

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

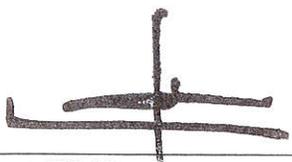
Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member DeFazio:

We are writing today to request that the Natural Resources Committee hold an oversight hearing on Western and Central Pacific Ocean fisheries issues in advance of drafting or advancing any legislation to amend or reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act). Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have a unique and vital relationship with the sea, and depend upon our fisheries to sustain both livelihoods and lives.

The Committee has held four oversight hearings on fisheries this Congress, but none focused on the challenges our fishermen and resource managers face. These hearings featured 38 total witnesses – 30 of whom were invited by the Majority - but none who represent, manage, or study the fisheries in our region. We are concerned that the Committee is not accounting for the interests of our constituents.

We desperately need more enforcement capacity to fight back against pirate fishing, additional scientific support to assess the health of our fish stocks, and increased technical and financial assistance to develop sustainable fisheries that provide our people with protein and income. We respectfully urge you to consider holding a hearing on these topics, and to invite witnesses with a focus on Western and Central Pacific fisheries.

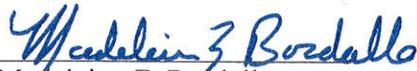
Sincerely,



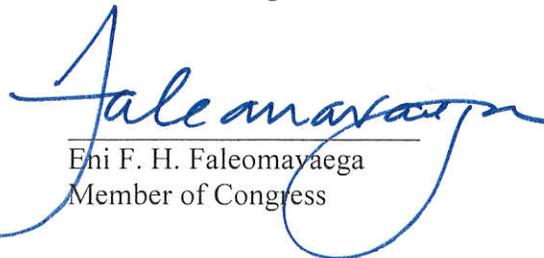
Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Eni F. H. Faleomayaega
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress