

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF
HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.

1 WHEREAS, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have made
2 longstanding efforts to build regional multilateral frameworks
3 and harmonizing United States' policies in the North and South
4 Pacific is critical in their engagement with Melanesian
5 countries while recognizing challenges presented by regional
6 adversaries, particularly China as well as Russia; and

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8 WHEREAS, the East-West Center has engaged in efforts to
9 revitalize the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders' (PICL)
10 annual dialogue, which has historically linked Hawaii, Guam,
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa with
12 the Northern Pacific in a concrete framework; and

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14 WHEREAS, these discussions have included addressing
15 overlapping concerns, such as migration, health care, climate
16 change, gender, and economic development; and

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18 WHEREAS, revitalization of the PICL would augment existing
19 regional multilateral priorities and would continue to reaffirm
20 Hawaii's role as the epicenter for regional engagement; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Post-Forum Dialogue is a useful tool for the
23 United States to link its priorities in the North Pacific with
24 the South Pacific; for example, implementation of the 2017
25 Women, Peace, and Security Act should be the cornerstone of the
26 United States' efforts as it seeks to promote and protect women
27 as well as other vulnerable populations in the region; and

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29 WHEREAS, consistency with Pacific Island Forum countries,
30 particularly Australia and New Zealand, is important to ensuring
31 that relations in a changing Melanesia particularly with
32 stronger engagements with the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, and
33 Vanuatu are properly navigated; aligning the United States with
34 the central role of Fiji and Papua New Guinea in a regional



1 strategy to counter Chinese encroachment; and working with other
2 organizations such as the Forum Fisheries Agency, Melanesian
3 Spearhead Group, and the Pacific Islands Development Forum as an
4 important part of the integrated architecture linking the North
5 and South Pacific; and
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7 WHEREAS, at the center of this overall strategy to
8 harmonize the United States policy with PICs is its charter
9 membership in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC),
10 which would help undergird the United States' review of how
11 additional resources and assistance would be channeled through
12 the region; and
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14 WHEREAS, the United States should identify additional ways
15 to coordinate assistance through the SPC to Kiribati, Marshall
16 Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, and Palau, where appropriate, at the
17 Center for Excellence and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security
18 Studies in Hawaii; for example, the Coast Guard has a well-
19 established relationship with the SPC, particularly regarding
20 search and rescue efforts, that could further enhance regional
21 maritime efforts, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
22 Administration has long been a partner to the SPC and a model
23 for civilian agency participation in that body; and
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25 WHEREAS, the United States should focus on identifying
26 better ways to strengthen multilateral engagement and
27 harmonizing its approaches to the North and South Pacific,
28 including by using a constructive response to multilateral
29 engagement to better place the United States to achieve its
30 strategic regional objectives; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
34 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
35 Tourism is requested to convene a working group that will
36 produce an integrated strategic plan for regional engagement by
37 the State of Hawaii in the Pacific Islands region; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
40 to produce an integrated strategic plan that is designed to
41 achieve the long-term objective of reaffirming Hawaii as the
42 political, economic, environmental, sociological, and




1 technological epicenter for regional engagement in the Pacific
2 Islands region; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of
5 the following members or their designees:

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7 (1) The President of the Pacific Forum;
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9 (2) The Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi;
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11 (3) The President of the Hawaii Compacts of Free
12 Association Advocacy Hui;
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14 (4) The Dean of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security
15 Studies;
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17 (5) The President of the East-West Center at the
18 University of Hawaii; and
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20 (6) The Director of the Center for Australian, New
21 Zealand, and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University;
22 and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
26 Economic Development, and Tourism; President of the Pacific
27 Forum; Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi; President of the
28 Hawaii COFA Advocacy Hui; Dean of the Asia-Pacific Center for
29 Security Studies; President of the East-West Center at the
30 University of Hawaii; and Director of the Center for Australian,
31 New Zealand, and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University.

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34 OFFERED BY:  _____