

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5301**

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**COFA RENEWAL AGREEMENTS ADVANCE TO THE SENATE**

(Washington, D.C.) Along with passing over \$460 billion in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024, the massive house spending bill included language to adopt the 20-year renewals of the Compact of Free Association (COFA). The measure now goes to the Senate for further discussions.

While the COFA renewals did not include the annual reimbursements for host communities, they do include provisions of the Compact Impact Fairness Act (CIFA) which would provide COFA migrants with access to federal benefits to help reduce the financial impact and resources on jurisdictions when it comes to legal migration. Delegate James Moylan will be requesting a briefing to understand the true financial benefits the program would bring for Guam.

In 2022, COFA Host Communities opted to replace annual reimbursements with CIFA. Because Guam was not actively engaged in the discussions, the assumptions in various committees were that CIFA was an acceptable option for Guam. In 2023, Delegate Moylan pursued the education of the need of reimbursements, inclusive of introducing legislation. A hearing on the bill was held in January, and the efforts to advance the measure continues.

**“The COFA renewals are critical for various reasons, inclusive of the state of the nation’s defense. Despite our position on reimbursements, I supported and even voted for the measure to renew the COFA agreements in committee, and I am happy to see the renewals now advancing to the Senate”,** stated Delegate Moylan. **“Our team continues to work with various entities in pursuing reimbursements which are vital for our public safety entities and education department. There are certainly uphill challenges in identifying funds, which is a requirement in this House when it comes to seeking new spending since most accounts have been downsized. But we will continue to be persistent in the process”,** added Delegate Moylan.

The expectations are that the Senate will be discussing the appropriations measure later this week.

**END OF STATEMENT**