

ASIA REASSURANCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2018 (ARIA)

Purpose:

- Enshrines a generational policy framework to demonstrate U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and the rules-based international order;
- Provides a comprehensive set of national security and economic policies to advance U.S. interests and goals, including substantive U.S. resource commitments;
- Promotes the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as key U.S. objectives in the Indo-Pacific; and
- Reassures our allies and deters our adversaries in the Indo-Pacific.

Summary:

Part 1: Security Interests

- Authorizes \$1.5 billion annually for 5 years to enhance U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific;
- Reaffirms U.S. security commitments to our allies in the Indo-Pacific, including Japan, South Korea, and Australia and builds security partnerships with nations in Southeast Asia;
- Establishes a policy goal to peacefully denuclearize North Korea through the campaign of maximum pressure and engagement;
- Enhances the U.S. diplomatic, economic, and security relationship with India;
- Enforces U.S. freedom of navigation and overflight rights in the Indo-Pacific;
- Expresses support for regular arms sales to Taiwan and to enhance diplomatic and defense contacts between Washington and Taipei;
- Promotes robust cybersecurity cooperation with our allies in the region; and
- Sets U.S. policy to pursue effective arms control and nuclear nonproliferation policies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Part 2: Economic Engagement

- Promotes economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as essential for the growth of the U.S. economy and success of American businesses;
- Authorizes bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations with Indo-Pacific nations;
- Provides for robust U.S. commercial presence throughout the Indo-Pacific region to promote U.S. exports and additional trade facilitation efforts;
- Authorizes the imposition of penalties on entities and governments engaged in the theft of United States intellectual property; and
- Requires a new comprehensive U.S. policy to promote energy exports.

Part 3: Promoting Values

- Provides \$150 million annually for 5 years for democracy, rule of law, and civil society support, including \$10 million annually for freedom of information efforts in North Korea;
- Call for additional U.S. efforts against trafficking-in-persons and human slavery; and
- Authorizes U.S. sanctions against human rights abusers.