



## **DRAFT TRAVEL ADVISORY**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade advises Fijian citizens of recent United States visa-related measures announced by the U.S. Department of State. These measures are distinct and apply to two different visa categories.

### **1. Freeze on US Immigrant Visa Applications**

The United States has announced a temporary pause in the processing of certain **immigrant visa** applications for nationals of countries assessed as being at higher risk of public benefits usage. This measure applies only to immigrant visas, which are intended for permanent residence in the United States. It does not apply to non-immigrant visas or short-term travel, and does not affect existing valid visas.

### **2. US Visa Bond**

Separately, the United States has introduced a Visa Bond Pilot Program for certain **new applicants for B1 (business) and B2 (tourist/visitor) non-immigrant visas**. Under this program, an applicant may be required, on a case-by-case basis, to pay a refundable monetary bond as a condition of visa issuance. The bond is not automatic and is determined following an individual consular assessment.

Where a bond is required, indicative amounts range between **USD\$5,000** and **USD\$15,000**. The bond is fully refundable once the traveller complies with visa conditions and departs the United States within the authorised period of stay. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture.

The Visa Bond Pilot Program applies only to new B1/B2 visa applicants. It does not affect existing valid visa holders, diplomatic or official travel, student visas, or airline crew visas. At present, travellers subject to a visa bond may enter the United States only through designated airport identified by U.S. authorities as listed below. Travellers are advised to confirm entry and routing arrangements prior to travel:

1. Boston Logan International Airport
2. John F. Kennedy International Airport
3. Washington Dulles International Airport
4. Newark Liberty International Airport
5. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
6. Chicago O'Hare International Airport
7. Los Angeles International Airport
8. Toronto Pearson International Airport
9. Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport

For the most up-to-date and authoritative information, travellers are encouraged to consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade or the Fiji Embassy in Washington D.C. The Government of Fiji will continue to provide updates as further information becomes available.