

PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT

*Pacific Islands Development Program/East-West Center
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OBAMA PUSHES FOR NUCLEAR-FREE SOUTH PACIFIC *President urges Senate to ratify Treaty of Rarotonga*

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia, May 3, 2011) - United States President Barack Obama has called on the United States Senate to agree to a nuclear weapons-free zone in the South Pacific.

The US, which until now has refused to accept any limitation on the right of passage of US nuclear-powered vessels or naval vessels carrying nuclear weapons in the region, is the only country not to have ratified the Treaty of Rarotonga.

Sky news now reports president Obama has sent the protocols for the South Pacific treaty, and a similar one in Africa, to the US Senate for advice and consent for ratification.

Once ratified, the United States cannot use the threat of nuclear weapons against regional parties that are members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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