

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2967

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2021

Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BERA, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Af-
fairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Nat-
ural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speak-
er, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the ju-
risdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a comprehensive, long-term United States strat-
egy 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”.

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

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

TITLE I—UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT AND COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

- Sec. 101. Diplomatic presence in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 102. International Law Enforcement Academy for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 103. Security assistance for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 104. Countering transnational crime.
- Sec. 105. Coordination with regional allies.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Sec. 201. Trade development with the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 202. Trade capacity building initiative for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 203. Emergency preparedness initiative for the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 204. Peace Corps in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 205. Public health in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 206. Education assistance.
- Sec. 207. Climate resilient development in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 208. Coordination with other Federal agencies and cooperation and participation of nongovernmental United States entities.

TITLE III—PROMOTION OF SHARED VALUES

- Sec. 301. Press freedom in the Pacific Islands.
- Sec. 302. U.S. Agency For Global Media.
- Sec. 303. Gender equality.
- Sec. 304. Pacific Islands Leadership Development Initiative.
- Sec. 305. Civil society engagement and development.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Pacific Islands—

4 (A) are home to roughly 10 million resi-
5 dents, including over 8.6 million in Papua New
6 Guinea, constituting diverse and dynamic cul-
7 tures and peoples;

8 (B) are spread across an expanse of the
9 Pacific Ocean equivalent to 15 percent of the

1 Earth's surface, including the three sub-regions
2 of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia; and

3 (C) face shared challenges in development
4 that have distinct local contexts, including cli-
5 mate change and rising sea levels, geographic
6 distances from major markets, and vulnerability
7 to external shocks such as natural disasters.

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

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

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

19 (B) advancing economic prosperity free
20 from coercion through trade and sustainable de-
21 velopment; and

22 (C) supporting democracy, good govern-
23 ance, the rule of law, and human rights and
24 fundamental freedoms.

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

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

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

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

1 trafficking; and resilience to address climate
2 change and disaster response”.

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

6 (A) the Pacific Pledge, which provided an
7 additional \$100,000,000 in 2019 and
8 \$200,000,000 in 2020, on top of the approxi-
9 mately \$350,000,000 that the United States
10 provides annually to the region to support
11 shared priorities in economic and human devel-
12 opment, climate change, and more; and

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

21 (6) The Boe Declaration on Regional Security,
22 signed by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in
23 2018, affirmed that climate change “remains the
24 single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and
25 wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific” and asserted

1 “the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its
2 national affairs free of external interference and co-
3 ercion”.

4 (7) The Asian Development Bank has estimated
5 that the Pacific Islands region needs upwards of
6 \$2.8 billion a year in investment needs through
7 2030, in addition to \$300 million a year for climate
8 mitigation and adaptation over the same period.

9 (8) The Pacific Islands swiftly enacted effective
10 policies to prevent and contain the spread of the
11 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (commonly referred to as
12 “COVID–19”) pandemic to their populations. The
13 United States has provided over \$130,000,000 in as-
14 sistance to the Pacific Islands for their COVID–19
15 response. However, priorities must be met to ensure
16 continued success in preventing the spread of the
17 COVID–19 pandemic, achieving swift and wide-
18 spread vaccinations, and pursuing long-term eco-
19 nomic recovery in the Pacific Islands, including
20 through—

21 (A) expanding testing capacity and acquisi-
22 tion of needed medical supplies, including avail-
23 able COVID–19 vaccines and supporting vac-
24 cination efforts, through a reliable supply chain;

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

3 (C) mitigating and recovering from the im-
4 pacts of the COVID–19 pandemic on the health
5 system and the reliance on food and energy im-
6 ports as well as lost tourism revenue and other
7 economic and food security damages caused by
8 the pandemic.

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

19 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

20 It is the policy of the United States—

21 (1) to develop and commit to a comprehensive,
22 multifaceted, and principled United States policy in
23 the Pacific Islands that—

24 (A) promotes peace, security, and pros-
25 perity for all countries through a rules-based

1 regional order that respects the sovereignty and
2 political independence of all nations;

3 (B) preserves the Pacific Ocean as an open
4 and vibrant corridor for international maritime
5 trade and promotes trade and sustainable devel-
6 opment that supports inclusive economic growth
7 and autonomy for all nations and addresses so-
8 cioeconomic challenges related to public health,
9 education, renewable energy, digital
10 connectivity, and more;

11 (C) supports regional efforts to address the
12 challenges posed by climate change, including
13 by strengthening resilience to natural disasters
14 and through responsible stewardship of natural
15 resources;

16 (D) improves civil society, strengthens
17 democratic governance and the rule of law, and
18 promotes human rights and the preservation of
19 the region's unique cultural heritages;

20 (E) assists the Pacific Islands in pre-
21 venting and containing the spread of the
22 COVID-19 pandemic and in pursuing long-
23 term economic recovery; and

24 (F) supports existing regional architecture
25 and international norms;

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

(A) the 2014 Framework for Pacific Regionalism;

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

(C) the Boe Declaration Action Plan;

(3) to extend and renew the provisions of the Compacts of Free Association and related United States law that will expire in 2023 for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and in 2024 for the Republic of Palau unless they are extended and renewed; and

(4) to work closely with United States allies and partners with existing relationships and interests in the Pacific Islands, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Taiwan, in advancing common goals.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives; and

3 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
4 the Senate.

5 (2) PACIFIC ISLANDS.—The terms “Pacific Is-
6 lands” means the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji,
7 the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Mar-
8 shall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
9 the Republic of Nauru, Niue, the Republic of Palau,
10 the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the
11 Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands,
12 the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of
13 Vanuatu.

14 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS; FORM OF**
15 **REPORTS.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE REPORTS.—Any
17 reports required to be submitted to the appropriate con-
18 gressional committees under this Act that are subject to
19 deadlines for submission consisting of the same units of
20 time may be consolidated into a single report that is sub-
21 mitted to appropriate congressional committees pursuant
22 to such deadlines and that contains all information re-
23 quired under such reports.

1 (b) FORM OF REPORTS.—Each report required by
2 this Act shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
3 contain a classified annex.

4 **TITLE I—UNITED STATES EN-**
5 **GAGEMENT AND COUN-**
6 **TERING TRANSNATIONAL**
7 **CRIME**

8 **SEC. 101. DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC IS-**
9 **LANDS.**

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

12 (1) the strategic importance of the Pacific Is-
13 lands necessitates an examination of whether United
14 States diplomatic, economic, and development en-
15 gagement and presence in the Pacific Islands region
16 is sufficient to effectively support United States ob-
17 jectives and meaningful participation in regional
18 fora;

19 (2) improving shared understanding of and
20 jointly combatting the transnational challenges perti-
21 nent to the Pacific Islands region with countries of
22 the Pacific Islands and regional partners such as
23 Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Taiwan is vi-
24 tally important to our shared long-term interests of
25 stability, security, and prosperity;

1 (3) the United States should seek to participate
2 in and support efforts to coordinate a regional re-
3 sponse toward maritime security, including through
4 continued United States and Pacific Islands partici-
5 pation in the Pacific Fusion Centre in Vanuatu and
6 Information Fusion Centre in Singapore, and robust
7 cooperation with regional allies; and

8 (4) the United States Government should com-
9 mit to sending appropriate levels of representation to
10 regional events.

11 (b) REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
14 nually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State,
15 in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and
16 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
17 International Development, shall submit to the ap-
18 propriate congressional committees a report on the
19 diplomatic and development presence of the United
20 States in the Pacific Islands.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
22 graph (1) shall include the following:

23 (A) A description of the Department of
24 State, United States Agency for International
25 Development, United States International De-

1 development Finance Corporation, Millennium
2 Challenge Corporation, and United States Com-
3 mercial Service presence, staffing, program-
4 ming, and resourcing of operations in the Pa-
5 cific Islands, including programming and
6 resourcing not specifically allocated to the Pa-
7 cific Islands.

8 (B) A description of gaps in such presence,
9 including unfilled full-time equivalent positions.

10 (C) A description of limitations and chal-
11 lenges such gaps pose to United States stra-
12 tegic objectives, including—

13 (i) gaps in support of the Pacific Is-
14 lands due to operations being conducted
15 from the United States Agency for Inter-
16 national Development offices in Manila and
17 Suva; and

18 (ii) gaps in programming and
19 resourcing.

20 (D) A strategy to expand and elevate such
21 presence to fill such gaps, including by estab-
22 lishing new missions, expanding participation in
23 regional forums, and elevating United States
24 representation in regional forums.

1 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENHANCE DIPLOMATIC AND ECO-
2 NOMIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Secretary of State and the
3 Secretary of Commerce are authorized to hire locally em-
4 ployed staff in the Pacific Islands for the purpose of pro-
5 moting increased diplomatic engagement and economic
6 and commercial engagement between the United States
7 and the Pacific Islands.

8 (d) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRAT-
9 EGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Admin-
11 istrator of the United States Agency for International De-
12 velopment shall submit to the appropriate congressional
13 committees a regional development cooperation strategy
14 for the Pacific Islands.

15 **SEC. 102. INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**
16 **FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

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

- 21 (1) expanding coverage of the regional program
22 located in Bangkok, Thailand to the Pacific Islands;
23 or
24 (2) establishing a new regional program for the
25 Pacific Islands.

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

10 (c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a
13 briefing on the plan developed under this section.

14 **SEC. 103. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THE PACIFIC IS-**
15 **LANDS.**

16 (a) STRATEGY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, with
18 the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense and in
19 coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
20 rity, shall develop and implement a comprehensive
21 strategy to provide assistance to and build the ca-
22 pacity of local civilian and national security institu-
23 tions of the Pacific Islands for purposes of—

24 (A) enhancing maritime security and mari-
25 time domain awareness to address challenges

1 such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated
2 fishing;

3 (B) assisting local law enforcement in de-
4 tecting, preventing, and combating human and
5 drug trafficking and other forms of
6 transnational crime;

7 (C) providing essential services to civilian
8 populations and responding to humanitarian
9 challenges caused by natural disasters;

10 (D) participating in efforts by regional in-
11 stitutions and frameworks to coordinate and fa-
12 cilitate cooperation on shared security chal-
13 lenges; and

14 (E) expanding information sharing and to
15 work toward operational coordination and inter-
16 operability among Pacific Island maritime secu-
17 rity forces, including through regional fusion
18 centers.

19 (2) PROGRAMS AND AUTHORITIES DE-
20 SCRIBED.—The strategy required by this subsection
21 shall build on but not be limited to the following
22 programs and authorities:

23 (A) The International Military Education
24 and Training program.

1 (B) The Foreign Military Financing pro-
2 gram.

3 (C) The Overseas Humanitarian Disaster
4 and Civic Aid program.

5 (D) The authority to build the capacity of
6 foreign security forces under section 333 of title
7 10, United States Code.

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

11 (F) The National Guard State Partnership
12 Program.

13 (3) NATIONAL POLICE FORCES AND COAST
14 GUARDS.—The national police forces and coast
15 guards of the Pacific Islands are eligible to receive
16 assistance under the programs and authorities de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2) (other than the programs
18 and authorities described in subparagraphs (A), (D),
19 and (F) of paragraph (2)) for purposes of the strat-
20 egy required by this subsection.

21 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
22 quired by subsection (a) shall seek to preserve peace and
23 regional stability in the Pacific Islands and take into con-
24 sideration and seek to build upon but not duplicate exist-

1 ing assistance provided by United States allies and part-
2 ners.

3 (c) REPORT.—

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

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

11 (A) an assessment of security challenges to
12 the Pacific Islands;

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

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

22 (D) a plan for programs for training and
23 sustainment with respect to such excess defense
24 equipment and related materials, including
25 those with humanitarian and development uses;

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (K) measures to evaluate success for the
17 strategy; and

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

21 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
23 propriate congressional committees” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
25 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-

1 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
2 the House of Representatives; and

3 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
4 the Committee on Armed Services, and the
5 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
6 portation of the Senate.

7 **SEC. 104. COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME.**

8 (a) RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL IN-
9 STRUMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall
11 prioritize efforts to assist the Pacific Islands in rati-
12 fying and implementing international legal conven-
13 tions related to transnational crime, such as—

14 (A) the Convention on International Trade
15 in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and
16 Flora;

17 (B) the Agreement on Port State Meas-
18 ures; and

19 (C) relevant protocols supplementing the
20 United Nations Convention Against
21 Transnational Organized Crime, such as—

22 (i) the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress,
23 and Punish Trafficking in Person, Espe-
24 cially Women and Children; and

1 (ii) the Protocol Against the Smug-
2 gling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air.

3 (2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
5 every 2 years thereafter as appropriate, the Sec-
6 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
7 gressional committees a report on—

8 (A) the status of the progress of each
9 country of the Pacific Islands toward ratifying
10 and implementing international legal conven-
11 tions related to transnational crime; and

12 (B) United States plans for assisting those
13 countries that have yet to fully ratify such con-
14 ventions with their respective ratification ef-
15 forts.

16 (b) UPDATES OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—The Secretary
17 of State, in coordination with other Federal agencies as
18 appropriate, shall identify and update existing reports to
19 include forms of transnational crime affecting the Pacific
20 Islands, such as—

21 (1) the International Narcotics Control Strat-
22 egy report;

23 (2) the Improving International Fisheries Man-
24 agement report; and

25 (3) the Trafficking in Persons report.

1 (c) ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
4 nually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordi-
5 nation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies,
6 shall submit to appropriate congressional committees
7 a report that identifies countries of the Pacific Is-
8 lands that are countries of concern with respect to
9 illegal logging and associated trade.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
11 graph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) A description of the impact illegal log-
13 ging and associated trade have had on local
14 communities, good governance, and biodiversity,
15 including an identification of those foreign
16 countries that may be financing or in any other
17 manner supporting illegal logging activities.

18 (B) A description of efforts taken by coun-
19 tries identified under paragraph (1) to comply
20 and take appropriate corrective action to miti-
21 gate illegal logging, and an evaluation of the
22 progress of those efforts.

23 (C) A description of steps taken by the
24 heads of relevant Federal agencies to assist the
25 Pacific Islands in adopting and implementing

1 international measures comparable to those of
2 the United States, such as the Lacey Act, to re-
3 duce impacts of illicit logging.

4 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
6 propriate congressional committees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
8 the Committee on Ways and Means of the
9 House of Representatives; and

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

12 (d) ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED
13 FISHING.—Section 3553 of the National Defense Author-
14 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (16 U.S.C. 8033) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (8) as para-
19 graph (9); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (7) (as amend-
21 ed) the following:

22 “(8) an assessment of gaps or limitations in the
23 ability of the United States to effectively assist pri-
24 ority regions and priority flag states relating to IUU
25 fishing due to resource constraints and the addi-

1 tional resources necessary to overcome those con-
2 straints; and”.

3 **SEC. 105. COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL ALLIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall con-
5 sult and coordinate with regional allies and partners, in-
6 cluding Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, and re-
7 gional institutions such as the Pacific Islands Forum and
8 the Pacific Community, with respect to programs to pro-
9 vide assistance to the Pacific Islands, including programs
10 established by this Act, including for purposes of—

11 (1) deconflicting programming;

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

15 (3) ensuring complementary programs benefit
16 the Pacific Islands to the maximum extent prac-
17 ticable.

18 (b) FORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.—The Sec-
19 retary of State shall establish a formal consultative proc-
20 ess with such regional allies and partners to coordinate
21 with respect to such programs and future-years program-
22 ming.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congress-
2 sional committees a report that includes—

3 (1) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives, and
4 programs undertaken by regional allies and part-
5 ners, including multilateral organizations, to advance
6 priorities identified in this Act;

7 (2) a review of ongoing efforts, initiatives, and
8 programs undertaken by non-allied foreign actors
9 that are viewed as being potentially harmful or in
10 any way detrimental to one or more countries of the
11 Pacific Islands;

12 (3) an assessment of United States programs in
13 the Pacific Islands and their alignment and
14 complementarity with the efforts of regional allies
15 and partners identified in paragraph (1); and

16 (4) a review of the formal consultative process
17 required in subsection (b) to summarize engage-
18 ments held and identify opportunities to improve co-
19 ordination with regional allies and partners.

20 **TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT** 21 **INITIATIVES**

22 **SEC. 201. TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PACIFIC IS-** 23 **LANDS.**

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

1 multilateral trade with the Pacific Islands to promote
2 socio-economic development and mutual prosperity.

3 (b) STRATEGY.—The United States Trade Rep-
4 resentative shall develop and implement a strategy to ex-
5 pand and diversify trade and promote regional develop-
6 ment with the Pacific Islands, including through negoti-
7 ating trade and investment framework agreements.

8 (c) REPORT.—

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

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

17 (A) an assessment of the readiness of
18 countries in the Pacific Islands to enter into en-
19 hanced trade relationships with the United
20 States, including with respect to reducing or
21 eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers inhib-
22 iting progress towards deepening trade relation-
23 ships;

24 (B) a review of existing regional multilat-
25 eral and bilateral trade agreements and pref-

1 erence programs involving the Pacific Islands
2 and their impacts on regional trade and devel-
3 opment; and

4 (C) an identification of opportunities to
5 work with existing regional frameworks to in-
6 crease trade and economic integration with the
7 Pacific Islands.

8 (d) BRIEFING REQUIRED ON PACIFIC ISLANDS
9 TRADE PREFERENCES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
12 United States Trade Representative shall provide to
13 the appropriate congressional committees a briefing
14 on the use of the Generalized System of Preferences
15 under title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.
16 2461 et seq.) by the Pacific Islands.

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

19 (A) a review of the usage of the General-
20 ized System of Preferences by the Pacific Is-
21 lands over the past 20 years, including the
22 value and types of goods traded under the pro-
23 gram;

24 (B) an analysis of United States trade
25 with the Pacific Islands covered under the Gen-

1 eralized System of Preferences compared to
2 trade with the Pacific Islands not conducted
3 under any trade preference program;

4 (C) an assessment of why the Pacific Is-
5 lands underutilizes the Generalized System of
6 Preferences in trade with the United States;
7 and

8 (D) recommendations for how the United
9 States Government can further assist the Pa-
10 cific Islands in utilizing the Generalized System
11 of Preferences.

12 (3) UPDATE.—The Trade Representative shall
13 provide to the appropriate congressional committees
14 an updated briefing under this subsection not later
15 than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this
16 Act.

17 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
18 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
19 sional committees” means—

20 (1) the Committee on Ways and Means of the
21 House of Representatives; and

22 (2) the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 202. 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, shall develop and implement
9 a trade capacity building initiative for the Pacific Islands.

10 (b) ELEMENTS AND CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.—The
11 initiative developed under this section shall—

12 (1) include an initial, public assessment of—

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

16 (B) legal, economic, governance,
17 infrastructural, or other hurdles limiting United
18 States investment in the Pacific Islands;

19 (2) develop human and institutional capacity
20 and infrastructure across multiple sectors of econo-
21 mies, including digital connectivity and cybersecu-
22 rity;

23 (3) assist with development and implementation
24 of regional and international trade agreements, in-
25 cluding the World Trade Organization's Agreement

1 on Trade Facilitation and facilitation of intra-re-
2 gional trade flows;

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

5 (5) promote government policies that encourage
6 free and fair competition, sound governance, envi-
7 ronmental protection, and business environments
8 conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic
9 growth.

10 (c) U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE PRESENCE.—The
11 Secretary of Commerce shall expand the presence of the
12 U.S. Commercial Service in the Pacific Islands and allo-
13 cate additional Foreign Commercial Service Officers to the
14 Pacific Islands, including by elevating existing partner
15 posts and establishing new Commercial Service posts and
16 partner posts, to—

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

19 (2) examine regulations in host countries in the
20 Pacific Islands that may hinder foreign direct invest-
21 ment, including those related to human rights, labor
22 rights, and environmental protection, and provide
23 technical assistance when requested by such host
24 countries; and

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

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for each
6 of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this
7 section.

8 **SEC. 203. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE FOR**
9 **THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
11 States Agency for International Development shall develop
12 and implement an initiative to assist the Pacific Islands
13 in enhancing their preparedness for and resilience to nat-
14 ural disasters and other emergencies.

15 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program devel-
16 oped under this section shall include—

17 (1) education and training programs on natural
18 disaster prevention and preparedness for emergency
19 management professionals in the Pacific Islands, in-
20 cluding by leveraging the expertise of nonprofit orga-
21 nizations and institutions of higher education in the
22 United States;

23 (2) technical assistance, including through
24 grants and cooperative agreements for qualified
25 United States and local nongovernmental organiza-

1 tions, to enhance early warning systems, emergency
2 management and preparedness procedures, and post-
3 disaster relief and recovery; and

4 (3) coordination of existing disaster mitigation
5 and response plans in the region, including by
6 United States allies and partners in the region.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional
11 committees a report on the program developed under
12 this section.

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

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

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

22 (C) objectives, means of implementation,
23 and measures of success for the initiative.

1 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
3 propriate congressional committees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
9 sources of the Senate.

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated \$40,000,000 for each
12 of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this
13 section.

14 **SEC. 204. PEACE CORPS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

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

17 (1) the presence of the Peace Corps in the Pa-
18 cific Islands should be expanded and the Peace
19 Corps should reopen its programs in as many of the
20 Pacific Islands as possible, including where it has
21 previously operated but has suspended operations;

22 (2) consulting like-minded regional allies and
23 partners, such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan,
24 and Taiwan is crucial for identifying and overcoming

1 challenges for increased Peace Corps presence in the
2 Pacific Islands;

3 (3) the Peace Corps, whose mission is to pro-
4 mote world peace and friendship in part by helping
5 the people of interested countries in meeting their
6 need for trained men and women, provides an in-
7 valuable opportunity to connect the American people
8 with the people of the Republic of the Marshall Is-
9 lands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the
10 Republic of Palau; and

11 (4) the Peace Corps should promptly reopen its
12 programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
13 the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Repub-
14 lic of Palau.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Peace
17 Corps shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees a report that includes—

19 (1) a comparative analysis of the Peace Corps
20 presence in the Pacific Islands region to other re-
21 gions of the world, including a cost-benefit analysis
22 of placement in the region versus elsewhere globally;

23 (2) analysis of current impediments to Peace
24 Corps expansion in the Pacific Islands region;

1 (3) outcomes of consultations among United
2 States agencies, and with regional allies and part-
3 ners, on areas in which cooperation can reduce fac-
4 tors limiting Peace Corps expansion, particularly
5 those related to medical transportation and personal
6 safety; and

7 (4) a plan and timeline for implementing out-
8 comes identified in paragraph (3) to facilitate expan-
9 sion of Peace Corps presence in the region, where
10 appropriate.

11 **SEC. 205. PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
13 States Agency for International Development, in coordina-
14 tion with the Secretary of State, shall develop and imple-
15 ment a strategy to assist the Pacific Islands in improving
16 public health outcomes and building public health capac-
17 ity, including in response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

18 (b) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
19 oped under this section shall include—

20 (1) programming, including grants, cooperative
21 agreements, and other forms of assistance as the
22 Administrator determines appropriate, to assist in
23 building local capacity to address—

24 (A) maternal and child health;

1 (B) family planning and reproductive
2 health;

3 (C) gender-based violence;

4 (D) food security and nutrition;

5 (E) non-communicable diseases;

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

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

15 (H) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
16 (WASH);

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

1 petency, including through exploring opportunities
2 such as private sector engagement and digital health
3 integration and access; and

4 (3) coordination with existing local and regional
5 health sector goals, efforts, institutions, and frame-
6 works.

7 (c) REPORT.—

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

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

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

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

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

1 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
3 propriate congressional committees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
9 sources of the Senate.

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for each
12 of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this
13 section.

14 **SEC. 206. EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.**

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

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

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

4 (3) countries of the Pacific Islands meet the re-
5 quirements outlined in subsection (c)(4) of section
6 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
7 U.S.C. 2151c).

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

13 (1) Supporting national nutrition and health
14 programs.

15 (2) Working with partner governments to re-
16 form policies, improve curricula, strengthen data
17 systems, train teachers, and provide quality learning
18 materials.

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

21 (4) Providing individuals, particularly at-risk
22 youth, with relevant education, training, and skills
23 for meaningful employment.

24 (5) Removing barriers to entering formal edu-
25 cation for out-of-school individuals, assisting in

1 keeping them in school, and providing an oppor-
2 tunity to catch up on schooling for those left behind.

3 (6) Promoting teaching and research exchanges
4 between the Pacific Islands and United States insti-
5 tutions of higher education.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of
8 the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this sec-
9 tion.

10 **SEC. 207. CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PA-**
11 **CIFIC ISLANDS.**

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

14 (1) the United States Government should lever-
15 age the full range of authorities and programs avail-
16 able to assist the Pacific Islands in achieving their
17 development goals;

18 (2) United States development assistance
19 should seek to build on existing public and private
20 sector investments while creating new opportunities
21 toward a favorable environment for additional such
22 investments; and

23 (3) United States development efforts should be
24 coordinated with and seek to build on existing ef-

1 forts by like-minded partners and allies and regional
2 and international multilateral organizations.

3 (b) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State, in coordina-
4 tion with the Administrator of the United States Agency
5 for International Development, the Secretary of the Treas-
6 ury, and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States
7 International Development Finance Corporation, shall de-
8 velop and implement a strategy to—

9 (1) invest in and improve critical infrastructure,
10 including transport connectivity, information and
11 communications technology, food security, coastal
12 zone management, marine and water resource man-
13 agement, and energy security and access to elec-
14 tricity in the Pacific Islands, with an emphasis on
15 climate resiliency and sustainable development;

16 (2) provide technical assistance to assist local
17 government and civil society leaders assess risks to
18 local infrastructure, especially those posed by climate
19 change, consider and implement risk mitigation ef-
20 forts and policies to strengthen resilience, and evalu-
21 ate proposed projects and solutions for their efficacy
22 and sustainability; and

23 (3) support investment and improvement in eco-
24 system conservation and protection for the long-term
25 sustainable use of ecosystem services, especially

1 those that mitigate effects of climate change and
2 those that support food security and livelihoods.

3 (c) CONDUCT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy devel-
4 oped under this section shall be coordinated with like-
5 minded partners and allies, regional and international
6 multilateral organizations, and regional frameworks for
7 development in the Pacific Islands.

8 (d) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—
9 The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the representa-
10 tives 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 climate resilient infrastructure projects in the Pa-
14 cific Islands.

15 (e) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of the enactment this Act, and annu-
18 ally thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit
19 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
20 on foreign infrastructure developments in the Pacific
21 Islands.

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

1 (A) a review of foreign infrastructure de-
2 velopments in the Pacific Islands by non-United
3 States allies and partners;

4 (B) assessments of the environmental im-
5 pact and sustainability of such developments;
6 and

7 (C) an analysis of the financial sustain-
8 ability of such developments and their impacts
9 on the debt of host countries in the Pacific Is-
10 lands.

11 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
13 propriate congressional committees” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
15 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
16 House of Representatives; and

17 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
18 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
19 sources of the Senate.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each
22 of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this
23 section.

1 **SEC. 208. COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-**
 2 **CIES AND COOPERATION AND PARTICIPA-**
 3 **TION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL UNITED**
 4 **STATES ENTITIES.**

5 The Federal officials responsible for carrying out sec-
 6 tions 202, 203, 205, 206, and 207, shall, in carrying out
 7 such sections—

8 (1) coordinate with existing programs and ef-
 9 forts of relevant agencies of the United States Gov-
 10 ernment, especially with regards to the Republic of
 11 the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micro-
 12 nesia, and the Republic of Palau; and

13 (2) seek the cooperation and participation of
 14 United States private sector, United States non-
 15 governmental organizations, and United States insti-
 16 tutions of higher education.

17 **TITLE III—PROMOTION OF**
 18 **SHARED VALUES**

19 **SEC. 301. PRESS FREEDOM IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.**

20 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that residents of the
 21 Pacific Islands speak 24 official languages and thousands
 22 of indigenous or unofficial local languages

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 24 gress that—

25 (1) the United States should work with allies
 26 and partners, particularly Australia and New Zea-

1 land, to provide free or low-cost access to national
2 news wires so the Pacific Islands have greater access
3 to raw news feeds; and

4 (2) it is in the interest of the United States to
5 work with the Pacific Islands to develop regulations
6 to address the licensing and operations of foreign
7 media to build resilience in the media sector to
8 unsanctioned external influence or interference while
9 respecting free expression and cultivating diverse
10 media voices.

11 (c) PRESS FREEDOM ASSISTANCE.—The President is
12 authorized to provide assistance to promote the dissemina-
13 tion of free and accurate information in the Pacific Is-
14 lands, including for the following purposes:

15 (1) Media capacity building and education, in-
16 cluding to—

17 (A) provide on-site media training tailored
18 to local needs;

19 (B) collaborate with local government and
20 nongovernmental entities to promote media lit-
21 eracy and integrate media literacy into primary
22 education curricula in local languages and dia-
23 lects to ensure accessibility; and

24 (C) routinize funding for professional pro-
25 grams, such as the Pacific Islands Journalism

1 Reporting Tour, that bring media professionals
2 from the Pacific Islands to the United States.

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

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

8 (d) REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
12 gressional committees a report on the implementa-
13 tion of this section.

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

16 (A) an assessment of—

17 (i) the national laws of the Pacific Is-
18 lands with respect to foreign investment in
19 media and related sectors;

20 (ii) relevant licensing regulations of
21 the Pacific Islands; and

22 (iii) governmental restrictions on free
23 expression that limit the availability of di-
24 verse media voices in the Pacific Islands;
25 and

1 (B) analyses of covert efforts by foreign
2 media actors in the Pacific Islands—

3 (i) to influence, shape, or circumvent
4 regulations in the media or telecommuni-
5 cation sectors; and

6 (ii) to co-opt local media and nar-
7 ratives.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of the
10 fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

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

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

16 (b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 Chief Executive Officer shall provide the appropriate
20 congressional committees a briefing on the plan de-
21 veloped under this section.

22 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The briefing
23 required by paragraph (1) shall include—

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

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

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

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of
13 the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this sec-
14 tion.

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

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

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

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

1 reduce and combat gender-based violence, in coordi-
2 nation with existing efforts by United States allies
3 and partners as well as regional organizations; and
4 (2) promote gender equality in political, eco-
5 nomic, social, and cultural development programs in
6 the Pacific Islands.

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

9 (a) 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 strengthens existing relationships and advances
14 United States interests and shared values in the region.

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

21 (c) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program developed
22 under this section shall be implemented on a routine basis
23 and 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 and
10 academic fellowships; and

11 (4) people-to-people exchanges.

12 (d) REPORT.—

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 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees a report on exchange programs for the Pa-
19 cific Islands region.

20 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
21 graph (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 (YSEALI) and the Young
9 Pacific Leaders programs, to enhance inter and
10 intra region people-to-people ties.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each
13 of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this
14 section.

15 **SEC. 305. CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOP-**
16 **MENT.**

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

21 (1) strengthening independent media and press
22 freedom;

23 (2) empowering citizens to freely organize and
24 communicate, including through existing and new
25 civic spaces;

1 (3) strengthening rule of law and increasing
2 government accountability; and

3 (4) promoting democratic political culture.

4 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

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

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

12 (A) technical assistance and support, in-
13 cluding through training and professional and
14 academic fellowships;

15 (B) grants provided on a competitive basis
16 to qualified civil society organizations for the
17 purpose of carrying out projects and programs
18 dedicated to the objectives identified in sub-
19 section (a); and

20 (C) grants provided on a competitive basis
21 to qualified United States organizations with
22 demonstrated expertise in civil society develop-
23 ment and the Pacific Islands.

24 (c) REPORT.—

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

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

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

14 (B) an identification of objectives and
15 measures of success for the program.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of
18 the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this sec-
19 tion.

○