

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing Regarding the Compact of Free Association
Amendments Act of 2023 - Potential Questions**
July 13, 2023

Questions for the FSM

1. Overall, how does the FSM feel negotiations with the United States were handled? How did it compare to the 2003 process? Were there any changes made unilaterally that were not negotiated?
2. What would the impact on the FSM be if Congress cannot pass this renewed COFA assistance package by October 1?
3. What plans does FSM have for the sector grants (education, infrastructure, etc.)? What areas have the largest need?
4. Given that the defense components of the Compact are not expiring, how does the continuation of the economic provisions support U.S. interests and national security?
5. What kind of care do FSM veterans that have returned home receive from the VA? Are there any gaps? Do FSM veterans have sufficient access to telehealth services at home?

Questions for the Administration Witnesses

6. Today, the U.S. relationship with the Freely Associated States is more important than ever as we see growing Chinese influence in the region. Given that the defense components of the Compact are not expiring, how does the continuation of the economic provisions support U.S. interests and national security?
7. Outside of the Compact, what else is the Administration and its respective agencies doing to strengthen and deepen its alliance with the Freely Associated States? How else can Congress support the Administration in its efforts?
8. Republicans and Democrats strongly supported and encouraged the Administration to create the position of Special Envoy for Compact Negotiations. How did the creation of this position influence the negotiations?
9. Overall, how does the Administration feel the negotiations with the Freely Associated States were handled?
10. Unlike previous Compact agreements, the negotiated COFA does not seem to adjust for inflation over the next two years. Can you please explain the reasoning for this decision? What are the other major differences between the 2003 Compact and the 2023 Compact?

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