

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4223

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the manner in which delays in arms deliveries to Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines affect the ability of the Department of Defense to build and sustain a strong denial defense in the First Island Chain.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the manner in which delays in arms deliveries to Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines affect the ability of the Department of Defense to build and sustain a strong denial defense in the First Island Chain.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “First Island Chain De-
5 terrence Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
4 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
7 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
8 Senate; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
10 the Committee on Armed Services of the House
11 of Representatives.

12 (2) FIRST ISLAND CHAIN.—The term “First Is-
13 land Chain” means the chain of archipelagos extend-
14 ing from the Kuril Islands and Japan, through the
15 Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, and the Philippines, to
16 Borneo, which form the first line of islands off the
17 East Asian continental mainland.

18 (3) MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT SALES.—The
19 term “major defense equipment sales” means all for-
20 eign military sales that meet Defense Security Co-
21 operation Agency thresholds for congressional notifi-
22 cation under section 36 of the Arms Export Control
23 Act (22 U.S.C. 2776).

24 (4) STRONG DENIAL DEFENSE.—The term
25 “strong denial defense” means the prevention of an
26 adversary from taking aggressive action by dem-

1 onstrating that success in such an action would be
2 prohibitively difficult.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON DELAYS IN ARMS DELIVERIES TO**
4 **JAPAN, TAIWAN, AND THE PHILIPPINES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
7 General of the United States shall submit to the appro-
8 priate committees of Congress a report on the manner in
9 which delays in United States weapons sales to Japan,
10 Taiwan, and the Philippines through the foreign military
11 sales process affect the ability of the Department of De-
12 fense to build, posture, and sustain a strong denial defense
13 in the First Island Chain.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
15 (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) A description of the benefits to United
17 States national security of United States arms deliv-
18 eries to Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines, and the
19 importance of interoperability in the event of a con-
20 tingency across the Taiwan Strait.

21 (2) A description of—

22 (A) the current status of major defense
23 equipment sales to Japan, Taiwan, and the
24 Philippines that have been approved but have
25 not been completed; and

1 (B) relevant metrics for identifying delays
2 in the timelines for delivery on such major de-
3 fense equipment sales, including such delays at-
4 tributable to—

5 (i) Department of Defense review,
6 procurement, and administration processes
7 for the foreign military sales mechanism;

8 (ii) production constraints on the
9 United States defense industrial base with
10 respect to materiel currently under con-
11 tract with Japan, Taiwan, and the Phil-
12 ippines; or

13 (iii) Department of Defense
14 prioritization of arms deliveries to allies
15 and partners in the midst of conflict, such
16 as allies in the Middle East region.

17 (3) An assessment of possible impacts of such
18 delays on the ability of the Department of Defense
19 to build, posture, and sustain a strong denial de-
20 fense in the First Island Chain, including by ena-
21 bling interoperability with Japan, Taiwan, and the
22 Philippines.

23 (4) An evaluation, as applicable, of the impact
24 any other relevant authority for arms sales or trans-
25 fers to Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines may have

1 on the ability of the Department of Defense to build,
2 posture, and sustain a strong denial defense in the
3 First Island Chain.

4 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)—

5 (1) to the maximum extent practicable, shall be
6 submitted in unclassified form without any designa-
7 tion relating to dissemination control; and

8 (2) shall contain a classified annex.

9 (d) SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

10 The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Comptroller
11 General with timely access to any appropriate information,
12 data, and analyses requested by the Comptroller General
13 under section 716 of title 31, United States Code, that
14 is necessary to develop, in a timely, thorough, and inde-
15 pendent manner, the report required by subsection (a).

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