The BLUE Pacific Act
The Boosting Long-Term U.S. Engagement in the Pacific Act

Background

The Pacific Islands region stretches from Hawai'i and Rapa Nui (Easter Island) to Palau and New Caledonia, covering a vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Their collective maritime exclusive economic zones cover more of the Earth's surface than the land areas of China and Russia combined.

For decades, the United States has been a consistent albeit quiet partner in the region, providing over $5 billion in assistance over the past twenty years. As a Pacific nation with territories of our own in the region, the United States has deep historic ties, common interests and shared values with the countries and people of the Pacific Islands.

The BLUE Pacific Act is the first piece of legislation introduced by the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, co-founded by Representatives Ed Case, Don Young, Brad Sherman and Ted Yoho. This caucus is focused on and dedicated to promoting closer ties and shared interests and values between the United States and the Pacific Islands.

Summary

The BLUE Pacific Act would establish a comprehensive, long-term U.S. strategy in the Pacific Islands region that:
- Expands U.S. diplomatic and development presence in the Pacific Islands;
- Increases U.S. security cooperation and assistance to address regional maritime security, transnational crime and law enforcement issues, including Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing;
- Deepens and diversifies bilateral and multilateral trade between the U.S. and the region and invests in trade capacity building programs for the region;
- Supports regional economic and social development in areas of public health, education, infrastructure, climate change resilience and adaptation, and more;
- Builds on existing regional institutions and frameworks, including efforts of like-minded allies and partners of the United States;
- Promotes shared values like press freedom and gender equality; and
- Strengthens people-to-people relationships and civil society.

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