AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117–31
OFFERED BY MR. CASE OF HAWAII

At the end of part 8 of subtitle D of title II of division D, add the following:

SEC. 30299I. PACIFIC ISLANDS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that routinized people-to-people exchange programs to bring Pacific Islands religious leaders, journalists, civil society members, politicians, and others to the United States strengthens existing relationships and advances United States interests and shared values in the region.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop and implement a program to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals in the Pacific Islands with a demonstrated passion to contribute to the continued development of the Pacific Islands.

(c) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—The program developed under this section shall be implemented on a routine basis and may be carried out through—
(1) grants provided on a competitive basis to qualified organizations with demonstrated expertise relating to the Pacific Islands;

(2) grants in amounts not to exceed $50,000 provided on a competitive basis to qualified young leaders from the Pacific Islands for the purpose of carrying out projects dedicated to the improvement of their communities in the Pacific Islands;

(3) regional workshops and professional and academic fellowships; and

(4) people-to-people exchanges.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on exchange programs for the Pacific Islands region.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of factors constraining the number and frequency of International Visitor Leadership Program participants from countries of the Pacific Islands;
(B) an identification of resources that are necessary to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) a strategy for connecting alumni and participants of the Department of State’s professional development exchange programs in East Asia, such as the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and the Young Pacific Leaders programs, to enhance inter and intra region people-to-people ties.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.