

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4209

To require a feasibility study regarding establishing new diplomatic posts
in the Pacific Islands.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2022

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HAGERTY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require a feasibility study regarding establishing new
diplomatic posts in the Pacific Islands.

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 cited as the “Expanding America’s
5 Pacific Diplomatic Presence Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING ESTABLISHING**
7 **NEW DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN THE PACIFIC IS-**
8 **LANDS.**

9 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of
10 the United States shall conduct a study assessing the fea-

1 sibility of establishing new diplomatic posts in Pacific Is-
2 lands countries and territories that currently do not have
3 a United States embassy or other United States diplo-
4 matic post.

5 (b) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—The Comptroller Gen-
6 eral of the United States shall—

7 (1) not later than one year after the date of the
8 enactment of this Act, brief the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees on preliminary observations relat-
10 ing to the study conducted under subsection (a); and

11 (2) not later than 18 months after the date of
12 the enactment of this Act, submit to the appropriate
13 congressional committees a report on the results of
14 the study.

15 (c) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
16 section (b) shall include the following elements:

17 (1) An explanation of the methodologies and
18 processes the Department of State uses when deter-
19 mining whether and where to establish new diplo-
20 matic posts abroad and the scale and size of such
21 posts.

22 (2) A description of the existing diplomatic
23 posts the Department of State has in the Pacific Is-
24 lands region and an analysis of how they advance
25 United States national security priorities.

1 (3) An assessment of what is known about the
2 impact the opening of new diplomatic posts in the
3 Pacific Islands region will have on—

4 (A) United States relations with host na-
5 tions;

6 (B) United States relations with other al-
7 lies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region; and

8 (C) the advancement of United States na-
9 tional security priorities.

10 (4) An assessment of what is known about the
11 feasibility of establishing new diplomatic posts in the
12 Pacific Islands region.

13 (5) An assessment of proposed locations for
14 new diplomatic posts in the Pacific Islands region to
15 expand the United States diplomatic presence in the
16 region.

17 (6) An assessment of alternatives to estab-
18 lishing new diplomatic posts that would expand the
19 United States diplomatic presence in the Pacific Is-
20 lands region.

21 (7) A determination of the costs to the Depart-
22 ment of constructing or acquiring new diplomatic
23 posts in the Pacific Islands region, and an expla-
24 nation and analysis of such costs.

1 (8) A determination of the costs to the Depart-
2 ment of expanding existing diplomatic posts in the
3 Pacific Islands region as an alternative to con-
4 structing or acquiring new facilities, and an expla-
5 nation and analysis of such costs.

6 (9) A determination of the costs to the Depart-
7 ment of staffing new diplomatic posts in the Pacific
8 Islands region, including with regard to allowances,
9 differentials, and other benefits to which Foreign
10 Service officers assigned to such posts may be enti-
11 tled and the salaries and benefits afforded to locally
12 employed staff.

13 (10) An assessment of personnel from agencies
14 other than the Department of State, including the
15 Department of Defense, who will be needed at new
16 diplomatic posts in the Pacific Islands region.

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

18 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
19 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
22 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
23 Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
2 the Committee on Armed Services of the House
3 of Representatives.

4 (2) DIPLOMATIC POST.—The term “diplomatic
5 post” means an embassy, consulate general, con-
6 sulate, consular agency, or other overseas post of a
7 United States mission.

8 (3) PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES AND TERRI-
9 TORIES THAT CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE A UNITED
10 STATES EMBASSY OR OTHER UNITED STATES DIPLO-
11 MATIC POST.—The term “Pacific Islands countries
12 and territories that currently do not have a United
13 States embassy or other United States diplomatic
14 post” means Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu,
15 Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands,
16 Niue, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia.

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