

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 512

To encourage students from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands to become civically engaged through local and Federal Government fellowships.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To encourage students from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands to become civically engaged through local and Federal Government fellowships.

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 TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Dr. Rita Hocog
5 Inos Territorial Fellowship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM**
2 **AMERICAN SAMOA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
3 **THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, GUAM,**
4 **AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

6 To encourage civic engagement among students from
7 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern
8 Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Is-
9 lands, the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a pro-
10 gram, to be known as the “Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Terri-
11 torial Fellowship Program”, to award local and Federal
12 Government fellowships to qualified students from those
13 territories, subject to the availability of amounts described
14 in subsection (i).

15 (b) TYPES OF FELLOWSHIP.—The fellowships that
16 may be awarded under the program are as follows:

17 (1) A local government fellowship with a co-
18 operating agency or entity of the territory in which
19 the qualified student is domiciled.

20 (2) A Federal Government fellowship with a co-
21 operating—

22 (A) Executive agency (as defined in section
23 105 of title 5, United States Code); or

24 (B) office of a Representative or Senator
25 in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to,
26 the Congress.

1 (c) QUALIFIED STUDENT.—For purposes of this sec-
2 tion, the term “qualified student” means a student who
3 is—

4 (1) a citizen of the United States;

5 (2) domiciled in American Samoa, the Common-
6 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, or
7 the United States Virgin Islands; and

8 (3) enrolled in a degree or certificate program
9 at an institution of higher education (as defined in
10 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
11 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

12 (d) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—The term of a fellow-
13 ship under the program shall be an academic semester or
14 a summer, as designated by the Secretary.

15 (e) FELLOWSHIP AWARD.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program, a fel-
17 lowship award shall consist of either a stipend de-
18 scribed in paragraph (2) or academic credit toward
19 graduation. Such award may also include a travel
20 stipend of not more than \$1,500 for each fellowship
21 term, based on the distance of the student awarded
22 the fellowship from the site of the fellowship.

23 (2) STIPEND.—Subject to paragraph (3), a sti-
24 pend described in this paragraph is as follows:

1 (A) \$6,000 for an academic semester fel-
2 lowship.

3 (B) \$4,000 for a summer fellowship.

4 (3) FISCAL YEARS AFTER 2013.—In the case of
5 any fiscal year beginning after September 30, 2013,
6 each dollar amount in paragraph (2) shall be such
7 dollar amount in effect for the preceding fiscal year,
8 increased by the sum of—

9 (A) the percentage of the dollar amount in
10 effect for such preceding fiscal year that is
11 equal to the percentage (if any) by which—

12 (i) the Consumer Price Index for the
13 most recent calendar year ending prior to
14 the beginning of the fiscal year, exceeds

15 (ii) the Consumer Price Index for the
16 next previous calendar year; plus

17 (B) one percent of the dollar amount in ef-
18 fect for such previous year.

19 (f) APPLICATION AND SELECTION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
21 and administer an application and selection process
22 for awarding a fellowship under the program.

23 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding a fellowship under
24 the program, the Secretary shall give priority to a

1 qualified student who has already completed one
2 such fellowship.

3 (3) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS
4 AWARDED TO EACH STUDENT.—Under the program,
5 a qualified student may be awarded no more than—

6 (A) one local government fellowship; and

7 (B) one Federal Government fellowship.

8 (g) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall submit to Con-
9 gress, not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, a report on the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos
11 Territorial Fellowship Program. The report shall include
12 information on—

13 (1) the use of funds appropriated for the pur-
14 pose of carrying out the program; and

15 (2) barriers to participation in the program.

16 (h) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “Consumer Price Index” means
18 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers
19 published by the Department of Labor.

20 (2) The term “program” means the Dr. Rita
21 Hocog Inos Territorial Fellowship Program.

22 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
23 of the Interior.

24 (i) FUNDING.—To carry out the fellowship program,
25 the Secretary may use amounts appropriated to the De-

1 partment of the Interior for technical assistance to terri-
2 tories under the heading “ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES”
3 in an appropriation Act for the Department of the Interior
4 for fiscal year 2013 or any subsequent fiscal year. The
5 Secretary may use no other amounts for such purpose.

