



# Office of Insular Affairs

## Mission

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) coordinates Federal policy for the U.S. territories and fulfills Compacts of Free Association (COFA) obligations to the Freely Associated States (FAS).

## Budget Overview

The 2026 Budget includes \$103.0 million in current appropriations. The Budget supports national security, energy, and invasive species eradication through programs that provide targeted assistance to the Insular Areas.

## Program Overview

OIA and the Assistant Secretary for Insular, International, and Ocean Affairs carry out the Secretary's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. OIA also administers and oversees Federal assistance under the COFA agreements with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (Palau), collectively known as the FAS.

Investments in the U.S. territories and FAS play a critical role in furthering and protecting U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean. OIA strengthens the economies of the Insular Areas through strategic investments in infrastructure, public services, health and education, energy, and technical assistance, which attracts



Bird Island in Saipan, CNMI.

OIA Photo.

private sector investment and deters and combats China's campaign to influence public opinion and compromise our critical national defense apparatus hosted in these strategically important islands.

## Assistance to Territories

OIA's main account, Assistance to Territories, is funded at \$102.2 million.

## Compacts of Free Association

The 2026 Budget includes \$813,000 in discretionary funding for the COFA account. The entire Budget request is for Federal Services activities that support U.S. interests in the FAS.

Most of OIA's annual budget consists of mandatory funding. Financial assistance under the COFA was renewed in 2024 for the FSM, RMI, and Palau and continues through 2043.

## OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS Facts



- Executive Order 6726 (May 29, 1934) established in the Department of the Interior the Division of Territories and Island Possessions, which was renamed the Office of Insular Affairs on August 4, 1995.
- The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating Federal policy with respect to the territories and administering and overseeing U.S. Federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States.
- The responsibilities for the Insular Areas are executed through OIA and the Assistant Secretary for Insular, International, and Ocean Affairs.
- The U.S. territories under the responsibility of OIA include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The Freely Associated States are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

### Workforce Restructure

The 2026 Budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government and will continue efforts to unify and optimize administrative

services across the Department to increase effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of American taxpayers.



Caneel Bay, USVI.

OIA Photo.



## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### Comparison of 2026 Request with 2025 CR

	2025 CR <sup>1/</sup>	2026 Request
Current		
Assistance to Territories .....	120,107	102,185
Compact of Free Association .....	3,463	813
Total, Office of Insular Affairs .....	123,570	102,998

<sup>1/</sup> Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

### APPROPRIATION: Assistance to Territories

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional <sup>1/</sup>	2026 Request
American Samoa Operations .....	28,120	28,120	26,885
Capital Improvement Project Grants			
Capital Improvement Project Grants—Mandatory .....	27,720	27,720	27,720
Subtotal, Capital Improvement Project Grants .....	27,720	27,720	27,720
Territorial Assistance			
Office of Insular Affairs .....	[10,217]	[10,217]	[9,080]
Subtotal, Territorial Assistance .....	64,267	64,267	47,580
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	120,107	120,107	102,185

<sup>1/</sup> Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

### APPROPRIATION: Compact of Free Association

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional <sup>1/</sup>	2026 Request
Federal Services .....	2,813	2,813	813
Enewetak .....	650	650	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	3,463	3,463	813

<sup>1/</sup> Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

