

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To analyze the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in Pacific Island countries.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To analyze the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in Pacific Island countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Consular Operations  
5 and Regional Engagement in the Pacific Act” or the  
6 “CORE Pacific Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) Pacific Island countries, especially the Free-  
2       ly Associated States, are close United States part-  
3       ners located across highly strategic waters that are  
4       critical for United States national security; and

5           (2) it is in the national security interests of the  
6       United States to maintain and strengthen relations  
7       with the governments and citizens of Pacific Island  
8       countries.

9   **SEC. 3. DEFINED TERM.**

10       In this section, the term “appropriate committees of  
11 Congress” means—

12           (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
13       Senate;

14           (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
15       Senate;

16           (3) the Committee on Armed Services of the  
17       Senate;

18           (4) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
19       Transportation of the Senate;

20           (5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
21       House of Representatives;

22           (6) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
23       House of Representatives;

24           (7) the Committee on Armed Services of the  
25       House of Representatives; and

1 (8) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
4 **CONSULAR OFFICERS JOINING COAST GUARD**  
5 **AND NAVY MISSIONS IN PACIFIC ISLAND**  
6 **COUNTRIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,  
9 in coordination with the Commandant of the United  
10 States Coast Guard, the Commander of United States  
11 Indo-Pacific Command, and the Chief of Naval Oper-  
12 ations, shall submit a report to the appropriate commit-  
13 tees of Congress that analyzes the feasibility of attaching  
14 Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and  
15 Navy missions in Pacific Island countries.

16 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
17 section (a) shall include—

18 (1) an assessment of—

19 (A) the current demand for consular serv-  
20 ices from citizens of Pacific Island countries;  
21 and

22 (B) the challenges such citizens face in ob-  
23 taining consular services;

24 (2) an assessment of the approximate value, in-  
25 cluding in time and resources saved, such an initia-

1        tive could save citizens of Pacific Island countries  
2        that do not host United States embassies by having  
3        their United States consular decisions adjudicated or  
4        receiving other consular services;

5            (3) an assessment of the cost that would be in-  
6        curred by the Department of State, the United  
7        States Coast Guard, the United States Indo-Pacific  
8        Command, and the United States Navy from the im-  
9        plementation of such initiative, including potential  
10      alternative cost-effective options and recommenda-  
11      tions for providing consular services to citizens of  
12      Pacific Island countries;

13           (4) an assessment of the frequency and dura-  
14      tion of Coast Guard and Navy deployments to Pa-  
15      cific Island countries, including—

16            (A) deployment frequency measured  
17            against the desired number of visits;

18            (B) the amount of time typically spent in  
19            port for such visits; and

20            (C) disruptions to planned Coast Guard  
21            and Navy missions in order to visit locations  
22            needing consular assistance; and

23           (5) an evaluation of the logistical issues to be  
24      addressed to implement the initiative, including—

1           (A) an analysis of the spacing require-  
2           ments to host Department of State personnel  
3           and equipment aboard the various types of  
4           Coast Guard and Navy vessels that make port  
5           calls to the Pacific Islands;

6           (B) an analysis of the information tech-  
7           nology and connectivity requirements to conduct  
8           consular affairs activities in the Pacific Islands;

9           (C) the feasibility of printing visas aboard  
10          Coast Guard and Navy vessels;

11          (D) maintaining the physical security of  
12          consular officers and relevant adjudication  
13          equipment during such missions;

14          (E) the impacts to Coast Guard and Navy  
15          vessels' operations and security; and

16          (F) the estimated time consular officers  
17          would spend on board Coast Guard and Navy  
18          vessels between visits to Pacific Island coun-  
19          tries.