



JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMPACT REVIEW AND PLANNING (JCRP)



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

US Officials Express Strong Commitment to the FSM and Vigorous Support for the Compact

“These compacts help sustain the important strategic partnerships that the Freely Associated States have had with the United States since World War II. They sustain important economic assistance for the people of these countries. They sustain democracy and human rights in the face of Chinese attempts to redraw the Pacific in its authoritarian image.”

— **Michael R. Pompeo, US Secretary of State***

“For over 75 years, Micronesians and Americans have shared the incommunicable experience of war....Today, Americans and Micronesians are fighting equally vicious tyranny across the globe. Ten [FSM citizens] have given the ultimate sacrifice....We will not fail or forsake those...great men and women who came forward when courage was in short supply, and it’s our duty as citizens of free republics to never forget [their] sacrifice.”

— **Robert Wilkie, US Secretary of Veterans Affairs****

“The United States has a unique relationship with these nations through our Compacts of Free Association, through which we provide for their national defense and their citizens have the right to live, to work, and go to school in the United States without the need for a visa. And in return, the U.S. has access to their lands and waters for strategic purposes, and just as importantly the ability to deny other nations that same access.

...The FAS nations are truly our friends and allies. Their citizens are part of our Armed Forces. They vote with the United States on important votes in the United Nations more often than any other nation except besides Israel. And they live and work in each of our 50 states, making a positive contribution to our nation.”

— **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Chair, US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*****

“We cannot afford to abandon the Freely Associated States, which have long been our loyal allies, to China’s increasing pressure....

Plainly, we have a national interest in preserving our special relationship with the Freely Associated States, beyond the terms of the compacts.”

— **Sen. Joe Manchin, III (D-WV), Ranking Member, US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*****

“As a Pacific nation, the United States recognizes the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region, and our interests in the region are mutually reinforcing: security enables the conditions for economic growth; burgeoning economies offer opportunities for U.S. businesses; and U.S. prosperity and security lead to a strong economy that protects the American people, supports our way of life, and sustains U.S. power.”

— **Randall G. Shriver, Asst. Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs, US Department of Defense*****

“If grant assistance under the amended Compacts and the Compact Review Agreement is allowed to expire by the end of 2023 and 2024 respectively, and is not extended, there is the risk of damaging the respective bilateral relationships of free association between the United States and these Pacific Island nations.”

— **Douglas W. Domenech, Asst. Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, US Department of the Interior*****

*Statement made during press event in Pohnpei on August 5, 2019.

**Statement made during wreath-laying ceremony in Pohnpei, July 25, 2019.

***Statements made during the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the Freely Associated States, Washington, July 23, 2019.