



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 29, 2022

The Honorable David S. Johanson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Docket Number 3646
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Int. Trade Comm.

Received: Sept. 29, 2022
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Int. Trade Comm.

Dear Chairman Johanson:

The United States recognizes the importance of enhancing trade ties with the Pacific Islands countries, which can help support the development of the region. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is interested in understanding ways to enhance our trade relationship with the Pacific Islands. In order to inform future U.S. policy approaches, we seek to better understand potential impediments to and opportunities for increased trade flows between the United States and the Pacific Islands, with an emphasis on barriers Pacific Islands may face exporting to the United States. USTR would also like to identify impediments to and opportunities for increased U.S. investment in the Pacific Islands.

Therefore, I am writing today to request that the Commission conduct an investigation and prepare a report under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 to analyze Pacific Island trade with the United States and identify impediments to increased goods and services exports to the United States and U.S. investment in the Pacific Islands. For the purposes of this request, the Commission should consider the term “Pacific Islands” to mean those islands listed in attachment A to this letter.

In its report, to the extent practicable, the Commission should:

1. provide an overview of the Pacific Island economies, including major sectors in production, consumption, trade, and employment;
2. describe goods and services exports from the Pacific Islands during the period 2017–21, and identify major factors that impact those exports to the United States;
3. describe the use of the U.S. General System of Preferences (GSP) program by the Pacific Islands countries and identify the goods from the Pacific Islands that enter the United States under GSP, sectors in which these programs might be underutilized, and factors affecting utilization of GSP;
4. describe foreign investment in the Pacific Islands during the period 2017-21; and identify major factors affecting investment from the United States;
5. using qualitative analysis and, to the extent that data are available, quantitative analysis, identify major products (including goods covered by the GSP program) and services, as

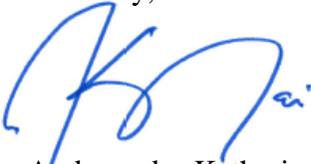
well as economic sectors, in the Pacific Islands with greatest potential for export sales to the United States, sectors with U.S. investment potential, and the factors that impede trade and investment with the United States for these products and sectors; and

6. describe initiatives and/or technical assistance that could address such trade and investment impediments, if found in the course of the Commission's research efforts.

I request that the Commission deliver its report no later than 12 months from the date of this letter. As this office intends to make the report available to the public in its entirety, the report should not include any confidential business information or classified information.

I appreciate the Commission's assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Tai', is positioned above the printed name of the ambassador.

Ambassador Katherine Tai

Attachment A: List of Pacific Islands

Independent Countries:

- Fiji (GSP)
- Kiribati (GSP-LDBDC)
- Nauru
- Papua New Guinea (GSP)
- Samoa (GSP-LDBDC)
- Solomon Islands (GSP-LDBDC)
- Tonga (GSP)
- Tuvalu (GSP-LDBDC)
- Vanuatu (GSP-LDBDC)

Freely Associated States:

- Federated States of Micronesia
- Palau
- Marshall Islands

U.S. Territories:

- Guam
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- American Samoa

Non-independent Countries and Territories:

- Cook Islands (GSP)
- French Polynesia
- New Caledonia
- Niue (GSP)
- Pitcairn (GSP)
- Tokelau (GSP)
- Wallis and Futuna (GSP)