

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

READOUT

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Deputy Secretary Landau's Call with Palau President Whipps

The below is attributable to Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott:

Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau spoke today with Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr. to reaffirm the close U.S.-Palau partnership and underscore our associated nations' shared resolve to address regional and global challenges together. The leaders noted that the relationship, the closest possible between sovereign nations, continues to evolve and grow in response to new opportunities and challenges as well as shared responsibilities and reiterated that the partnership is unique, enduring, and built on mutual respect, shared values, and a joint commitment to advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific in the interests of the economies and security of both nations.

Deputy Secretary Landau and President Whipps also marked several new milestones in our two countries' longstanding partnership under the Compact of Free Association, each of which advances tangible outcomes for our peoples, including initiatives regarding law enforcement, economic development, coping with disaster disasters, retirement security, and immigration.

- The United States committed to ensuring that a new hospital is successfully built in Palau, consistent with the feasibility study currently being conducted by the United States through the U.S. Trade and Development Agency on the relocation of the Belau National Hospital.
- The United States unveiled a series of new initiatives designed to help Palau protect its borders, grow its economy, and build resilience against transnational crime and malign regional influences. These initiatives include assistance of \$2 million for anticipated experts in law enforcement, particularly involving drug trafficking; maritime security to secure Palau's exclusive economic zone, and cybersecurity, as well as measures to strengthen Palau's economic resilience.

- The United States also committed an additional \$6 million in assistance from the Department of State in partnership with the Department of the Interior to support Palau's completion of essential reforms to prevent collapse of its civil service pension plan system, building on the \$20 million granted in September.
- Deputy Secretary Landau reiterated the commitment of the United States to improving Palau's capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and it is exploring several possible initiatives related to that issue with the Government of Palau.
- The United States and Palau also signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the transfer from the United States of third-country nationals with no known criminal histories who will have the opportunity to help meet Palau's need for workers in a variety of occupations. The United States deeply appreciates Palau's cooperation in enforcing U.S. immigration laws, which remains a top priority for the Trump Administration, and looks forward to ensuring that this arrangement proves mutually beneficial for both countries. In this regard, the United States granted \$7.5 million to address needs and issues related to the individuals and relevant Palau public services.

Through this partnership, the Deputy Secretary and President noted how the United States and Palau are taking concrete steps to strengthen our security and protect our communities, while also fostering a safer, more secure, and more prosperous Indo-Pacific region. The leaders reaffirmed a shared commitment to addressing immigration and security challenges and further deepening bonds of trust and friendship between our countries. They closed by noting how continued collaboration is a testament to the progress we can achieve when we stand together.