

Union Calendar No. 301

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4686

[Report No. 111-528]

To authorize the Secretary of Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Mr. SABLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

JULY 13, 2010

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 24, 2010]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
5 *“Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act”.*

6 (b) *FINDINGS.*—*Congress finds as follows:*

7 (1) *The island of Rota was the only major island*
8 *in the Mariana Islands to be spared the destruction*
9 *and large scale land use changes brought about by*
10 *World War II.*

11 (2) *The island of Rota has been described by pro-*
12 *fessional archeologists as having the most numerous,*
13 *most intact, and generally the most unique pre-*
14 *historic sites of any of the islands of the Mariana Ar-*
15 *chipelago.*

16 (3) *The island of Rota contains remaining exam-*
17 *ples of what is known as the Latte Phase of the cul-*
18 *tural tradition of the indigenous Chamorro people of*
19 *the Mariana Islands. Latte stone houses are remnants*
20 *of the ancient Chamorro culture.*

21 (4) *Four prehistoric sites are listed on the Na-*
22 *tional Register of Historic Places: Monchon Archeo-*
23 *logical District (also known locally as Monchon Latte*
24 *Stone Village), Taga Latte Stone Quarry, the Dugi*
25 *Archeological Site that contains, latte stone struc-*

1 *tures, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave that contains*
2 *examples of ancient Chamorro rock art. Alaguan Bay*
3 *Ancient Village is another latte stone prehistoric site*
4 *that is surrounded by tall-canopy limestone forest.*

5 *(5) In addition to prehistoric sites, the island of*
6 *Rota boasts historic sites remaining from the Japa-*
7 *nese period (1914–1945). Several of these sites are on*
8 *the National Register of Historic Places: Nanyo*
9 *Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, Japanese*
10 *Coastal Defense Gun, and the Japanese Hospital.*

11 *(6) The island of Rota’s natural resources are*
12 *significant because of the extent and intact condition*
13 *of its native limestone forest that provides habitat for*
14 *several federally endangered listed species, the Mar-*
15 *iana crow, and the Rota bridled white-eye birds, that*
16 *are also native to the island of Rota. Three endan-*
17 *gered plant species are also found on Rota and two*
18 *are endemic to the island.*

19 *(7) Because of the significant cultural and nat-*
20 *ural resources listed above, on September 2005, the*
21 *National Park Service, Pacific West Region, com-*
22 *pleted a preliminary resource assessment on the is-*
23 *land of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-*
24 *iana Islands, which determined that the “establish-*
25 *ment of a unit of the national park system*

1 *appear[ed] to be the best way to ensure the long term*
2 *protection of Rota’s most important cultural resources*
3 *and its best examples of its native limestone forest.”.*

4 **SEC. 2. NPS STUDY OF SITES ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA,**
5 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MAR-**
6 **IANA ISLANDS.**

7 *(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—*

8 *(1) carry out a study regarding the suitability*
9 *and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic,*
10 *and limestone forest sites on the island of Rota, Com-*
11 *monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a*
12 *unit of the National Park System; and*

13 *(2) consider management alternatives for the is-*
14 *land of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-*
15 *iana Islands.*

16 *(b) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Except as*
17 *provided by subsection (c) of this section, section 8(c) of*
18 *Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall apply to the*
19 *conduct and completion of the study required by this sec-*
20 *tion.*

21 *(c) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later than*
22 *3 years after the date that funds are made available for*
23 *this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee*
24 *on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and*

- 1 *the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-*
- 2 *ate a report describing the results of the study.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.”.

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