

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6619

To authorize preferential treatment for certain imports from the Pacific Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. CASE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To authorize preferential treatment for certain imports from the Pacific Islands.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Regional
5 Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and Economic
6 Resilience in the Pacific Act” or the “PROSPER in the
7 Pacific Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

9 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the United States has longstanding and en-
2 during cultural, historic, economic, strategic, and
3 people-to-people connections with the Pacific Islands,
4 based on shared values, cultural histories, common
5 interests, and a commitment to fostering mutual un-
6 derstanding and cooperation;

7 (2) the economies of the Pacific Islands coun-
8 tries face significant challenges including geographic
9 isolation, limited economic diversification, vulner-
10 ability to natural disasters, and underdeveloped in-
11 frastructure and trade capacity, that can make con-
12 ventional economic indicators based on average na-
13 tional income poor measures of development
14 progress and welfare outcomes;

15 (3) strengthening U.S.-Pacific Islands economic
16 ties through a preferential trade program would pro-
17 mote inclusive economic development, create sustain-
18 able job opportunities, and improve standards of liv-
19 ing in the region; and

20 (4) a U.S.-led preferential trade program would
21 also make Americans safer, stronger, and more pros-
22 perous by advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific,
23 prioritizing sovereignty, economic independence, and
24 the rule of law.

1 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall authorize the
3 provision of preferential treatment under section 4 to arti-
4 cles that are imported directly from a Pacific Islands
5 country into the customs territory of the United States
6 if the President determines that the country—

7 (1) meets the requirements set forth in para-
8 graphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 104 of the Afri-
9 can Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703);

10 (2) does not meet any of the bases for ineligi-
11 bility under section 502(b)(2) of the Trade Act of
12 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(2)) and does not meet any
13 of the additional bases for ineligibility under sub-
14 section (c); and

15 (3) after taking into account the factors set
16 forth in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (c)
17 of section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.
18 2462) and the additional factors set forth in sub-
19 section (d), the country meets the eligibility require-
20 ments of such section 502.

21 Any income threshold requirements applicable for pur-
22 poses of determining whether a country is eligible to be
23 designated as a beneficiary developing country or least-
24 developed beneficiary developing country under title V of
25 the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.) shall not
26 apply with respect to determining whether a Pacific Is-

1 lands country is eligible for preferential treatment under
2 section 4.

3 (b) WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION, OR LIMITATION OF
4 PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT; MANDATORY GRADUA-
5 TION.—The provisions of subsection (d) of section 502 of
6 the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462) shall apply with
7 respect to Pacific Island countries to the same extent and
8 in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect
9 to beneficiary developing countries under title V of that
10 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.).

11 (c) ADDITIONAL BASES FOR INELIGIBILITY.—The
12 President may not authorize the provision of preferential
13 treatment under section 4 to articles that are imported
14 directly from a Pacific Islands country into the customs
15 territory of the United States if any of the following ap-
16 plies:

17 (1) Such country fails to effectively afford
18 internationally recognized worker rights to workers
19 in the country (including any designated zone in
20 that country).

21 (2) Such country engages in gross violations of
22 internationally recognized human rights in that
23 country (including any designated zone in that coun-
24 try).

1 (3) Such country fails to effectively enforce its
2 environmental laws, regulations, or other measures,
3 or to fulfill its international environmental obliga-
4 tions, including as such obligations relate to public
5 health and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fish-
6 ing.

7 (d) ADDITIONAL FACTORS AFFECTING COUNTRY
8 DESIGNATION.—In determining whether to authorize the
9 provision of preferential treatment under section 4 to arti-
10 cles that are imported directly from a Pacific Islands
11 country into the customs territory of the United States,
12 the President shall take into account—

13 (1) whether or not such country effectively af-
14 fords to workers in that country (including any des-
15 ignated zone in that country) internationally recog-
16 nized worker rights;

17 (2) the extent to which such country effectively
18 enforces its environmental laws, regulations, and
19 other measures, and fulfills its international environ-
20 mental obligations, including as such obligations re-
21 lates to public health and illegal, unreported, and
22 unregulated fishing; and

23 (3) the extent to which such country has estab-
24 lished, or is making continual progress toward estab-
25 lishing—

1 (A) the rule of law, political pluralism, and
2 the right to due process, a fair trial, and equal
3 protection under the law;

4 (B) economic policies to reduce poverty in-
5 crease the availability of health care and edu-
6 cational opportunities, expand physical infra-
7 structure, promote the development of private
8 enterprise, and encourage the formation of cap-
9 ital markets through micro-credit or other pro-
10 grams; and

11 (C) a system to combat corruption and
12 bribery, such as signing and implementing the
13 Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign
14 Public Officials in International Business
15 Transactions.

16 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS.**

17 The President is authorized to designate articles as
18 eligible articles from a Pacific Islands country that is list-
19 ed as eligible for benefits under section 3(a) to the same
20 extent and in the same manner as the President is author-
21 ized to designate articles as eligible articles from least de-
22 veloped beneficiary developing countries under section 503
23 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463), including sub-
24 sections (a)(2) and (b) of such section.

1 **SEC. 5. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PACIFIC ISLANDS**
2 **COUNTRIES.**

3 (a) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—Congress declares
4 that free trade agreements should be negotiated, where
5 feasible, with interested countries in the Pacific Islands,
6 in order to serve as the catalyst for increasing trade be-
7 tween the United States and the Pacific Islands and in-
8 creasing private sector investment in the Pacific Islands.

9 (b) **PLAN REQUIREMENT.**—

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President, taking into
11 account the willingness of the Governments of Pa-
12 cific Islands countries to engage in negotiations to
13 enter into free trade agreements, shall develop a
14 plan for the purpose of negotiating and entering into
15 one or more trade agreements with interested bene-
16 ficiary Pacific Islands countries.

17 (2) **ELEMENTS OF PLAN.**—The plan shall in-
18 clude the following:

19 (A) The specific objectives of the United
20 States with respect to negotiations described in
21 paragraph (1) and a suggested timetable for
22 achieving those objectives.

23 (B) The benefits to both the United States
24 and the relevant Pacific Islands countries with
25 respect to the applicable free trade agreement
26 or agreements.

1 (C) A mutually agreed-upon timetable for
2 the negotiations.

3 (D) The implications for and the role of
4 regional and subregional organizations in the
5 Pacific Islands with respect to such free trade
6 agreement or agreements.

7 (E) Subject matter anticipated to be cov-
8 ered by the negotiations and United States
9 laws, programs, and policies, as well as the laws
10 of participating eligible Pacific Islands coun-
11 tries and existing bilateral and multilateral and
12 economic cooperation and trade agreements,
13 that may be affected by the agreement or
14 agreements.

15 (F) Procedures to ensure the following:

16 (i) Adequate consultation with the
17 Congress and the private sector during the
18 negotiations.

19 (ii) Consultation with the Congress re-
20 garding all matters relating to implementa-
21 tion of the agreement or agreements.

22 (iii) Approval by the Congress of the
23 agreement or agreements.

24 (iv) Adequate consultations with the
25 relevant Pacific Islands governments and

1 Pacific Islands regional and subregional
2 intergovernmental organizations during the
3 negotiation of the agreement or agree-
4 ments.

5 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12
6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 President shall prepare and transmit to the Congress a
8 report containing the plan developed pursuant to sub-
9 section (b).

10 **SEC. 6. TRADE FACILITATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING.**

11 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the President shall, in consultation with
13 the Governments of eligible Pacific Islands countries, es-
14 tablish a trade facilitation and capacity building program
15 for the Pacific Islands—

16 (1) to enhance the Governments of eligible Pa-
17 cific Islands countries to support successful export-
18 ers and to build awareness among potential export-
19 ers in eligible Pacific Islands countries about oppor-
20 tunities abroad and ways to manage trade docu-
21 mentation and regulations in the United States and
22 other countries, including through outreach to civil
23 society organizations, indigenous groups, and trade
24 associations;

1 (2) to provide export finance training for finan-
2 cial institutions in eligible Pacific Islands countries
3 and the Governments of eligible Pacific Islands
4 countries;

5 (3) to assist the Governments of eligible Pacific
6 Islands countries in maintaining publication of all
7 trade regulations, forms for exporters and importers,
8 tax and tariff rates, and other documentation relat-
9 ing to exporting goods on the internet and devel-
10 oping a robust public-private dialogue for eligible
11 Pacific Islands countries to identify timelines for im-
12 plementation of key reforms and solutions, as pro-
13 vided for under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation
14 of the World Trade Organization; and

15 (4) to increase access to guides for importers
16 and exporters on the internet, including rules and
17 documentation for United States tariff preference
18 programs.

19 **SEC. 7. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

20 The President shall submit to Congress, not later
21 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
22 and annually thereafter through 2036, a comprehensive
23 report on the trade and investment policy of the United
24 States for the Pacific Islands, and on the implementation
25 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

2 No duty-free treatment provided under this Act shall
3 remain in effect after December 31, 2036.

4 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) The term “internationally recognized work-
7 er rights” includes—

8 (A) the right of association;

9 (B) the right to organize and bargain col-
10 lectively;

11 (C) a prohibition on the use of any form
12 of forced or compulsory labor;

13 (D) a minimum age for the employment of
14 children, and a prohibition on the “worst forms
15 of child labor”, as defined in section 507(6) of
16 the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2467(6));

17 (E) acceptable conditions of work with re-
18 spect to minimum wages, hours of work, and
19 occupational safety and health;

20 (F) the elimination of discrimination with
21 respect to employment and occupation; and

22 (G) the elimination of violence or threats
23 of violence against workers, including violence
24 related to gender-based violence or harassment
25 in the workplace and violence related to workers
26 exercising or attempting to exercise any of the

1 rights described in subparagraphs (A) through
2 (F).

3 (2) The terms “Pacific Islands”, “Pacific Is-
4 lands country”, “country in the Pacific Islands”,
5 and “countries in the Pacific Islands” means the
6 Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of
7 Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the
8 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
9 Nauru, Niue, the Republic of Palau, the Inde-
10 pendent State of Papua New Guinea, the Inde-
11 pendent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the
12 Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of
13 Vanuatu.

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