

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5131

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2026

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 Foreign Relations

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.

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