

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2024

The Honorable Carol Spahn
Peace Corps Director
1275 First St NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Director Spahn:

We write to request information on the Peace Corps' expansion in the Pacific Islands.

The Peace Corps has had a presence of varying size across fifteen Pacific Islands countries since 1966, with the longest continual presence being in Samoa and Tonga for those 57 years, interrupted only by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the decades, the Peace Corps' presence shrank to only four Pacific Island countries. Three of those four countries – Fiji, Samoa and Tonga – have fortunately already resumed their Peace Corps programs as we have moved past the height of the pandemic. The fourth, Vanuatu, saw its volunteers return this month.

Countries throughout the Pacific Islands have called for the Peace Corps to return. This includes some of our most critical partners in the region, the Freely Associated States (FAS), which have no Peace Corps presence. While we support U.S. plans to resume the Peace Corps program in the Republic of Palau in 2025, it is unfortunate that there has been no such announcement for the other FAS, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

We want to ensure a strong and vibrant Peace Corps presence throughout the region, and to assist you toward that goal in Congress. To these ends, will you please respond to the following questions no later than September 15, 2024:

1. Will you summarize the current and planned state of the Peace Corps' presence in the Pacific Islands?
2. Will you explain the timeline for and potential challenges of returning Peace Corps volunteers to Palau?
3. Can you assess the feasibility and potential benefits of expanding the Peace Corps' engagement in the Pacific Islands counties, to include FSM and RMI, that have expressed interest in Peace Corps presence; any barriers to expansion; resources needed to expand; and opportunities to coordinate with the Department of Defense, Department of State or other agencies to overcome stated challenges?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Congressman Case's foreign affairs staffer, Keely Thompson, at keely.thompson@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2726.

With aloha,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Ed Case
Member of Congress



James Moylan
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Jill Tokuda
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Katie Porter
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
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