-Pacific.

18 (5) The United States has deepened its diplo-
19 matic engagement with the Pacific Islands through
20 several recent initiatives, including—

21 (A) the Pacific Pledge, which provided an
22 additional \$100,000,000 in 2019 and
23 \$200,000,000 in 2020, in addition to the for-
24 eign assistance that the United States provided
25 annually to the region, to support shared prior-

ities in economic and human development, environmental resilience, and more;

(B) the Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative launched in March 2021 to strengthen United States collaboration with island countries and territories, including in the Pacific Islands, on COVID–19 economic challenges, long-term economic development, climate change, and other shared interests;

(C) the declaration on U.S.-Pacific Partnership of 2022 in which the United States and the Pacific Islands resolved to strengthen their partnership, bolstering Pacific regionalism;

(D) the Partners in the Blue Pacific Initiative, a new initiative, to increase diplomatic engagement and coordination in the region;

(E) the establishment of a U.S.-Pacific Islands Summit held in Washington, DC in 2022 and 2023; and

(F) the increase in the total amount of United States foreign assistance provided to the Pacific Islands, from \$302,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 to \$466,100,000 in fiscal year 2023.

1 (6) The Boe Declaration on Regional Security,
2 adopted in 2018 by leaders of the Pacific Islands
3 Forum, the central multilateral organization of the
4 Pacific Islands and partners, affirmed that climate
5 change “remains the single greatest threat to the
6 livelihoods, security, and well-being of the peoples of
7 the Pacific” and asserted “the sovereign right of
8 every Member to conduct its national affairs free of
9 external interference and coercion”.

10 (7) The Asian Development Bank has estimated
11 that the Pacific Islands region requires upwards of
12 \$2,800,000,000 a year in investment through 2030,
13 in addition to \$300,000,000 a year for climate miti-
14 gation and adaptation over the same period.

15 (8) Since 1966, thousands of Peace Corps vol-
16 unteers have proudly served in the Pacific Islands,
17 building strong people-to-people relationships and
18 partnerships demonstrating the United States com-
19 mitment to peace and sustainable development in the
20 region, including supporting education, health, and
21 economic development initiatives. Since having to
22 suspend operations during the COVID–19 pandemic,
23 the Peace Corps has reopened its posts in Fiji,
24 Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu and has signed a
25 Memorandum of Understanding with Palau regard-

1 ing its intent to reopen that post by the end of
2 2025. Peace Corps volunteers continue to be in high
3 demand in the Pacific Islands and have been re-
4 quested across the region.

5 **SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 It is the policy of the United States—

7 (1) to articulate and commit to a comprehen-
8 sive, multifaceted, and principled United States pol-
9 icy in the Pacific Islands that—

10 (A) promotes peace, security, and pros-
11 perity for all countries through a rules-based
12 regional order that respects the sovereignty,
13 self-determination, and political independence of
14 all nations;

15 (B) preserves the Pacific Ocean as an open
16 and vibrant corridor for international maritime
17 trade and promotes trade and sustainable devel-
18 opment that supports inclusive economic growth
19 and autonomy for all nations and addresses so-
20 cioeconomic and environmental challenges re-
21 lated to public health, education, renewable en-
22 ergy, digital connectivity, and more;

23 (C) supports regional efforts to strengthen
24 resilience to natural disasters and through re-
25 sponsible stewardship of natural resources and

1 the needs for collective action to mitigate its
2 impacts and build resilience;

3 (D) improves civil society, strengthens
4 democratic governance and the rule of law, and
5 promotes human rights and the preservation of
6 the region's unique cultural heritages; and

7 (E) supports existing regional architecture
8 and the international rules-based order and
9 principles of international law;

10 (2) to support the vision, values, and objectives
11 of existing regional multilateral institutions and
12 frameworks, such as the Pacific Islands Forum and
13 the Pacific Community, including—

14 (A) the 2000 Biketawa Declaration;

15 (B) the 2014 Framework for Pacific Re-
16 gionalism;

17 (C) the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional
18 Security;

19 (D) the Boe Declaration Action Plan; and

20 (E) the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific
21 Continent; and

22 (3) to work closely with United States allies
23 and partners with existing relationships and inter-
24 ests in the Pacific Islands, including Australia, New
25 Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the United

1 Kingdom, France, Germany, and India, in advancing
2 common goals.

3 **SEC. 103. STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2027,
5 and every 4 years thereafter, the President shall submit
6 to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to
7 be known as the “Strategy for Pacific Islands Partner-
8 ship” (in this section referred to as the “Strategy”).

9 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The Strategy shall
10 include the following:

11 (1) A description of overarching goals for the
12 United States-Pacific Island Partnership.

13 (2) A description of measurable objectives for
14 United States engagement in the Pacific Islands.

15 (3) An assessment of threats to the Pacific Is-
16 lands region.

17 (4) A plan to address the security of the Pacific
18 Islands region.

19 (5) A strategy to invest in and improve critical
20 infrastructure.

21 (6) A regional Development Cooperation Strat-
22 egy formulated by the United States Agency for
23 International Development.

24 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the Strategy, the
25 President should consult, as appropriate, with—

1 (1) regional organizations, such as the Pacific
2 Islands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development
3 Program, the Pacific Community and Secretariat for
4 the Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

5 (2) the countries of the Pacific Islands;

6 (3) stakeholders such as civil society, faith-
7 based organizations, and non-state actors;

8 (4) United States allies and partners; and

9 (5) United States Pacific territories and States.

10 (d) COORDINATION.—In implementing the Strategy,
11 the President shall coordinate with the heads of other Fed-
12 eral agencies, including the Secretary of State, the Sec-
13 retary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce,
14 the Administrator of United States Agency for Inter-
15 national Development, the Secretary of Defense, and the
16 United States Trade Representative.

17 **SEC. 104. STAFFING.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Ad-
19 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
20 Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chief
21 Executive Officer of the United States International De-
22 velopment Finance Corporation shall endeavor to increase
23 the number of staff working on Pacific Islands issues and
24 in the Pacific Islands to carry out this Act.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State and
2 the Secretary of Commerce are authorized to hire locally-
3 employed staff in the Pacific Islands to promote increased
4 diplomatic engagement and economic and commercial en-
5 gagement between the United States and the Pacific Is-
6 lands.

7 **SEC. 105. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS IN THE PACIFIC**
8 **ISLANDS.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the
11 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
12 national Development and the Secretary of Defense, shall
13 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a
14 strategy for strategic communications in the Pacific Is-
15 lands, including—

16 (1) a review of such communications, including
17 United States interagency and multilateral efforts
18 with like-minded partners;

19 (2) an assessment of the resources being used
20 for such communications, including the number of
21 staff devoted to such communications, the location
22 of such staff, and the funds appropriated for such
23 communications;

24 (3) an assessment of any additional resources
25 needed for such communications;

1 (4) an assessment of how United States engage-
2 ment is being perceived in the Pacific Islands and
3 how such perception might be improved;

4 (5) an assessment of how engagement by other
5 actors is being perceived in the Pacific Islands; and

6 (6) specific recommendations for the expansion
7 and improvement of such communications.

8 **SEC. 106. ASSISTANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
11 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-
12 cy for International Development, the Secretary of the
13 Treasury, and the Chief Executive Officer of the United
14 States International Development Finance Corporation, as
15 appropriate, shall provide support and technical assistance
16 to Pacific Islands countries to assist such countries to ac-
17 cess existing development support and funding from inter-
18 national organizations, such as the United Nations and
19 multilateral financial institutions. Such support and tech-
20 nical assistance may include—

21 (1) technical support navigating grant pro-
22 grams, international investment mechanisms, and
23 other opportunities offered by international organi-
24 zations for sustainable development;

1 (2) support receiving necessary certifications
2 and complying with technical requirements to par-
3 ticipate in international financial mechanisms from
4 which Pacific Islands countries may benefit; and

5 (3) support complying with reporting and over-
6 sight requirements for programs conducted by inter-
7 national organizations.

8 (b) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

9 The Secretary of the Treasury should direct the represent-
10 atives of the United States to the World Bank Group, the
11 International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development
12 Bank to use the voice and vote of the United States to
13 support resilient infrastructure projects and to build envi-
14 ronmental resilience in the Pacific Islands.

15 **SEC. 107. ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**
16 **REGION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation
18 with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland
19 Security, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator
20 of the United States Agency for International Develop-
21 ment, the Secretary of Defense, the United States Trade
22 Representative, and any other relevant official, should con-
23 sult and coordinate with allies and partners in the Pacific
24 Islands region, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan,
25 South Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, France, Ger-

1 many, and India, and regional institutions such as the Pa-
2 cific Islands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development Pro-
3 gram, the Pacific Community and Secretariat for the Pa-
4 cific Regional Environment Programme, with respect to
5 programs to provide assistance to the Pacific Islands, in-
6 cluding programs established by this Act, including for
7 purposes of—

8 (1) deconflicting programming;

9 (2) ensuring that any programming does not
10 adversely affect the absorptive capacity of the Pa-
11 cific Islands;

12 (3) ensuring complementary programs benefit
13 the Pacific Islands to the maximum extent prac-
14 ticable; and

15 (4) ensuring that programming aligns with re-
16 gional development goals, as outlined by documents
17 such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Con-
18 tinent in order to support sustainable development
19 and promote a shared vision for the future of the
20 Pacific Islands.

21 (b) FORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.—The Presi-
22 dent shall endeavor to establish a formal consultative proc-
23 ess with such regional allies and partners to coordinate
24 with respect to such programs and future-years program-
25 ming.

1 **SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO THE**
2 **PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM.**

3 The provisions of the International Organizations Im-
4 munities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to
5 the Pacific Islands Forum in the same manner, to the
6 same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such
7 provisions may be extended to a public international orga-
8 nization in which the United States participates pursuant
9 to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Con-
10 gress authorizing such participation or making an appro-
11 priation for such participation.

12 **SEC. 109. AMBASSADOR'S SELF-HELP SMALL GRANTS PRO-**
13 **GRAM.**

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

16 (1) at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders
17 Meeting, the United States Government announced
18 that the United States Agency for International De-
19 velopment and the Department of State are working
20 together to set up an Ambassador's Self-Help Small
21 Grants Program that will provide targeted funding
22 for small-scale projects and increase the flexibility of
23 United States funding resources across the Pacific;
24 and

1 (2) this program will support community-led
2 initiatives, filling a gap by providing more accessible
3 resources for small projects that address local needs.

4 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and Ad-
5 ministrators of the United States Agency for International
6 Development shall continue to administer and implement
7 the Ambassador’s Self-Help Small Grants Program.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated \$650,000 for each of the
10 fiscal years 2026 through 2033 to carry out this section.

11 **SEC. 110. ESTABLISHING A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR THE**
12 **COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AT THE**
13 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall des-
15 ignate a senior official at the Department of State respon-
16 sible for administering the Compacts of Free Association
17 (in this section referred to as the “Compacts”) at the De-
18 partment of State (in this section referred to as the “Sen-
19 ior Official”). The Senior Official shall report to the As-
20 sistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Af-
21 fairs.

22 (b) DUTIES.—The Senior Official shall—

23 (1) be responsible for the conduct of United
24 States foreign policy with respect to the countries
25 affiliated with the United States Government under

1 the Compacts, namely the freely associated states
2 of—

3 (A) the Republic of Palau;

4 (B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

5 and

6 (C) the Federated States of Micronesia;

7 (2) assist the Assistant Secretary of State for
8 East Asian and Pacific Affairs in providing overall
9 direction, coordination, and supervision of inter-
10 departmental activities of the United States Govern-
11 ment in these countries, including ensuring the time-
12 ly transfer of assistance and provision of benefits
13 through the United States Department of the Inte-
14 rior, as specified in the Compacts;

15 (3) oversee and evaluate the adequacy and ef-
16 fectiveness of United States policy with respect to
17 these countries as well as of the plans, programs, re-
18 sources, and performance for implementing that pol-
19 icy, including programs and other activities imple-
20 mented by the Department of the Interior;

21 (4) directly supervise the policy and operations
22 of the Compacts and provide guidance to relevant
23 United States missions within the Indo-Pacific re-
24 gion;

1 (5) ensure the provision of an adequate, regular
 2 flow of information to posts abroad on United States
 3 Government policies, policy deliberations, and diplo-
 4 matic exchanges in Washington, D.C.; and

5 (6) ensure the continuity of implementation of
 6 commitments and Compact obligations and benefits,
 7 consistent with United States national interests in
 8 the Indo-Pacific region.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 10 authorized to be appropriated \$250,000 to support the
 11 Senior Official in the conduct and discharge of the duties
 12 described in subsection (b).

13 **TITLE II—PEOPLE-CENTERED** 14 **DEVELOPMENT**

15 **SEC. 201. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH OUT-** 16 **COMES AND BUILD PUBLIC HEALTH CAPAC-** 17 **ITY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, is author-
 19 ized to assist the Pacific Islands to improve public health
 20 outcomes and build public health capacity.

21 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities authorized
 22 to be carried out under subsection (a) may include—

23 (1) programming, including grants, cooperative
 24 agreements, and other forms of assistance, as appro-
 25 priate, to assist in building local capacity to ensure

1 that Pacific Islanders have access to the essential
2 health services they need to thrive and to address—

3 (A) maternal and child health;

4 (B) family planning and reproductive
5 health;

6 (C) gender-based violence;

7 (D) food security and nutrition;

8 (E) noncommunicable diseases;

9 (F) communicable diseases, including ne-
10 glected tropical diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/
11 AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, and
12 zoonotic and emerging infectious disease
13 threats;

14 (G) equitable access to quality, essential,
15 and affordable health services and quality-as-
16 sured, safe, effective medical products and their
17 appropriate use; and

18 (H) water, sanitation, and hygiene;

19 (2) technical assistance to strengthen local
20 health system capacity and resilience in the areas of
21 good leadership and governance, sustainable financ-
22 ing, interoperable information systems and high
23 quality data for decision making, efficient medical
24 products and supply chain systems, and manage-
25 ment of human resources for health, with special at-

(4) investment in and improvement of critical infrastructure, including hospitals, health clinics and pharmacies in the Pacific Islands.

16 SEC. 202. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF THE
17 PRESS.

22 (1) Media capacity building and education, in-
23 cluding to—

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1 (B) collaborate with local government and
2 nongovernmental entities to promote media lit-
3 eracy and integrate media literacy into primary
4 education curricula in local languages and dia-
5 lects to ensure accessibility; and

6 (C) routinize funding for professional pro-
7 grams, such as the Pacific Islands Journalism
8 Reporting Tour, that bring media professionals
9 from the Pacific Islands to the United States.

10 (2) Strengthening and diversifying broadcast
11 content tailored to local audiences, including content
12 broadcast in the local vernacular.

13 (3) Investing in connectivity infrastructure with
14 an emphasis on broadcast radio and transmission.

15 **SEC. 203. INDO-PACIFIC MEDIA ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall con-
17 tinue to implement and develop the Indo-Pacific Media
18 Advancement Program to promote a robust, free media
19 in the Pacific Islands and strengthen the capacity of
20 media outlets and journalists in the Indo-Pacific region
21 to develop their business strategies, enhance their ability
22 to conduct independent journalism, and counter
23 disinformation.

24 (b) GOALS.—The goals of the Indo-Pacific Media Ad-
25 vancement Program shall be to accomplish the following:

1 (1) Increase the understanding of prevalent
2 misinformation and disinformation narratives.

3 (2) Develop the capacity of professional, inde-
4 pendent media organizations and journalists to de-
5 velop and implement media sustainability plans, im-
6 prove business operations, and increase the quality
7 and quantity of published information and news.

8 (3) Expand media outlets' access to resources,
9 content-sharing agreements, and equipment, so that
10 such outlets can provide quality content.

11 (4) Develop the technical and investigative
12 skills of journalists to conduct pre-bunking, fact-
13 checking, and debunking to address misinformation
14 and disinformation.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in
17 coordination with the heads of other Federal departments
18 or agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appro-
19 priate congressional committees a report on the Indo-Pa-
20 cific Media Advancement Program and the engagement of
21 the United States with the free media in the Pacific Is-
22 lands, including the following:

23 (1) An overview of the media and journalism
24 landscape in the Pacific Islands.

1 (2) A review of the efforts and planned efforts
2 of the United States Government to strengthen free
3 and independent media in the Pacific Islands, in-
4 cluding a description of the objectives, means of im-
5 plementation, and measures of success of the Indo-
6 Pacific Media Advancement Program.

7 (3) An assessment of challenges to a free and
8 open media in the Pacific Islands and to the imple-
9 mentation of the Indo-Pacific Media Advancement
10 Program, including strategies to mitigate such chal-
11 lenges.

12 (4) An assessment of any additional authorities
13 or resources necessary for more robust United
14 States engagement to promote a free media in the
15 Pacific Islands and greater implementation of the
16 Indo-Pacific Media Advancement Program.

17 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated \$4,000,000 for each of
19 the fiscal years 2026 through 2033 to carry out this sec-
20 tion.

21 **SEC. 204. PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL AND PRO-**
22 **FESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG**
23 **ADULT LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS.**

24 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that routinized people-to-people exchange programs

1 to bring Pacific Islands religious leaders, journalists, civil
2 society members, politicians, and others to the United
3 States, as well as supporting similar exchange participants
4 from the United States to the Pacific Islands, strengthens
5 existing relationships and advances United States inter-
6 ests and shared values in the region.

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

13 (c) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program developed
14 under this section may be carried out through—

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

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

23 (3) regional workshops and professional, voca-
24 tional, and academic fellowships; and

25 (4) people-to-people exchanges.

1 (d) BRIEFING.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
4 retary of State, acting through the Assistant Sec-
5 retary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs,
6 should brief the appropriate congressional commit-
7 tees on exchange programs for the Pacific Islands
8 region.

9 (2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by
10 paragraph (1) shall include—

11 (A) an assessment of any factors con-
12 straining the number and frequency of Inter-
13 national Visitor Leadership Program partici-
14 pants from countries of the Pacific Islands;

15 (B) an identification of resources that are
16 necessary to address the factors described in
17 subparagraph (A); and

18 (C) a strategy for connecting alumni and
19 participants of the Department of State’s pro-
20 fessional development exchange programs in
21 East Asia, such as the Young Southeast Asian
22 Leaders Initiative and the Young Pacific Lead-
23 ers programs, to enhance interregion and
24 intraregion people-to-people ties.

1 **SEC. 205. EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.**

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

4 (1) promoting basic education in the Pacific Is-
5 lands, particularly in traditionally underserved com-
6 munities, advances United States foreign policy
7 goals and requires a whole of government approach,
8 and the United States Government currently dedi-
9 cates insufficient resources and attention to assisting
10 with education needs in the region;

11 (2) the Peace Corps alone is insufficient to
12 achieve United States objectives of promoting sus-
13 tainable, quality basic education; and

14 (3) countries of the Pacific Islands meet the re-
15 quirements outlined in subsection (c)(4) of section
16 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
17 U.S.C. 2151c).

18 (b) EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—The President is au-
19 thorized to provide assistance under section 105 of the
20 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c) to pro-
21 mote sustainable, quality basic education in the Pacific Is-
22 lands, including for the following purposes:

23 (1) Supporting national nutrition and health
24 programs.

25 (2) Working with partner governments to re-
26 form policies, improve curricula, strengthen data

1 systems, train teachers, and provide quality learning
2 materials.

3 (3) Building new schools and renovating older
4 facilities to ensure safe places for learning.

5 (4) Providing individuals, particularly at-risk
6 youth, with relevant education, training, and skills
7 for meaningful employment.

8 (5) Removing barriers to entering formal edu-
9 cation for out-of-school individuals, assisting in
10 keeping them in school, and providing an oppor-
11 tunity to catch up on schooling for those left behind.

12 (6) Promoting teaching and research exchanges
13 between the Pacific Islands and United States insti-
14 tutions of higher education, including community
15 colleges.

16 **SEC. 206. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES.**

17 The Secretary of State and Administrator of the
18 United States Agency for International Development shall
19 continue to administer and expand programs fostering
20 people-to-people ties between the United States and Pa-
21 cific Islands, including—

22 (1) the Youth Ambassadors Program in the Bu-
23 reau of Educational and Cultural Affairs;

24 (2) the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs;

1 (3) the Minority Serving Institutions Partner-
2 ships Initiatives to the Pacific;

3 (4) the U.S.-Pacific Institute for Rising Lead-
4 ers Fellowship; and

5 (5) the Global STEM Development Scholarship
6 Program.

7 **SEC. 207. PACIFIC ISLANDS TRADES PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
9 United States Agency for International Development shall
10 establish a program, to be known as the “Pacific Islands
11 Training and Resources for Advancement in Development,
12 Education, and Skills Program” or the “Pacific Islands
13 TRADES Program”, to, through scholarships, training
14 from such agency, and grants to partner organizations,
15 assist with workforce development in the Pacific Islands
16 to—

17 (1) increase the capacity of the local workforce
18 through medium- and long-term training and tech-
19 nical assistance in sectors of critical importance to
20 the Pacific Islands, such as construction, tourism,
21 boat maintenance, and fisheries;

22 (2) balance maximizing workforce retention in
23 the Pacific Islands with any necessary training out-
24 side of the Pacific Islands, with a focus on avoiding
25 exacerbating outward labor flows;

1 (3) keep Pacific priorities in mind by coordi-
2 nating with like-minded allies and partners and
3 working with local organizations and governments;
4 and

5 (4) provide resources for technical and manage-
6 ment skills development to adequately prepare the
7 workforce of the Pacific Islands for any potential in-
8 coming investment.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-
11 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
12 on the Pacific Islands TRADES Program, including the
13 following:

14 (1) A comprehensive overview of such program.

15 (2) An identification of the office overseeing
16 such program.

17 (3) A list of any partner organizations involved
18 in such program.

19 (4) A description of the training and workforce
20 development planned as part of such program.

21 (5) An assessment of the impact of such pro-
22 gram.

23 (6) Any additional resources needed to imple-
24 ment such program.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
3 of the fiscal years 2026 through 2033 to carry out this
4 section.

5 **SEC. 208. INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS.**

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

8 (1) the United States International Develop-
9 ment Finance Corporation has a dual mandate to
10 advance United States foreign policy and make de-
11 velopment-focused investment around the world with
12 a focus on communities most in need;

13 (2) the United States International Develop-
14 ment Finance Corporation must enter into an in-
15 vestment incentive agreement with a jurisdiction’s
16 government in order to pursue development projects
17 in that jurisdiction;

18 (3) the market-based private sector development
19 and inclusive economic growth of Solomon Islands
20 and the Republic of Vanuatu are in the United
21 States foreign policy interest;

22 (4) the United States International Develop-
23 ment Finance Corporation has not entered into in-
24 vestment incentive agreements with the government

1 of Solomon Islands or with the government of the
2 Republic of Vanuatu; and

3 (5) the inability of the United States Inter-
4 national Development Finance Corporation to sup-
5 port investments in Solomon Islands and the Repub-
6 lic of Vanuatu undermines United States policy to
7 provide countries a robust alternative to state-direct
8 investments by authoritarian governments and
9 United States strategic competitors.

10 (b) INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS.—The Chief Execu-
11 tive Officer of the United States International Develop-
12 ment Finance Corporation, in coordination with the Sec-
13 retary of State, shall continue and prioritize efforts to
14 enter into investment incentive agreements with the gov-
15 ernments of those Pacific Islands in which the United
16 States International Development Finance Corporation is
17 otherwise authorized to operate under the BUILD Act of
18 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

19 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
20 State, in coordination with the Administrator of the
21 United States Agency for International Development, the
22 Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chief Executive Officer
23 of the United States International Development Finance
24 Corporation, as appropriate, is authorized to provide tech-
25 nical assistance to assist the Pacific Islands in negotiating

1 and executing investment incentive agreements with the
2 United States International Development Finance Cor-
3 poration.

4 **SEC. 209. COMMITTEE ON ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCI-**
5 **ETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PACIFIC IS-**
6 **LANDS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in co-
8 ordination with the Administrator of the United States
9 Agency for International Development and the Secretary
10 of Defense, shall establish a committee, to be known as
11 the “Committee on Engagement with Civil Society Organi-
12 zations in the Pacific Islands” (referred to in this sub-
13 section as the “Committee”) for the purposes of—

14 (1) coordinating interagency engagement with
15 civil society organizations in the Pacific Islands;

16 (2) coordinating collaboration with United
17 States partners and allies on engagement with civil
18 society organizations in the Pacific Islands; and

19 (3) aligning such engagement with the needs of
20 the Pacific Islands and the national security prior-
21 ities of the United States.

22 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Committee shall
24 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a

1 strategy on engagement with civil society organizations in
2 the Pacific Islands, including—

3 (1) a review of current efforts across the United
4 States Government to engage with such organiza-
5 tions, including the role of such efforts in the deliv-
6 ery of foreign aid to communities;

7 (2) a plan for engagement across the United
8 States Government with such organizations;

9 (3) an assessment of the importance of engage-
10 ment by the United States with such organizations
11 and how such engagement aligns with the advance-
12 ment of Indo-Pacific and Pacific Islands priorities
13 within the National Security Strategy, Indo-Pacific
14 Strategy, and Pacific Partnership Strategy;

15 (4) an analysis of interagency cooperation re-
16 garding United States engagement with such organi-
17 zations and specific recommendations for expansion
18 and improvement of such cooperation;

19 (5) an analysis of the resources needed to bol-
20 ster and streamline United States engagement with
21 such organizations, including any additional statu-
22 tory authorities or appropriations of funds;

23 (6) an analysis of any engagement conducted by
24 a country other than the United States with such or-

1 organizations, including engagement that may under-
2 mine civil society in the Pacific Islands; and

3 (7) an assessment of opportunities for greater
4 coordination between the United States and like-
5 minded partners and allies.

6 **SEC. 210. AMERICAN SPACES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall develop and
9 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
10 port on the state of and plans for American Spaces in
11 the Pacific Islands, including—

12 (1) an overview of American Spaces in the Pa-
13 cific Islands (including American Corners and Amer-
14 ican Centers), including an assessment of the cur-
15 rent and historical programming and resources of
16 American Spaces;

17 (2) a plan for future American Spaces in Pa-
18 cific Island countries, including any new develop-
19 ment or expansion of existing American Spaces, and
20 a description of any additional resources needed for
21 such expansion; and

22 (3) an assessment of the impact of American
23 Spaces on American foreign policy and national se-
24 curity interests, including in comparison to the simi-
25 lar initiatives of other actors.

TITLE III—PEACE AND SECURITY

SEC. 301. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL CIVILIAN AND NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, is authorized to provide assistance to build the capacity of local civilian and national security institutions of the Pacific Islands for purposes of—

(1) enhancing maritime security and maritime domain awareness to address challenges such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

(2) assisting local law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and combating trafficking in persons and drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime;

(3) providing essential services to civilian populations and responding to humanitarian challenges caused by natural disasters;

(4) participating in efforts by regional institutions and frameworks to coordinate and facilitate cooperation on shared security challenges;

(5) expanding information sharing and working toward operational coordination and interoperability

1 among Pacific Island maritime security forces, in-
2 cluding through regional fusion centers; and

3 (6) providing assistance in legal actions, includ-
4 ing hiring legal counsel or providing legal support,
5 as appropriate, to support the Pacific Islands in de-
6 fending their rights and interests related to mari-
7 time security, combating transnational crime, re-
8 sponding to natural disasters, and participating in
9 regional security efforts.

10 (b) RELATED PROGRAMS AND AUTHORITIES.—The
11 assistance and capacity building authorized by this sub-
12 section should build on the following:

13 (1) The International Military Education and
14 Training program.

15 (2) The Foreign Military Financing program.

16 (3) The Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and
17 Civic Aid program.

18 (4) The authority to build the capacity of for-
19 eign security forces under section 333 of title 10,
20 United States Code.

21 (5) The authority to provide excess defense ar-
22 ticles under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance
23 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

24 (6) The National Guard State Partnership Pro-
25 gram.

1 (7) The International Narcotics Control and
2 Law Enforcement Program.

3 (c) NATIONAL POLICE FORCES AND COAST
4 GUARDS.—The national police forces and coast guards of
5 countries of the Pacific Islands are eligible to receive as-
6 sistance under the programs and authorities described in
7 subsection (b) (other than the programs and authorities
8 described in paragraphs (1), (4), (6), and (7) of subsection
9 (b)).

10 **SEC. 302. REPORTING.**

11 (a) UPDATES OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—The Secretary
12 of State, in coordination with the heads of other Federal
13 agencies as appropriate, shall identify and update the re-
14 ports described in subsection (b) to include in such reports
15 a discussion of forms of transnational crime affecting the
16 Pacific Islands.

17 (b) REPORTS DESCRIBED.—The reports described in
18 this subsection are the following:

19 (1) The International Narcotics Control Strat-
20 egy report.

21 (2) The Improving International Fisheries Man-
22 agement report.

23 (3) The Trafficking in Persons report.

1 **SEC. 303. INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY.**

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

4 (1) the Department of State’s International
5 Law Enforcement Academies are valuable tools in
6 our relationships with other countries and enhancing
7 the capacity of foreign criminal justice partners to
8 combat transnational crime;

9 (2) assistance in combating transnational crime
10 is frequently cited as an area of need from Pacific
11 Islands leaders; and

12 (3) the International Law Enforcement Acad-
13 emy in Bangkok, Thailand recently widened its audi-
14 ence to include the Pacific Islands.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in
17 coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal
18 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
19 committees a report—

20 (1) detailing training and other activities that
21 the International Law Enforcement Academy in
22 Bangkok, Thailand has conducted with Pacific Is-
23 lands participants;

24 (2) describing any planned expansions to the
25 Bangkok International Law Enforcement Academy’s
26 programming, including the Pacific Islands, and any

1 challenges to those planned expansions, including
2 any gaps and needs in funding, staffing levels, and
3 physical space; and

4 (3) assessing the feasibility of continuing to ad-
5 minister and expand programming for the Pacific Is-
6 lands through the International Law Enforcement
7 Academy in Bangkok, or if the establishment of an
8 additional International Law Enforcement Academy
9 dedicated to serving the Pacific Islands is necessary,
10 and what resources and authorities would be needed
11 to do so.

12 **TITLE IV—RESOURCE AND** 13 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

14 **SEC. 401. TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PACIFIC IS-** 15 **LANDS.**

16 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that the United States should expand bilateral and
18 multilateral trade with the Pacific Islands to promote so-
19 cioeconomic development and mutual prosperity.

20 (b) TRADE DEVELOPMENT.—The United States
21 Trade Representative is authorized to expand and diver-
22 sify trade and promote regional development with the Pa-
23 cific Islands, including through negotiating trade and in-
24 vestment framework agreements.

1 **SEC. 402. TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR THE**
2 **PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
4 States Agency for International Development, in coordina-
5 tion with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the
6 Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chief Exec-
7 utive Officer of the United States International Develop-
8 ment Finance Corporation, and the Director of the United
9 States Trade and Development Agency are authorized to
10 implement programming to build trade capacity in the Pa-
11 cific Islands.

12 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities authorized under this
13 section include—

14 (1) development of human and institutional ca-
15 pacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of
16 economies, including digital connectivity and cyber-
17 security;

18 (2) assistance with development and implemen-
19 tation of regional and international trade agree-
20 ments, including the World Trade Organization’s
21 Agreement on Trade Facilitation and facilitation of
22 intraregional trade flows;

23 (3) support for women-owned enterprises and
24 gender equality; and

25 (4) promotion of government policies that en-
26 courage free and fair competition, sound governance,

1 environmental protection, and business environments
2 conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic
3 growth.

4 **SEC. 403. UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**

5 The Secretary of Commerce shall expand the pres-
6 ence of the United States Commercial Service in the Pa-
7 cific Islands and allocate additional Foreign Commercial
8 Service Officers to the Pacific Islands, including by ele-
9 vating existing partner posts and establishing new Com-
10 mercial Service posts and partner posts, to—

11 (1) explore opportunities for United States pri-
12 vate sector investment;

13 (2) examine regulations in host countries in the
14 Pacific Islands that may hinder foreign direct invest-
15 ment, including those related to human rights, labor
16 rights, and environmental protection, and provide
17 technical assistance when requested by such host
18 countries; and

19 (3) report on the commercial and investment
20 activities of non-allied foreign actors in the Pacific
21 Islands.

1 **TITLE V—ENVIRONMENTAL AND**
2 **DISASTER RESILIENCE**

3 **SEC. 501. ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE PREPAREDNESS FOR**
4 **AND RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS**
5 **AND OTHER EMERGENCIES.**

6 The Secretary of State is authorized to assist the Pa-
7 cific Islands to enhance preparedness for and resilience to
8 natural disasters and other emergencies. Such assistance
9 includes—

10 (1) education and training programs on natural
11 disaster prevention and preparedness for emergency
12 management professionals in the Pacific Islands, in-
13 cluding by leveraging the expertise of nonprofit orga-
14 nizations and institutions of higher education in the
15 United States;

16 (2) technical assistance, including through
17 grants and cooperative agreements for qualified
18 United States and local nongovernmental organiza-
19 tions, to enhance early warning systems, emergency
20 management and preparedness procedures, and post-
21 disaster relief and recovery;

22 (3) coordination of existing disaster mitigation
23 and response plans in the region, including by
24 United States allies and partners in the region;

1 (4) infrastructure development and upgrades to
2 improve disaster preparedness and response, such as
3 the construction of evacuation centers, flood control
4 measures, and communication networks;

5 (5) support for local community-based disaster
6 risk reduction programs, including the development
7 of evacuation plans, training in first aid and emer-
8 gency response, and provision of emergency supplies;

9 (6) technical assistance and training to enhance
10 the capacity of local emergency response agencies,
11 including search and rescue teams, fire departments,
12 and medical personnel;

13 (7) provision of critical humanitarian assist-
14 ance, such as food, water, shelter, and medical care,
15 in the aftermath of disasters; and

16 (8) support for programs aimed at reducing the
17 long-term impacts of disasters, such as disaster risk
18 insurance, small business recovery programs, and
19 environmental restoration initiatives.

20 **SEC. 502. CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE.**

21 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
22 ministrators of the United States Agency for International
23 Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chief
24 Executive Officer of the United States International De-

1 velopment Finance Corporation, as appropriate, is author-
2 ized to—

3 (1) invest in and improve critical infrastructure,
4 including transport connectivity, hospitals, health
5 clinics, pharmacies, information and communications
6 technology, food security, coastal zone management,
7 marine and water resource management, and energy
8 security and access to electricity in the Pacific Is-
9 lands, with an emphasis on climate resiliency and
10 sustainable development;

11 (2) provide technical assistance to assist local
12 government and civil society leaders assess risks to
13 local infrastructure, consider and implement risk
14 mitigation efforts and policies to strengthen resil-
15 ience, and evaluate proposed projects and solutions
16 for their efficacy and sustainability;

17 (3) support investment and improvement in eco-
18 system conservation and protection for the long-term
19 sustainable use of ecosystem services, especially
20 those that support environmental resilience, food se-
21 curity and livelihoods;

22 (4) invest in and improve critical telecommuni-
23 cations infrastructure and cybersecurity;

24 (5) foster public-private partnerships and co-
25 operation among stakeholders to mobilize private

1 sector investment and innovation for sustainable in-
2 frastructure development and climate resiliency in
3 the Pacific Islands;

4 (6) provide technical assistance and capacity
5 building to local governments and communities to in-
6 tegrate climate resilience into their infrastructure
7 planning and development strategies;

8 (7) develop and implement programs that pro-
9 mote the use of renewable energy and energy effi-
10 ciency technologies in the Pacific Islands, including
11 through investment in clean energy infrastructure
12 and technical assistance to local utilities and energy
13 regulators;

14 (8) work with regional organizations and gov-
15 ernments to promote the sustainable management of
16 marine resources, including through the development
17 of marine protected areas and ecosystem-based man-
18 agement approaches;

19 (9) foster partnerships between Pacific Island
20 governments and research institutions to build sci-
21 entific capacity and support research on impacts to
22 climate and environment and adaptation strategies
23 in the region; and

24 (10) promote the use of innovative financing
25 mechanisms, such as green bonds and climate risk

insurance, to help Pacific Island countries access affordable financing for climate-resilient infrastructure development.

TITLE VI—OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT

SEC. 601. OCEANS MANAGEMENT.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Secretary of Commerce, is authorized to—

(1) support programming that promotes fisheries sustainability and marine biodiversity conservation in the Pacific Islands;

(2) support the development, adoption, and implementation of regional sustainable fisheries policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks;

(3) partner with regional private sector interests in the adoption and implementation of seafood industry fair-labor standards and sustainable fishing practices;

(4) provide technical assistance to assist local government and civil society leaders to improve environmental and ocean management; and

(5) provide technical assistance and capacity building to improve data collection and management,

1 including through the use of innovative technologies,
2 to support sustainable fisheries management and
3 biodiversity conservation in the region;

4 (6) support the development and implementa-
5 tion of integrated ocean management and marine
6 spatial planning frameworks that incorporate local
7 knowledge and community input, promote eco-
8 system-based management approaches, and address
9 transboundary marine conservation challenges;

10 (7) support research and monitoring programs
11 to better understand changes and challenges to
12 oceans and fisheries in the Pacific Islands and to in-
13 form evidence-based management approaches;

14 (8) support regional efforts to combat illegal,
15 unreported, and unregulated fishing and promote
16 sustainable fisheries practices, including through the
17 development of traceability systems and improved
18 monitoring and enforcement capacity;

19 (9) encourage private sector investment in sus-
20 tainable fisheries and marine conservation efforts in
21 the Pacific Islands, including through partnerships
22 with local communities and businesses; and

23 (10) promote public awareness and engagement
24 on issues related to sustainable fisheries and ocean

1 management in the Pacific Islands, including
2 through education and outreach programs.

3 **SEC. 602. SEA LEVEL RISE.**

4 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
5 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
6 Development and the Secretary of Commerce, is author-
7 ized to provide support and technical assistance to Pacific
8 Islands to address the impacts of sea level rise with the
9 aim of—

10 (1) protecting and mitigating the impacts of sea
11 level rise on coastal communities and their econo-
12 mies;

13 (2) protecting and increasing the resilience of
14 critical coastal infrastructure;

15 (3) preserving Pacific Islands maritime bound-
16 aries and their entitlements;

17 (4) preserving Pacific Islands' statehoods;

18 (5) providing support to Pacific Islands to de-
19 velop and implement effective and just migration
20 policies that address the impacts of sea level rise on
21 communities and provide options for those who wish
22 to migrate;

23 (6) collaborating with international organiza-
24 tions and Pacific Island to provide humanitarian as-

1 sistance to those affected by sea level rise, including
2 through access to food, water, and shelter; and

3 (7) supporting efforts to build resilience and
4 sustainable livelihoods in affected communities, in-
5 cluding through the development of alternative eco-
6 nomic opportunities and sustainable agriculture
7 practices.

8 **SEC. 603. ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED**
9 **FISHING.**

10 Section 3553 of the National Defense Authorization
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (16 U.S.C. 8033) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the
13 end;

14 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
15 graph (10); and

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(9) an assessment of gaps or limitations in the
19 ability of the United States to effectively assist pri-
20 ority regions and priority flag states relating to IUU
21 fishing due to resource constraints and the addi-
22 tional resources necessary to overcome those con-
23 straints; and”.

1 **TITLE VII—TECHNOLOGY AND**
2 **CONNECTIVITY**

3 **SEC. 701. DIGITAL ACCESS AND INCLUSION.**

4 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
5 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
6 Development and the heads of the United States Inter-
7 national Development Finance Corporation, the Millen-
8 nium Challenge Corporation, and the United States Trade
9 and Development Authority, is authorized to provide sup-
10 port to the Pacific Islands to—

11 (1) expand access to high quality broadband
12 and telecommunications infrastructure in the Pacific
13 Islands;

14 (2) partner with regional private and public sec-
15 tor interests to promote and expand secure and ac-
16 cessible broadband connectivity; and

17 (3) strengthen the private sector and civil soci-
18 ety’s digital capacity and digital skillset.

19 **SEC. 702. CYBERSECURITY.**

20 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
21 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
22 Development and the heads of the United States Inter-
23 national Development Finance Corporation, the Millen-
24 nium Challenge Corporation, the Cybersecurity and Infra-
25 structure Security Agency, and the United States Trade

1 and Development Authority, is authorized to provide sup-
2 port and technical assistance to the Pacific Islands to—

3 (1) increase adoption of policies and regulatory
4 positions that encourage open, interoperable, reli-
5 able, and secure digital infrastructure;

6 (2) increase adoption of cybersecurity best prac-
7 tices in the Pacific Islands, including through edu-
8 cation and training programs for government and
9 private sector entities;

10 (3) assist with the development and implemen-
11 tation of cybersecurity strategies and policies, in-
12 cluding incident response plans and risk manage-
13 ment frameworks;

14 (4) promote international cooperation and infor-
15 mation sharing on cybersecurity threats and inci-
16 dents; and

17 (5) assist in the establishment and strength-
18 ening of national and regional Computer Emergency
19 Response Teams (CERTs) to enhance cyber incident
20 detection and response capabilities.

1 **TITLE VIII—REPORT ON THE**
2 **STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC IS-**
3 **LANDS PARTNERSHIP AND**
4 **AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-**
5 **PRIATIONS**

6 **SEC. 801. REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC IS-**
7 **LANDS PARTNERSHIP.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
9 date on which the initial report on the progress in imple-
10 menting the Strategy for Pacific Islands Partnership re-
11 quired by section 103 is submitted to the appropriate con-
12 gressional committees, and not later than January 1 of
13 each odd-numbered year thereafter, the President, in con-
14 sultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of
15 Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce, the Ad-
16 ministrator of United States Agency for International De-
17 velopment, the Secretary of Defense, the United States
18 Trade Representative, and any other relevant official, shall
19 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
20 port on the progress in implementing the Strategy for Pa-
21 cific Islands Partnership.

22 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
23 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) An assessment of the security challenges to
25 the Pacific Islands, including—

1 (A) an assessment of the status of security
2 challenges to the Pacific Islands, including as
3 outlined by regional documents such as the Boe
4 Declaration on regional security;

5 (B) an analysis of demonstrated needs of
6 the Pacific Islands for assistance, including ex-
7 cess defense equipment and related materials
8 with humanitarian and development uses to ful-
9 fill such needs;

10 (C) a review of existing security assistance
11 programs in the Pacific Islands, including pro-
12 grams and efforts provided by United States al-
13 lies and partners;

14 (D) a plan for programs for training and
15 sustainment with respect to such excess defense
16 equipment and related materials, including
17 those with humanitarian and development uses;

18 (E) a list of militaries, national police
19 forces, coast guards, and other national security
20 forces of the Pacific Islands receiving assistance
21 under the strategy;

22 (F) a plan to provide humanitarian assist-
23 ance and disaster relief, if necessary, through
24 the Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic
25 Aid program;

1 (G) a review of existing cross-border mari-
2 time law enforcement operations (commonly
3 known as “shiprider agreements”) with the Pa-
4 cific Islands, an assessment of additional
5 resourcing needs to enhance operational capac-
6 ity, and a plan to improve on these programs
7 and operations;

8 (H) a review of existing National Guard
9 State Partnership Programs with the Pacific Is-
10 lands, an assessment of additional opportunities
11 to leverage National Guard State Partnership
12 Programs to address law enforcement, disaster
13 relief and emergency management, and related
14 priorities, and a plan to expand, as appropriate,
15 existing and new National Guard State Part-
16 nership Programs in the region;

17 (I) a review of current efforts and progress
18 in removing unexploded ordnance in the Pacific
19 Islands and an assessment of additional
20 resourcing needed to ensure continued progress,
21 including to support coordination with regional
22 efforts and those of United States allies and
23 partners;

24 (J) a review of existing regional fusion cen-
25 ters and other cooperative intelligence sharing

1 efforts in the Pacific Islands to address mari-
2 time security, transnational crime, natural dis-
3 asters, and other security challenges and an as-
4 sessment of opportunities for the United States
5 to participate in such efforts, including by allo-
6 cating staff and supplying resourcing;

7 (K) measures to evaluate success for the
8 strategy; and

9 (L) a detailed assessment of appropriations
10 required to achieve the objectives for the strat-
11 egy in future years.

12 (2) An assessment of the diplomatic presence in
13 the Pacific Islands, including—

14 (A) a description of the Department of
15 State, United States Agency for International
16 Development, United States International De-
17 velopment Finance Corporation, Millennium
18 Challenge Corporation, United States Trade
19 and Development Authority and United States
20 Commercial Service presence, staffing, pro-
21 gramming, and resourcing of operations in the
22 Pacific Islands, including programming and
23 resourcing not specifically allocated to the Pa-
24 cific Islands; and

1 (B) a description of gaps in such presence,
2 including unfilled full-time equivalent positions.

3 (3) A description of coordination with regional
4 allies, including—

5 (A) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives,
6 and programs undertaken by regional allies and
7 partners, including multilateral organizations,
8 to advance the priorities identified in this Act;

9 (B) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives,
10 and programs undertaken by nonallied foreign
11 actors that are viewed as being potentially
12 harmful or in any way detrimental to one or
13 more countries of the Pacific Islands; and

14 (C) an assessment of United States pro-
15 grams in the Pacific Islands and their align-
16 ment and complementarity with the efforts of
17 regional allies and partners.

18 (4) A description of trade capacity building, in-
19 cluding—

20 (A) economic opportunities for which
21 United States businesses, or those of other like-
22 minded partners, would be competitive;

23 (B) legal, economic, governance,
24 infrastructural, or other hurdles limiting United
25 States investment in the Pacific Islands; and

1 (C) steps the United States has taken to—

2 (i) develop human and institutional
3 capacity and infrastructure across multiple
4 sectors of economies, including digital
5 connectivity and cybersecurity;

6 (ii) assist with development and im-
7 plementation of regional and international
8 trade agreements, including the World
9 Trade Organization’s Agreement on Trade
10 Facilitation and facilitation of
11 intraregional trade flows;

12 (iii) support women-owned enterprises
13 and gender equality; and

14 (iv) promote government policies that
15 encourage free and fair competition, sound
16 governance, environmental protection, and
17 business environments conducive to sus-
18 tainable and inclusive economic growth.

19 (5) A description of trade development, includ-
20 ing—

21 (A) an assessment of the readiness of
22 countries in the Pacific Islands to enter into en-
23 hanced trade relationships with the United
24 States, including with respect to reducing or
25 eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers inhib-

1 iting progress towards deepening trade relation-
2 ships;

3 (B) a review of existing regional multilat-
4 eral and bilateral trade agreements and pref-
5 erence programs involving the Pacific Islands
6 and their impacts on regional trade and devel-
7 opment; and

8 (C) an identification of opportunities to
9 work with existing regional frameworks to in-
10 crease trade and economic integration with the
11 Pacific Islands.

12 (6) A description of emergency preparedness for
13 the Pacific Islands, including—

14 (A) an assessment of disaster risks in the
15 Pacific Islands and existing local and regional
16 capacity to respond to such risks; and

17 (B) a review of existing efforts by United
18 States allies and partners to provide assistance
19 and training for natural disaster preparedness
20 and emergency management.

21 (7) A description of activities of the Peace
22 Corps in the Pacific Islands, including—

23 (A) a comparative analysis of the Peace
24 Corps presence in the Pacific Islands region to
25 other regions of the world, including a cost-ben-

1 effit analysis of placement in the region versus
2 elsewhere globally;

3 (B) an analysis of current impediments to
4 Peace Corps expansion in the Pacific Islands
5 region;

6 (C) outcomes of consultations among
7 United States agencies, and with regional allies
8 and partners, on areas in which cooperation can
9 reduce factors limiting Peace Corps expansion,
10 particularly those related to medical transpor-
11 tation and personal safety; and

12 (D) a plan and timeline for implementing
13 outcomes identified to facilitate expansion of
14 Peace Corps presence in the region, where ap-
15 propriate.

16 (8) A description of public health and health
17 care challenges in the Pacific Islands, including
18 health systems strengthening, immunization, non-
19 communicable diseases, and gender-based violence.

20 (9) A description of resilient development in the
21 Pacific Islands, including—

22 (A) a review of foreign infrastructure de-
23 velopments in the Pacific Islands by non-United
24 States allies and partners;

1 (B) assessments of the environmental im-
2 pact and sustainability of such developments;

3 (C) an analysis of the financial sustain-
4 ability of such developments and their impacts
5 on the debt of host countries in the Pacific Is-
6 lands; and

7 (D) an analysis of the region's banking in-
8 frastructure and Pacific Island access to finan-
9 cial services.

10 (10) A description of press freedom in the Pa-
11 cific Islands, including—

12 (A) an assessment of the national laws of
13 the Pacific Islands with respect to foreign in-
14 vestment in media and related sectors;

15 (B) relevant licensing regulations of the
16 Pacific Islands and governmental restrictions on
17 free expression that limit the availability of di-
18 verse media voices in the Pacific Islands; and

19 (C) analyses of covert efforts by foreign
20 media actors in the Pacific Islands—

21 (i) to influence, shape, or circumvent
22 regulations in the media or telecommuni-
23 cation sectors; and

24 (ii) to co-opt local media and nar-
25 ratives.

1 (11) A description of civil society engagement
2 and development, including—

3 (A) an assessment of the strength and via-
4 bility of civil society sectors of the Pacific Is-
5 lands, including legal, organizational capacity,
6 financial, advocacy, services, infrastructure, and
7 public image sectors; and

8 (B) an identification of objectives and
9 measures of success for the program.

10 (12) A description of United States Govern-
11 ment efforts to assist the Pacific Islands in the im-
12 provement of critical physical and cyber infrastruc-
13 ture, including—

14 (A) investments in the development or im-
15 provement critical infrastructure supported by
16 the United States;

17 (B) technical assistance for the develop-
18 ment or improvement of critical infrastructure
19 supported by the United States; and

20 (C) a description of support given to the
21 Pacific Islands on the expansion of tele-
22 communications infrastructure.

23 (13) A description of United States Govern-
24 ment efforts to assist the Pacific Islands in access-
25 ing support from international organizations.

1 (14) A description of how United States Gov-
2 ernment efforts align with regional development
3 goals, as outlined in documents such as the 2050
4 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent.

5 (c) RECOMMENDATION.—Beginning on the date that
6 is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
7 the President may submit to the appropriate congressional
8 committees a recommendation on the consolidation or
9 elimination of any duplicative reports as required by this
10 section.

11 **SEC. 802. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated
13 \$270,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033
14 to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this
15 Act.

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