

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5001

To establish a position of Special Advisor for Insular Areas in each Executive department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a position of Special Advisor for Insular Areas in each Executive department, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Special Advisors for
5 Insular Areas Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR INSULAR AREAS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Special Advi-
8 sor for Insular Areas in each Executive department, who
9 shall be an officer of the Executive department.

1 (b) APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 6 months after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each
3 Executive department shall appoint a Special Advisor for
4 Insular Areas for the applicable Executive department. If
5 a vacancy occurs after an initial appointment, the applica-
6 ble head shall appoint a new Special Advisor for Insular
7 Areas not later than 3 months after the date that the va-
8 cancy occurs.

9 (c) DUTIES.—The Special Advisor for Insular Areas
10 for each Executive department shall—

11 (1) serve as the principal advisor to the head of
12 the applicable Executive department on matters af-
13 fecting insular areas;

14 (2) assess the impact of departmental initiatives
15 in the insular areas;

16 (3) provide guidance to programs within the
17 Executive department that impact insular areas;

18 (4) serve as a liaison for stakeholders from the
19 insular areas; and

20 (5) work with the Interagency Group on Insular
21 Areas established by Executive Order 13537 or any
22 successor group within the Department of the Inte-
23 rior.

1 **SEC. 3. INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Special Advisor for Insular
3 Areas for each Executive department (or their designees)
4 and the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International
5 Affairs (or their designee) shall meet not less than once
6 every 3 months to address major policy matters and initia-
7 tives affecting the insular areas.

8 (b) RECORD OF MEETINGS.—A record of each meet-
9 ing shall be taken by an employee of and maintained by
10 the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.—The term “Ex-
14 ecutive department” has the meaning given that
15 term in section 101 of title 5, United States Code,
16 but does not include the Department of the Interior.

17 (2) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term
18 “Freely Associated States” means the Republic of
19 the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micro-
20 nesia, and the Republic of Palau.

21 (3) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas”
22 means the territories and Freely Associated States.

23 (4) TERRITORIES.—The term “territories”
24 means American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Is-

1 lands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of
2 the United States.

○