

**House Natural Resources Committee Indo-Pacific Task Force Hearing Regarding the 2023 COFA
Negotiations - Potential Questions**
July 18, 2023

Questions for the FSM

1. We are extremely grateful and offer our thanks to the multitude of FSM citizens for their service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Are there any gaps in veterans benefits for these citizens that you believe need to be addressed? Do FSM veterans have access to telehealth services at home?
2. Are there any current plans for an increased Department of Defense (DoD) presence in the FSM? Would the FSM welcome a larger footprint?
3. What kind of economic development related to infrastructure is expected to occur in the FSM during this Compact period? What kind of investments and projects are you focused on accomplishing with this funding?
4. How is climate change affecting the islands?

Questions for the Administration Witnesses

5. Unlike previous Compact agreements, the negotiated COFA does not provide adjustments for inflation over the next twenty year period. Can you please explain the reasoning for this decision?
6. Can you describe some of the changes to education programs and eligibility provisions included in the Administration's proposal?