



MICRONESIAN ISLANDS FORUM 2024

Writing Our History, Determining Our Future



June 5, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President, United States of America
The White House

Dear President Biden,

The Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) would like to acknowledge and thank you and the United States Government for investing in our region and recognizing the strategic importance of our islands to U.S. national security through your Pacific Partnership Strategy where you recognized the need for “*partnering to build resilience in the Pacific Islands.*”

Our finite natural and cultural island resources are threatened by climate change and invasive species. We know from your Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) that the long lasting and devastating impacts of invasive species reduce climate change resiliency by altering ecosystem structure and function, while also negatively impacting livelihoods, quality of life, food security and culture.

To protect and better mitigate the negative impact to our environment in support of military activities in our region, we request the following assistance as part of this on-going partnership.

1. Incorporation of invasive species efforts into the US Pacific Partnership Strategy inclusive of State Department, USAID, DoD, USDA, Commerce and Homeland Security efforts in the Region.
2. Implement the DoD funded Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP) for Micronesia and Hawaii
3. Funding by the US Department of Defense (DoD) for independent Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) so that Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF) states and territories associated with the U.S. military buildup in our region are able to perform these independent assessments and make informed recommendations and decisions.
4. Implement the three 2022 Pacific Ecological Security Conference (PESC) strategic action plans that address these regional priority invasive species issues:
 - a. Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle
 - b. Invasive Ants
 - c. Biocontrol



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5. Encourage and support of all U.S. Land Grant universities and colleges across Micronesia to:
 - a. participate as active members of their state/territorial Invasive Species Councils; and
 - b. engage in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) multi-state Hatch projects designed to advance food security, pest management, biodiversity, and the remediation and prevention of a host of conditions caused by climate change.
6. Designation of USDA Plant Protection & Quarantine US agency to support and fund the creation of the Pacific Biosecurity Collaborative (PBC) in collaboration with our Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) and the State of Hawaii.

These efforts would better protect Pacific Island Countries, territories and the U.S. mainland from invasive species threats, while enhancing climate resilience, food security and sustainable development.

The MIF states and territories are dedicated to preserving our natural and cultural resources and are eager to further the work we have begun. We have enjoyed past collaboration with the US, and look forward to our joint advancement of these initiatives to protect our natural resources in coordination with the support of U.S. regional interests. Thank you for considering our efforts and requests.

We thank you for your consideration of broadening our partnership and recognizing that security, capacity and resiliency go hand in hand.



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