

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (HR 4366)
Division G - Other Matters
Title II - Amending the Compact of Free Association

Sec. 208. Oversight Provisions

(d) Interagency Group on Freely Associated States.--

- (1) Establishment.--The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an Interagency Group on Freely Associated States (referred to in this subsection as the ``Interagency Group'').
- (2) Purpose.--The purposes of the Interagency Group are--
- (A) to coordinate development and implementation of executive branch policies, programs, services, and other activities in or relating to the Freely Associated States; and
 - (B) to provide policy guidance, recommendations, and oversight to Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities with respect to the implementation of--
 - (i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;
 - (ii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and
 - (iii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.
- (3) Membership.--The Interagency Group shall consist of--
- (A) the Secretary of State, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;
 - (B) the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;
 - (C) the Secretary of Defense;
 - (D) the Secretary of the Treasury;
 - (E) the heads of relevant Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out obligations under--
 - (i) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;
 - (ii) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;
 - (iii) sections 131 and 132 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 of the U.S.-Palau Compact;
 - (iv) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;
 - (v) any applicable subsidiary agreement; and
 - (vi) section 209; and
 - (F) the head of any other Federal agency, department, or instrumentality that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Interior may designate.
- (4) Duties of secretary of state and secretary of the interior.--The Secretary of State (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of State) and the Secretary of the Interior (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of the Interior) shall--
- (A) co-lead and preside at a meeting of the Interagency Group not less frequently than annually;
 - (B) determine, in consultation with the Secretary of

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Defense, the agenda for meetings of the Interagency Group; and

(C) facilitate and coordinate the work of the Interagency Group.

(5) Duties of the interagency group.--The Interagency Group shall--

(A) provide advice on the establishment or implementation of policies relating to the Freely Associated States to the President, acting through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in the form of a written report not less frequently than annually;

(B) obtain information and advice relating to the Freely Associated States from the Presidents, other elected officials, and members of civil society of the Freely Associated States, including through the members of the Interagency Group (including senior official designees of the members) meeting not less frequently than annually with any Presidents of the Freely Associated States who elect to participate;

(C) at the request of the head of any Federal agency (or a senior official designee of the head of a Federal agency) who is a member of the Interagency Group, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting 1 or more of the Freely Associated States proposed by the Federal agency, department, or instrumentality; and

(D) facilitate coordination of relevant policies, programs, initiatives, and activities involving 1 or more of the Freely Associated States, including ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication between programs, initiatives, and activities conducted pursuant to a Compact with a Freely Associated State and non-Compact programs, initiatives, and activities.

(6) Reports.--Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and each year thereafter in which a Compact of Free Association with a Freely Associated State is in effect, the President shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Group during the applicable year.

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Sec. 209 United States Policy Regarding the Freely Associated States

(i) Establishment of a Unit for the Freely Associated States in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State and Increasing Personnel Focused on Oceania.--

- (1) Definition of appropriate congressional committees.--In this subsection, the term ``appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Requirements.--The Secretary of State shall--
- (A) assign additional full-time equivalent personnel to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State, including to the unit established under subparagraph (B), as the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate, in accordance with paragraph (4) (A); and
- (B) establish a unit in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).
- (3) Functions of unit.--The unit established under paragraph (2) (B) shall be responsible for the following:
- (A) Managing the bilateral and regional relations with the Freely Associated States.
- (B) Supporting the Secretary of State in leading negotiations relating to the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.
- (C) Coordinating, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and other interagency partners as appropriate, implementation of the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.
- (4) Full-time equivalent employees.--The Secretary of State shall--
- (A) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, assign to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including to the unit established under paragraph (2) (B), not less than 4 additional full-time equivalent staff, who shall not be dual-hatted, including by considering--
- (i) the use of existing flexible hiring authorities, including Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETOs); and
- (ii) the realignment of existing personnel, including from the United States Mission in Australia, as appropriate;
- (B) reduce the number of vacant foreign service positions in the Pacific Island region by establishing an incentive program within the Foreign Service for overseas positions related to the Pacific Island region; and
- (C) report to the appropriate congressional committees on progress toward objectives outlined in this subsection beginning 1 year from the date of the enactment of this Act and annually

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thereafter for 5 years.

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