

**House Natural Resources Committee Indo-Pacific Task Force Hearing Regarding the 2023 COFA
Negotiations - Potential Questions
July 18, 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 unilateral decisions that were not negotiated?
2. What would the impact on the FSM be if Congress fails to pass this renewed COFA assistance package by September 30, 2023?
3. Can you describe some of the significant projects/initiatives that the FSM will initiate with the sector grant funds in the near future? Can you describe the significance of these funds and which sector 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. foreign policy interests and national security?

Questions for the Administration Witnesses

5. 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?
6. 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?
7. What are the major differences between the 2003 Compact and the 2023 Compact?