

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4538

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2023

Mr. CASE (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. BERA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. MEEKS) 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

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## 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 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. Assistance with international organizations.
- Sec. 106. Allies and partners in the Pacific Islands region.

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. Program to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals.
- Sec. 204. Education assistance.
- Sec. 205. Investment agreements.

TITLE III—PEACE AND SECURITY

- Sec. 301. Building the capacity of local civilian and national security institutions.
- Sec. 302. Reporting.

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—CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

- 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 appropriate 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,  
19 the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of  
20 Vanuatu.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS; FORM OF**  
22 **REPORTS.**

23 (a) **AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS.**—Any  
24 reports required to be submitted to the appropriate con-

1 gressional committees under this Act that are subject to  
2 deadlines for submission consisting of the same units of  
3 time may be consolidated into a single report that is sub-  
4 mitted to appropriate congressional committees pursuant  
5 to such deadlines and that contains all information re-  
6 quired under such reports.

7 (b) FORM OF REPORTS.—Each report required to be  
8 submitted to the appropriate congressional committees  
9 under this Act and any consolidated report described in  
10 subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but  
11 may contain a classified annex.

12 **TITLE I—POLITICAL**  
13 **LEADERSHIP AND REGIONALISM**

14 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

15 Congress finds the following:

16 (1) The Pacific Islands—

17 (A) are home to roughly 10,000,000 resi-  
18 dents;

19 (B) are spread across an expanse of the  
20 Pacific Ocean equivalent to 15 percent of the  
21 Earth’s surface, including the three subregions  
22 of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia; and

23 (C) face shared challenges in development  
24 that have distinct local contexts, including cli-  
25 mate change and rising sea levels, geographic

1 distances from major markets, and vulnerability  
2 to external shocks such as natural disasters in  
3 both slow and sudden onset situations.

4 (2) The United States is a Pacific country with  
5 longstanding ties and shared values and interests  
6 with the Pacific Islands, including through the Com-  
7 pacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated  
8 States, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the  
9 Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of  
10 Palau.

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

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

15 (B) advancing economic prosperity free  
16 from coercion and unfair practices through  
17 trade and sustainable development; and

18 (C) supporting democracy, good govern-  
19 ance, the rule of law, and human rights and  
20 fundamental freedoms.

21 (4) Successive United States administrations  
22 have recognized the importance of the Pacific region,  
23 including the Pacific Islands, in high-level strategic  
24 documents, including the following:

1 (A) The 2015 National Security Strategy,  
2 which first declared the rebalance to Asia and  
3 the Pacific, affirmed the United States as a Pa-  
4 cific nation, and paved the way for subsequent  
5 United States engagement with the Pacific Is-  
6 lands, including several new policies focused on  
7 conservation and resilience to climate change  
8 announced in September 2016.

9 (B) The 2017 National Security Strategy,  
10 which includes a commitment to “shore up  
11 fragile partner states in the Pacific Islands re-  
12 gion to reduce their vulnerability to economic  
13 fluctuations and natural disasters”.

14 (C) The 2019 Indo-Pacific Strategy Re-  
15 port, which identified the Pacific Islands as  
16 “critical to U.S. strategy because of our shared  
17 values, interests, and commitments” and com-  
18 mitted the United States to “building capacity  
19 and resilience to address maritime security; Ille-  
20 gal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing; drug  
21 trafficking; and resilience to address climate  
22 change and disaster response”.

23 (D) The 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy Re-  
24 port, which recognized the need to engage fur-

1 ther with the Pacific Islands on shared security  
2 goals.

3 (E) The 2022 Strategy for Pacific Island  
4 Partnership, which outlined goals and methods  
5 for deepening the United States partnerships  
6 with Pacific Island nations.

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

10 (A) the Pacific Pledge, which provided an  
11 additional \$100,000,000 in 2019 and  
12 \$200,000,000 in 2020, on top of the approxi-  
13 mately \$350,000,000 that the United States  
14 provides annually to the region to support  
15 shared priorities in economic and human devel-  
16 opment, climate change, and more;

17 (B) the Small and Less Populous Island  
18 Economies (SALPIE) Initiative launched in  
19 March 2021 to strengthen United States col-  
20 laboration with island countries and territories,  
21 including in the Pacific Islands, on COVID–19  
22 economic challenges, long-term economic devel-  
23 opment, climate change, and other shared inter-  
24 ests;

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

5 (D) the Partners in the Blue Pacific Initia-  
6 tive, a new initiative, to increase diplomatic en-  
7 gagement and coordination in the region.

8 (6) The Boe Declaration on Regional Security,  
9 adopted by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in  
10 2018, affirmed that climate change “remains the  
11 single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and  
12 wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific” and asserted  
13 “the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its  
14 national affairs free of external interference and co-  
15 ercion”.

16 (7) The Asian Development Bank has estimated  
17 that the Pacific Islands region needs upwards of  
18 \$2,800,000,000 a year in investment needs through  
19 2030, in addition to \$300,000,000 a year for climate  
20 mitigation and adaptation over the same period.

21 (8) Since 1966, thousands of Peace Corps vol-  
22 unteers have proudly served in the Pacific Islands,  
23 building strong people-to-people relationships and  
24 partnerships demonstrating the United States com-  
25 mitment to peace and sustainable development in the



1 region, including supporting education, health, and  
2 economic development initiatives. Prior to the  
3 COVID–19 pandemic, the Peace Corps maintained  
4 its presence in four countries of the Pacific Islands  
5 and has since announced plans to return to and ex-  
6 pand programs in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu.  
7 Peace Corps volunteers continue to be in high de-  
8 mand in the Pacific Islands and have been requested  
9 across the region.

10 **SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

11 It is the policy of the United States—

12 (1) to develop and commit to a comprehensive,  
13 multifaceted, and principled United States policy in  
14 the Pacific Islands that—

15 (A) promotes peace, security, and pros-  
16 perity for all countries through a rules-based  
17 regional order that respects the sovereignty,  
18 self-determination, and political independence of  
19 all nations;

20 (B) preserves the Pacific Ocean as an open  
21 and vibrant corridor for international maritime  
22 trade and promotes trade and sustainable devel-  
23 opment that supports inclusive economic growth  
24 and autonomy for all nations and addresses so-  
25 cioeconomic and environmental challenges re-

1           lated to public health, education, renewable en-  
2           ergy, digital connectivity, and more;

3           (C) supports regional efforts to address the  
4           challenges posed by climate change, including  
5           by strengthening resilience to natural disasters  
6           and through responsible stewardship of natural  
7           resources and the need for collective action to  
8           mitigate its impacts and build resilience;

9           (D) improves civil society, strengthens  
10          democratic governance and the rule of law, and  
11          promotes human rights and the preservation of  
12          the region’s unique cultural heritages; and

13          (E) supports existing regional architecture  
14          and the international rules based order and  
15          principles of international law;

16          (2) to support the vision, values, and objectives  
17          of existing regional multilateral institutions and  
18          frameworks, such as the Pacific Islands Forum and  
19          the Pacific Community, including—

20                  (A) the 2000 Biketawa Declaration;

21                  (B) the 2014 Framework for Pacific Re-  
22                  gionalism;

23                  (C) the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional  
24                  Security;

25                  (D) the Boe Declaration Action Plan; and

1 (E) the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific  
2 Continent;

3 (3) to extend and amend the provisions of the  
4 Compacts of Free Association, subsidiary agree-  
5 ments, and related United States law that will expire  
6 in 2023 for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and  
7 the Federated States of Micronesia and in 2024 for  
8 the Republic of Palau unless they are extended; and

9 (4) to work closely with United States allies  
10 and partners with existing relationships and inter-  
11 ests in the Pacific Islands, including Australia,  
12 Japan, New Zealand, and Taiwan, in advancing  
13 common goals.

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

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2027,  
16 and every 4 years thereafter, the President shall develop  
17 and submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
18 a strategy to be known as the “Strategy for Pacific Islands  
19 Partnership” (in this section referred to as the “Strat-  
20 egy”).

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

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

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

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

5           (4) A plan to address the security of the Pacific  
6 Islands region.

7           (5) A strategy to invest in and improve critical  
8 infrastructure.

9           (6) A regional Development Cooperation Strat-  
10 egy formulated by the United States Agency for  
11 International Development.

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

14           (1) regional organizations, such as the Pacific  
15 Islands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development  
16 Program, the Pacific Community and Secretariat for  
17 the Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

18           (2) the countries of the Pacific Islands;

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

21           (4) United States allies and partners; and

22           (5) United States Pacific territories and States.

23       (d) COORDINATION.—In implementing the Strategy,  
24 the President shall coordinate with the heads of other Fed-  
25 eral agencies, including the Secretary of State, the Sec-

1 retary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce,  
2 the Administrator of United States Agency for Inter-  
3 national Development, the Secretary of Defense, and the  
4 United States Trade Representative.

5 **SEC. 104. STAFFING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Ad-  
7 ministrator of the United States Agency for International  
8 Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chief  
9 Executive Officer of the United States International De-  
10 velopment Finance Corporation should increase the num-  
11 ber of staff working on Pacific Islands issues and in the  
12 Pacific Islands to carry out this Act.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Federal officials de-  
15 scribed in subsection (a) shall submit to the appropriate  
16 congressional committees a report—

17 (1) detailing the number of full-time equivalent  
18 positions and contractors working on Pacific Islands  
19 issues, including in the Pacific Islands, to carry out  
20 this Act;

21 (2) describing any planned changes to staffing  
22 levels to carry out this Act and if no changes are  
23 planned providing a plan to carry out this Act under  
24 current staffing levels; and



1 other opportunities offered by international organi-  
2 zations for sustainable development;

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

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

10 (b) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

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

18 **SEC. 106. ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**

19 **REGION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation  
21 with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland  
22 Security, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator  
23 of United States Agency for International Development,  
24 the Secretary of Defense, the United States Trade Rep-  
25 resentative, and any other relevant official, should consult

1 and coordinate with allies and partners in the Pacific Is-  
2 lands region, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand,  
3 Taiwan, and regional institutions such as the Pacific Is-  
4 lands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development Program,  
5 the Pacific Community and Secretariat for the Pacific Re-  
6 gional Environment Programme, with respect to programs  
7 to provide assistance to the Pacific Islands, including pro-  
8 grams established by this Act, including for purposes of—

9 (1) deconflicting programming;

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

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

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

22 (b) FORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.—The Presi-  
23 dent should establish a formal consultative process with  
24 such regional allies and partners to coordinate with re-  
25 spect to such programs and future-years programming.



1     **TITLE II—PEOPLE-CENTERED**  
2                     **DEVELOPMENT**

3     **SEC. 201. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH OUT-**  
4                     **COMES AND BUILD PUBLIC HEALTH CAPAC-**  
5                     **ITY.**

6             (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, is author-  
7 ized to assist the Pacific Islands to improve public health  
8 outcomes and build public health capacity, including in re-  
9 sponse to the COVID–19 pandemic.

10            (b) **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Activities authorized  
11 to be carried out under subsection (a) may include—

12                     (1) programming, including grants, cooperative  
13 agreements, and other forms of assistance, as appro-  
14 priate, to assist in building local capacity to ensure  
15 that Pacific Islanders have access to the essential  
16 health services they need to thrive and to address—

17                             (A) maternal and child health;

18                             (B) family planning and reproductive  
19 health;

20                             (C) gender-based violence;

21                             (D) food security and nutrition;

22                             (E) noncommunicable diseases;

23                             (F) communicable diseases, including ne-  
24 glected tropical diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/  
25 AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, and

1 zoonotic and emerging infectious disease  
2 threats;

3 (G) equitable access to quality, essential,  
4 and affordable health services and quality-as-  
5 sured, safe, effective medical products and their  
6 appropriate use; and

7 (H) water, sanitation, and hygiene;

8 (2) technical assistance to strengthen local  
9 health system capacity and resilience in the areas of  
10 good leadership and governance, sustainable financ-  
11 ing, interoperable information systems and high  
12 quality data for decision making, efficient medical  
13 products and supply chain systems, and manage-  
14 ment of human resources for health, with special at-  
15 tention to increasing health worker performance, re-  
16 tention, productivity, number, skill mix, and com-  
17 petency, including through exploring opportunities  
18 such as private sector engagement and digital health  
19 integration and access;

20 (3) coordination with existing local and regional  
21 health sector goals, efforts, institutions, and frame-  
22 works; and

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

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall sub-  
3 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report  
4 on the implementation of this section.

5 **SEC. 202. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF THE**  
6 **PRESS.**

7 The Secretary of State is authorized to provide assist-  
8 ance to promote the dissemination of free and accurate  
9 information in the Pacific Islands, including for the fol-  
10 lowing purposes:

11 (1) Media capacity building and education, in-  
12 cluding to—

13 (A) provide on-site media training tailored  
14 to local needs;

15 (B) collaborate with local government and  
16 nongovernmental entities to promote media lit-  
17 eracy and integrate media literacy into primary  
18 education curricula in local languages and dia-  
19 lects to ensure accessibility; and

20 (C) routinize funding for professional pro-  
21 grams, such as the Pacific Islands Journalism  
22 Reporting Tour, that bring media professionals  
23 from the Pacific Islands to the United States.

1           (2) Strengthening and diversifying broadcast  
2           content tailored to local audiences, including content  
3           broadcast in the local vernacular.

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

6 **SEC. 203. PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL AND PRO-**  
7                           **FSSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG**  
8                           **ADULT LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS.**

9           (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
10          gress that routinized people-to-people exchange programs  
11          to bring Pacific Islands religious leaders, journalists, civil  
12          society members, politicians, and others to the United  
13          States, as well as supporting similar exchange participants  
14          from the United States to the Pacific Islands, strengthens  
15          existing relationships and advances United States inter-  
16          ests and shared values in the region.

17          (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may de-  
18          velop and implement a program to promote educational  
19          and professional development for young adult leaders and  
20          professionals in the Pacific Islands with a demonstrated  
21          passion to contribute to the continued development of the  
22          Pacific Islands.

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

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

4           (2) grants in amounts not to exceed \$50,000  
5 provided on a competitive basis to qualified young  
6 leaders from the Pacific Islands for the purpose of  
7 carrying out projects dedicated to the improvement  
8 of their communities in the Pacific Islands;

9           (3) regional workshops and professional, voca-  
10 tional, and academic fellowships; and

11           (4) people-to-people exchanges.

12 (d) BRIEFING.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
15 retary of State, acting through the Assistant Sec-  
16 retary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs,  
17 should brief the appropriate congressional commit-  
18 tees on exchange programs for the Pacific Islands  
19 region.

20           (2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by  
21 paragraph (1) shall include—

22           (A) an assessment of factors constraining  
23 the number and frequency of International Vis-  
24 itor Leadership Program participants from  
25 countries of the Pacific Islands;

1 (B) an identification of resources that are  
2 necessary to address the factors described in  
3 subparagraph (A); and

4 (C) a strategy for connecting alumni and  
5 participants of the Department of State’s pro-  
6 fessional development exchange programs in  
7 East Asia, such as the Young Southeast Asian  
8 Leaders Initiative and the Young Pacific Lead-  
9 ers programs, to enhance interregion and  
10 intraregion people-to-people ties.

11 **SEC. 204. EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.**

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

14 (1) promoting basic education in the Pacific Is-  
15 lands, particularly in traditionally underserved com-  
16 munities, advances United States foreign policy  
17 goals and requires a whole of government approach,  
18 and the United States Government currently dedi-  
19 cates insufficient resources and attention to assisting  
20 with education needs in the region;

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

24 (3) countries of the Pacific Islands meet the re-  
25 quirements outlined in subsection (c)(4) of section

1       105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22  
2       U.S.C. 2151c).

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

8               (1) Supporting national nutrition and health  
9       programs.

10              (2) Working with partner governments to re-  
11       form policies, improve curricula, strengthen data  
12       systems, train teachers, and provide quality learning  
13       materials.

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

16              (4) Providing individuals, particularly at-risk  
17       youth, with relevant education, training, and skills  
18       for meaningful employment.

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

23              (6) Promoting teaching and research exchanges  
24       between the Pacific Islands and United States insti-

1       tutions of higher education, including community  
2       colleges.

3       **SEC. 205. INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS.**

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

6               (1) the United States International Develop-  
7       ment Finance Corporation has a dual mandate to  
8       advance United States foreign policy and make high-  
9       ly developmental investment around the world with  
10       a focus on communities most in need;

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

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

20              (4) the United States International Develop-  
21       ment Finance Corporation has not entered into in-  
22       vestment incentive agreements with the government  
23       of the Solomon Islands or with the government of  
24       the Republic of Vanuatu; and



1           (5) the inability of the United States Inter-  
2           national Development Finance Corporation to sup-  
3           port investments in the Solomon Islands and the Re-  
4           public of Vanuatu undermines United States policy  
5           to provide countries a robust alternative to state-di-  
6           rect investments by authoritarian governments and  
7           United States strategic competitors.

8           (b) INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS.—The Chief Execu-  
9           tive Officer of the United States International Develop-  
10          ment Finance Corporation, in coordination with the Sec-  
11          retary of State, shall seek to enter into investment incen-  
12          tive agreements with the governments of those Pacific Is-  
13          lands in which the United States International Develop-  
14          ment Finance Corporation is otherwise authorized to oper-  
15          ate under the BUILD Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601 et  
16          seq.).

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

1 United States International Development Finance Cor-  
2 poration.

3 **TITLE III—PEACE AND**  
4 **SECURITY**

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-  
8 nation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary  
9 of Homeland Security, as appropriate, is authorized to  
10 provide assistance to build the capacity of local civilian  
11 and national security institutions of the Pacific Islands for  
12 purposes of—

13 (1) enhancing maritime security and maritime  
14 domain awareness to address challenges such as ille-  
15 gal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

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

20 (3) providing essential services to civilian popu-  
21 lations and responding to humanitarian challenges  
22 caused by natural disasters;

23 (4) participating in efforts by regional institu-  
24 tions and frameworks to coordinate and facilitate co-  
25 operation on shared security challenges;

1           (5) expanding information sharing and working  
2           toward operational coordination and interoperability  
3           among Pacific Island maritime security forces, in-  
4           cluding through regional fusion centers; and

5           (6) providing assistance in legal actions, includ-  
6           ing hiring legal counsel or providing legal support,  
7           as appropriate, to support Pacific Islands in defend-  
8           ing their rights and interests related to maritime se-  
9           curity, combating transnational crime, responding to  
10          natural disasters, and participating in regional secu-  
11          rity efforts.

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

15                (1) The International Military Education and  
16                Training program.

17                (2) The Foreign Military Financing program.

18                (3) The Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and  
19                Civic Aid program.

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

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

1           (6) The National Guard State Partnership Pro-  
2           gram.

3           (7) The International Narcotics Control and  
4           Law Enforcement Program.

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

12 **SEC. 302. REPORTING.**

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

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

21           (1) The International Narcotics Control Strat-  
22           egy report.

23           (2) The Improving International Fisheries Man-  
24           agement report.

25           (3) The Trafficking in Persons report.

1           **TITLE IV—RESOURCE AND**  
2           **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

3   **SEC. 401. TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PACIFIC IS-**  
4                           **LANDS.**

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

9           (b) TRADE DEVELOPMENT.—The United States  
10 Trade Representative is authorized to expand and diver-  
11 sify trade and promote regional development with the Pa-  
12 cific Islands, including through negotiating trade and in-  
13 vestment framework agreements.

14   **SEC. 402. TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR THE**  
15                           **PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

16           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United  
17 States Agency for International Development, in coordina-  
18 tion with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the  
19 Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chief Exec-  
20 utive Officer of the United States International Develop-  
21 ment Finance Corporation, and the Director of the United  
22 States Trade and Development Agency are authorized to  
23 implement programming to build trade capacity in the Pa-  
24 cific Islands.

1 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities authorized under this  
2 section include—

3 (1) development of human and institutional ca-  
4 pacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of  
5 economies, including digital connectivity and cyber-  
6 security;

7 (2) assistance with development and implemen-  
8 tation of regional and international trade agree-  
9 ments, including the World Trade Organization’s  
10 Agreement on Trade Facilitation and facilitation of  
11 intraregional trade flows;

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

14 (4) promotion of government policies that en-  
15 courage free and fair competition, sound governance,  
16 environmental protection, and business environments  
17 conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic  
18 growth.

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

20 The Secretary of Commerce shall expand the pres-  
21 ence of the United States Commercial Service in the Pa-  
22 cific Islands and allocate additional Foreign Commercial  
23 Service Officers to the Pacific Islands, including by ele-  
24 vating existing partner posts and establishing new Com-  
25 mercial Service posts and partner posts, to—

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

3 (2) examine regulations in host countries in the  
4 Pacific Islands that may hinder foreign direct invest-  
5 ment, including those related to human rights, labor  
6 rights, and environmental protection, and provide  
7 technical assistance when requested by such host  
8 countries; and

9 (3) report on the commercial and investment  
10 activities of non-allied foreign actors in the Pacific  
11 Islands.

## 12 **TITLE V—CLIMATE CHANGE AND** 13 **DISASTERS**

### 14 **SEC. 501. ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE PREPAREDNESS FOR** 15 **AND RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS** 16 **AND OTHER EMERGENCIES.**

17 The Secretary of State is authorized to assist the Pa-  
18 cific Islands to enhance preparedness for and resilience to  
19 natural disasters and other emergencies. Such assistance  
20 includes—

21 (1) education and training programs on natural  
22 disaster prevention and preparedness for emergency  
23 management professionals in the Pacific Islands, in-  
24 cluding by leveraging the expertise of nonprofit orga-

1 nizations and institutions of higher education in the  
2 United States;

3 (2) technical assistance, including through  
4 grants and cooperative agreements for qualified  
5 United States and local nongovernmental organiza-  
6 tions, to enhance early warning systems, emergency  
7 management and preparedness procedures, and post-  
8 disaster relief and recovery;

9 (3) coordination of existing disaster mitigation  
10 and response plans in the region, including by  
11 United States allies and partners in the region;

12 (4) infrastructure development and upgrades to  
13 improve disaster preparedness and response, such as  
14 the construction of evacuation centers, flood control  
15 measures, and communication networks;

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

20 (6) technical assistance and training to enhance  
21 the capacity of local emergency response agencies,  
22 including search and rescue teams, fire departments,  
23 and medical personnel;



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

4           (8) support for programs aimed at reducing the  
5           long-term impacts of disasters, such as disaster risk  
6           insurance, small business recovery programs, and  
7           environmental restoration initiatives.

8 **SEC. 502. CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE.**

9           The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-  
10          ministrators of the United States Agency for International  
11          Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chief  
12          Executive Officer of the United States International De-  
13          velopment Finance Corporation, as appropriate, is author-  
14          ized to—

15               (1) invest in and improve critical infrastructure,  
16               including transport connectivity, hospitals, health  
17               clinics, pharmacies, information and communications  
18               technology, food security, coastal zone management,  
19               marine and water resource management, and energy  
20               security and access to electricity in the Pacific Is-  
21               lands, with an emphasis on climate resiliency and  
22               sustainable development;

23               (2) provide technical assistance to assist local  
24               government and civil society leaders assess risks to  
25               local infrastructure, especially those posed by climate

1 change, consider and implement risk mitigation ef-  
2 forts and policies to strengthen resilience, and evalu-  
3 ate proposed projects and solutions for their efficacy  
4 and sustainability;

5 (3) support investment and improvement in eco-  
6 system conservation and protection for the long-term  
7 sustainable use of ecosystem services, especially  
8 those that mitigate effects of climate change and  
9 those that support food security and livelihoods;

10 (4) invest in and improve critical telecommuni-  
11 cations infrastructure and cybersecurity;

12 (5) foster public-private partnerships and co-  
13 operation among stakeholders to mobilize private  
14 sector investment and innovation for sustainable in-  
15 frastructure development and climate resiliency in  
16 the Pacific Islands;

17 (6) provide technical assistance and capacity  
18 building to local governments and communities to in-  
19 tegrate climate resilience into their infrastructure  
20 planning and development strategies;

21 (7) develop and implement programs that pro-  
22 mote the use of renewable energy and energy effi-  
23 ciency technologies in the Pacific Islands, including  
24 through investment in clean energy infrastructure

1 and technical assistance to local utilities and energy  
2 regulators;

3 (8) work with regional organizations and gov-  
4 ernments to promote the sustainable management of  
5 marine resources, including through the development  
6 of marine protected areas and ecosystem-based man-  
7 agement approaches;

8 (9) foster partnerships between Pacific Island  
9 governments and research institutions to build sci-  
10 entific capacity and support research on climate  
11 change impacts and adaptation strategies in the re-  
12 gion; and

13 (10) promote the use of innovative financing  
14 mechanisms, such as green bonds and climate risk  
15 insurance, to help Pacific Island countries access af-  
16 fordable financing for climate-resilient infrastructure  
17 development.

## 18 **TITLE VI—OCEAN AND** 19 **ENVIRONMENT**

### 20 **SEC. 601. OCEANS MANAGEMENT.**

21 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-  
22 ministrator of the United States Agency for International  
23 Development and the Secretary of Commerce, is author-  
24 ized to—

1           (1) support programming that promotes fish-  
2           eries sustainability and marine biodiversity conserva-  
3           tion in the Pacific Islands;

4           (2) support the development, adoption, and im-  
5           plementation of regional sustainable fisheries poli-  
6           cies, standards, and regulatory frameworks;

7           (3) partner with regional private sector inter-  
8           ests in the adoption and implementation of seafood  
9           industry fair-labor standards and sustainable fishing  
10          practices;

11          (4) provide technical assistance to assist local  
12          government and civil society leaders to improve envi-  
13          ronmental and ocean management; and

14          (5) provide technical assistance and capacity  
15          building to improve data collection and management,  
16          including through the use of innovative technologies,  
17          to support sustainable fisheries management and  
18          biodiversity conservation in the region;

19          (6) support the development and implementa-  
20          tion of integrated ocean management and marine  
21          spatial planning frameworks that incorporate local  
22          knowledge and community input, promote eco-  
23          system-based management approaches, and address  
24          transboundary marine conservation challenges;

1           (7) support research and monitoring programs  
2           to better understand the impacts of climate change  
3           on oceans and fisheries in the Pacific Islands and to  
4           inform evidence-based management approaches;

5           (8) support regional efforts to combat illegal,  
6           unreported, and unregulated fishing and promote  
7           sustainable fisheries practices, including through the  
8           development of traceability systems and improved  
9           monitoring and enforcement capacity;

10          (9) encourage private sector investment in sus-  
11          tainable fisheries and marine conservation efforts in  
12          the Pacific Islands, including through partnerships  
13          with local communities and businesses; and

14          (10) promote public awareness and engagement  
15          on issues related to sustainable fisheries and ocean  
16          management in the Pacific Islands, including  
17          through education and outreach programs.

18 **SEC. 602. SEA LEVEL RISE.**

19          The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-  
20          ministrators of the United States Agency for International  
21          Development and the Secretary of Commerce, is author-  
22          ized to provide support and technical assistance to Pacific  
23          Islands to address the impacts of sea level rise with the  
24          aim of—

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

4           (2) protecting and increasing the resilience of  
5 critical coastal infrastructure;

6           (3) preserving Pacific Islands maritime bound-  
7 aries and their entitlements;

8           (4) preserving Pacific Islands' statehoods;

9           (5) providing support to Pacific Islands to de-  
10 velop and implement effective and just migration  
11 policies that address the impacts of sea level rise on  
12 communities and provide options for those who wish  
13 to migrate;

14           (6) collaborating with international organiza-  
15 tions and Pacific Island to provide humanitarian as-  
16 sistance to those affected by sea level rise, including  
17 through access to food, water, and shelter; and

18           (7) supporting efforts to build resilience and  
19 sustainable livelihoods in affected communities, in-  
20 cluding through the development of alternative eco-  
21 nomic opportunities and sustainable agriculture  
22 practices.

1 **SEC. 603. ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED**  
2 **FISHING.**

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

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

7 (2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-  
8 graph (10); and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(9) an assessment of gaps or limitations in the  
12 ability of the United States to effectively assist pri-  
13 ority regions and priority flag states relating to IUU  
14 fishing due to resource constraints and the addi-  
15 tional resources necessary to overcome those con-  
16 straints; and”.

17 **TITLE VII—TECHNOLOGY AND**  
18 **CONNECTIVITY**

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

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, and the United States Trade  
25 and Development Authority, is authorized to provide sup-  
26 port to the Pacific Islands to—

1           (1) expand access to high quality broadband  
2           and telecommunications infrastructure in the Pacific  
3           Islands;

4           (2) partner with regional private and public sec-  
5           tor interests to promote and expand secure and ac-  
6           cessible broadband connectivity; and

7           (3) strengthen the private sector and civil soci-  
8           ety's digital capacity and digital skillset.

9   **SEC. 702. CYBERSECURITY.**

10          The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-  
11          ministrators of the United States Agency for International  
12          Development and the heads of the United States Inter-  
13          national Development Finance Corporation, the Millen-  
14          nium Challenge Corporation, and the United States Trade  
15          and Development Authority, is authorized to provide sup-  
16          port and technical assistance to the Pacific Islands to—

17               (1) increase adoption of policies and regulatory  
18               positions that encourage open, interoperable, reli-  
19               able, and secure digital infrastructure;

20               (2) increase adoption of cybersecurity best prac-  
21               tices in the Pacific Islands, including through edu-  
22               cation and training programs for government and  
23               private sector entities;

24               (3) assist with the development and implemen-  
25               tation of cybersecurity strategies and policies, in-



1 including incident response plans and risk manage-  
2 ment frameworks;

3 (4) promote international cooperation and infor-  
4 mation sharing on cybersecurity threats and inci-  
5 dents; and

6 (5) assist in the establishment and strength-  
7 ening of national and regional Computer Emergency  
8 Response Teams (CERTs) to enhance cyber incident  
9 detection and response capabilities.

10 **TITLE VIII—REPORT ON THE**  
11 **STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC IS-**  
12 **LANDS PARTNERSHIP AND**  
13 **AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-**  
14 **PRIATIONS**

15 **SEC. 801. REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC IS-**  
16 **LANDS PARTNERSHIP.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
18 date on which the initial report on the progress in imple-  
19 menting the Strategy for Pacific Islands Partnership re-  
20 quired by section 103 is submitted to the appropriate con-  
21 gressional committees, and not later than January 1 of  
22 each odd-numbered year thereafter, the President, in con-  
23 sultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of  
24 Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce, the Ad-  
25 ministrator of United States Agency for International De-

1 velopment, the Secretary of Defense, the United States  
2 Trade Representative, and any other relevant official, shall  
3 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-  
4 port on the progress in implementing the Strategy for Pa-  
5 cific Islands Partnership.

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

8 (1) An assessment of the security challenges to  
9 the Pacific Islands, including—

10 (A) an assessment of the status of security  
11 challenges to the Pacific Islands, including as  
12 outlined by regional documents such as the Boe  
13 Declaration on regional security;

14 (B) an analysis of demonstrated needs of  
15 the Pacific Islands for assistance, including ex-  
16 cess defense equipment and related materials  
17 with humanitarian and development uses to ful-  
18 fill such needs;

19 (C) a review of existing security assistance  
20 programs in the Pacific Islands, including pro-  
21 grams and efforts provided by United States al-  
22 lies and partners;

23 (D) a plan for programs for training and  
24 sustainment with respect to such excess defense

1 equipment and related materials, including  
2 those with humanitarian and development uses;

3 (E) a list of militaries, national police  
4 forces, coast guards, and other national security  
5 forces of the Pacific Islands receiving assistance  
6 under the strategy;

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

11 (G) a review of existing cross-border mari-  
12 time law enforcement operations (commonly  
13 known as “shiprider agreements”) with the Pa-  
14 cific Islands, an assessment of additional  
15 resourcing needs to enhance operational capac-  
16 ity, and a plan to improve on these programs  
17 and operations;

18 (H) a review of existing National Guard  
19 State Partnership Programs with the Pacific Is-  
20 lands, an assessment of additional opportunities  
21 to leverage National Guard State Partnership  
22 Programs to address law enforcement, disaster  
23 relief and emergency management, and related  
24 priorities, and a plan to expand, as appropriate,

1 existing and new National Guard State Part-  
2 nership Programs in the region;

3 (I) a review of current efforts and progress  
4 in removing unexploded ordnance in the Pacific  
5 Islands and an assessment of additional  
6 resourcing needed to ensure continued progress,  
7 including to support coordination with regional  
8 efforts and those of United States allies and  
9 partners;

10 (J) a review of existing regional fusion cen-  
11 ters and other cooperative intelligence sharing  
12 efforts in the Pacific Islands to address mari-  
13 time security, transnational crime, natural dis-  
14 asters, and other security challenges and an as-  
15 sessment of opportunities for the United States  
16 to participate in such efforts, including by allo-  
17 cating staff and supplying resourcing;

18 (K) measures to evaluate success for the  
19 strategy; and

20 (L) a detailed assessment of appropriations  
21 required to achieve the objectives for the strat-  
22 egy in future years.

23 (2) An assessment of the diplomatic presence in  
24 the Pacific Islands, including—

1 (A) a description of the Department of  
2 State, United States Agency for International  
3 Development, United States International De-  
4 velopment Finance Corporation, Millennium  
5 Challenge Corporation, United States Trade  
6 and Development Authority and United States  
7 Commercial Service presence, staffing, pro-  
8 gramming, and resourcing of operations in the  
9 Pacific Islands, including programming and  
10 resourcing not specifically allocated to the Pa-  
11 cific Islands; and

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

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

16 (A) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives,  
17 and programs undertaken by regional allies and  
18 partners, including multilateral organizations,  
19 to advance the priorities identified in this Act;

20 (B) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives,  
21 and programs undertaken by nonallied foreign  
22 actors that are viewed as being potentially  
23 harmful or in any way detrimental to one or  
24 more countries of the Pacific Islands; and

1 (C) an assessment of United States pro-  
2 grams in the Pacific Islands and their align-  
3 ment and complementarity with the efforts of  
4 regional allies and partners.

5 (4) A description of trade capacity building, in-  
6 cluding—

7 (A) economic opportunities for which  
8 United States businesses, or those of other like-  
9 minded partners, would be competitive;

10 (B) legal, economic, governance,  
11 infrastructural, or other hurdles limiting United  
12 States investment in the Pacific Islands; and

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

14 (i) develop human and institutional  
15 capacity and infrastructure across multiple  
16 sectors of economies, including digital  
17 connectivity and cybersecurity;

18 (ii) assist with development and im-  
19 plementation of regional and international  
20 trade agreements, including the World  
21 Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade  
22 Facilitation and facilitation of  
23 intraregional trade flows;

24 (iii) support women-owned enterprises  
25 and gender equality; and

1 (iv) promote government policies that  
2 encourage free and fair competition, sound  
3 governance, environmental protection, and  
4 business environments conducive to sus-  
5 tainable and inclusive economic growth.

6 (5) A description of trade development, includ-  
7 ing—

8 (A) an assessment of the readiness of  
9 countries in the Pacific Islands to enter into en-  
10 hanced trade relationships with the United  
11 States, including with respect to reducing or  
12 eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers inhib-  
13 iting progress towards deepening trade relation-  
14 ships;

15 (B) a review of existing regional multilat-  
16 eral and bilateral trade agreements and pref-  
17 erence programs involving the Pacific Islands  
18 and their impacts on regional trade and devel-  
19 opment; and

20 (C) an identification of opportunities to  
21 work with existing regional frameworks to in-  
22 crease trade and economic integration with the  
23 Pacific Islands.

24 (6) A description of emergency preparedness for  
25 the Pacific Islands, including—

1 (A) an assessment of disaster risks in the  
2 Pacific Islands and existing local and regional  
3 capacity to respond to such risks; and

4 (B) a review of existing efforts by United  
5 States allies and partners to provide assistance  
6 and training for natural disaster preparedness  
7 and emergency management.

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

10 (A) a comparative analysis of the Peace  
11 Corps presence in the Pacific Islands region to  
12 other regions of the world, including a cost-ben-  
13 efit analysis of placement in the region versus  
14 elsewhere globally;

15 (B) an analysis of current impediments to  
16 Peace Corps expansion in the Pacific Islands  
17 region;

18 (C) outcomes of consultations among  
19 United States agencies, and with regional allies  
20 and partners, on areas in which cooperation can  
21 reduce factors limiting Peace Corps expansion,  
22 particularly those related to medical transpor-  
23 tation and personal safety; and

24 (D) a plan and timeline for implementing  
25 outcomes identified to facilitate expansion of



1 Peace Corps presence in the region, where ap-  
2 propriate.

3 (8) A description of public health and health  
4 care challenges in the Pacific Islands, including  
5 health systems strengthening, immunization, non-  
6 communicable diseases, and gender-based violence.

7 (9) A description of resilient development in the  
8 Pacific Islands, including—

9 (A) a review of foreign infrastructure de-  
10 velopments in the Pacific Islands by non-United  
11 States allies and partners;

12 (B) assessments of the environmental im-  
13 pact and sustainability of such developments;

14 (C) an analysis of the financial sustain-  
15 ability of such developments and their impacts  
16 on the debt of host countries in the Pacific Is-  
17 lands; and

18 (D) an analysis of the region’s banking in-  
19 frastructure and Pacific Island access to finan-  
20 cial services.

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

23 (A) an assessment of the national laws of  
24 the Pacific Islands with respect to foreign in-  
25 vestment in media and related sectors;

1 (B) relevant licensing regulations of the  
2 Pacific Islands and governmental restrictions on  
3 free expression that limit the availability of di-  
4 verse media voices in the Pacific Islands; and

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

7 (i) to influence, shape, or circumvent  
8 regulations in the media or telecommuni-  
9 cation sectors; and

10 (ii) to co-opt local media and nar-  
11 ratives.

12 (11) A description of civil society engagement  
13 and development, including—

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

19 (B) an identification of objectives and  
20 measures of success for the program.

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

1 (A) investments in the development or im-  
2 provement critical infrastructure supported by  
3 the United States;

4 (B) technical assistance for the develop-  
5 ment or improvement of critical infrastructure  
6 supported by the United States; and

7 (C) a description of support given to Pa-  
8 cific Islands on the expansion of telecommuni-  
9 cations infrastructure.

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

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

17 (c) RECOMMENDATION.—Beginning on the date that  
18 is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
19 the President may submit to the appropriate congressional  
20 committees a recommendation on the consolidation or  
21 elimination of any duplicative reports as required by this  
22 section.

23 **SEC. 802. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 There are authorized to be appropriated  
25 \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2033

1 to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this  
2 Act.

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