

FY2011 Homeland Security appropriations requests

Secret Service for 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting in Hawaii \$ 10.5 million

I request that the Secret Service receive an additional \$10.5 million (for a total of \$11.5 million) to support its role in hosting the upcoming 2011 meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held in Hawaii, which I anticipate being designated a National Special Security Event (NSSE).

As the host nation it is imperative that the United States provide a safe and efficient venue for the APEC meeting. Significant funding in FY 11 will support the Secret Service's efforts in planning for the event and provide sufficient law enforcement personnel and support staff to ensure a successful and safe APEC meeting. The Secret Service estimates that its costs for the APEC meeting in Hawaii will be \$10.5 million, which will cover staffing, housing, travel, and equipment.

DHS funding for APEC 2011 State and Local Costs \$21.97 million

I request that the Honolulu Police Department in Hawaii receive \$21.97 million to support its role in hosting the upcoming 2011 meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held in Hawaii, which I anticipate being designated a National Special Security Event (NSSE).

Foreign Language Award Program \$19.9 million

The Department proposes to reduce funding for the Foreign Language Award Program (FLAP) at Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) by \$19.9 million. FLAP was established in 1985 to pay cash awards to CBP officers and CBP Agriculture Specialists in the Office of Field Operations (OFO) who are proficient in, and utilize, a foreign language in the performance of their official duties. FLAP funding is currently paid for through the COBRA User Fees. The Department plans to use these cost savings to hire additional staff.

While I support the hiring of additional staff, I oppose the Department's efforts to cut FLAP funding. The federal government, let alone the Department of Homeland Security, has not taken a real assessment of its need for personnel with foreign language skills. I have asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the language needs of select federal agencies and report on how the agencies are meeting those needs. Preliminary analysis by GAO shows that CBP has not undertaken either a language needs or a language capabilities assessment of its workforce and thus cannot anticipate the potential security risks of denying FLAP to CBP officers. CBP officers are charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. as it works to secure and facilitate trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws. I believe that foreign language skills are required to adequately perform this mission and request that the Subcommittee and Committee oppose cutting funds from FLAP.

Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense (FAVD) Division
\$ 1 million

Within the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Health Affairs, the Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense (FAVD) division works with all levels of government, other DHS components, and the private sector on oversight and management of DHS veterinary, food and agriculture security activities. FAVD provides expertise, technical support, and leadership to effectively coordinate DHS efforts in the event of a catastrophic food or agricultural incident, and works to enhance national preparedness and response capabilities in advance of an event.

FAVD also has a significant role in carrying out Homeland Security Presidential Directive-9 (HSPD-9), which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with other agencies, to develop and implement mitigation strategies and develop and coordinate response capabilities and plans for threats to food and agricultural disasters.

These threats are significant and potentially very costly. According to the World Health Organization, 75 percent of newly emerging infectious diseases originate in animals. In addition to this, some experts believe that a major foreign animal disease outbreak could reduce the Nation's agricultural income by over \$14 billion.

The additional \$273,000 requested for FAVD will accelerate its planning and response efforts within DHS, and allow FAVD to continue to strengthen its efforts with other Federal agencies; State, local and tribal governments; and the private sector.

U.S. Coast Guard

I am concerned about the deep cuts to the U.S. Coast Guard budget despite its expanding and critical mission. This cut will decrease its uniformed personnel by more than 1,100 and reduce its maritime security presence in some areas of the Nation. I ask that the U.S. Coast Guard's budget be returned to at least its Fiscal Year 2010 enacted level of \$8.542 billion.