

The first section of this bill requires the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to publish annual reports on the gross domestic product (GDP) for the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), as well as for the three Freely Associated States (FAS) for which the United States has entered into a Compact of Free Association. The three FAS are the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (ROP). The economic data that the BEA promulgates and publishes are important for states and our country. These statistics are used by federal, state, and local governments for budget development and projections; by the Federal Reserve for monetary policy; by the private sector for planning and investment; and by the American public to follow and understand the performance of the national economy.

Historically, the BEA has not encompassed the U.S. Territories in its Regional Economic Accounts or as part of its annual State GDP reports. Until last year, a formalized, uniform and federal framework for estimating the GDP in the U.S. Territories did not exist. In March 2009, the BEA and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at the U.S. Department of the Interior entered into a formal agreement to develop such a framework and federally assist the U.S. territories in developing and producing annual (GDP) statistics for their respective jurisdictions. The agreement established these efforts as the "Statistical Improvement Program" (SIP) and OIA financed it under its discretionary budget at \$1.6 million over a period of 18 months (March 2009–September 2010). The results were unveiled this year, and the bill I have introduced today would direct BEA to permanently continue its efforts in estimating the GDP for these jurisdictions as part of its existing program and resources so that this important work continues.

The second section of this bill amends the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), Public Law 110–229, for the purpose of implementation of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and other provisions. The interim final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last year limited the full administration of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program and it did not fulfill the Congressional intent, established under the law. Secretary Napolitano used her discretionary parole authority to allow travel of certain visitors only to the CNMI. While this was an important action to preserve the CNMI economy, it did not fulfill the intent of a new joint visa waiver program.

Given that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is in the process of issuing a final rule regarding the joint Guam-Visa Waiver Program, this bill is timely and essential in preserving the regional economy of Guam and the CNMI. Most importantly the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to "provide for an alternative procedure" to achieve the benefits that formal inclusion of countries determined to have had significant economic benefit in the CNMI would otherwise bring under the Guam-Northern Mariana Islands Visa Waiver Program. The bill does not specify or give definition to a scope of possible "alternative procedures;" it leaves it to the discretion of the Secretary of DHS. This is important to the economy of the Western Pacific, as tourism remains our largest industry.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

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HONORING THE WORK OF THE  
NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nisqually Land Trust and their exceptional efforts to address the Northwest's continuously challenging coastal issues.

The Coastal America Partnership awarded the Nisqually Land Trust and its Red Salmon Restoration Team partners with the 13th Annual 2010 Coastal America Spirit Award. This national award was given in recognition of the Red Salmon Restoration Team's restoration of salmon and migratory bird habitat located in the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek Management Unit in the Nisqually River Delta.

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Veterans Conservation Corps, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Pierce County Stream Team, Intel Corporation, and various school groups, the Nisqually Land Trust has provided superior leadership in protecting, preserving, and restoring the region's coastal resources and ecosystems.

Established in 1992, the Coastal America Partnership is a coalition of Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private organizations that work to protect, preserve, and restore the nation's coasts. Coastal America regional teams have initiated more than 700 restoration protection projects in 26 states, restoring thousands of acres of wetlands and protecting critical habitats.

Continuing the tradition of preserving the region's coasts and wetlands, the Nisqually Land Trust manages and protects over 2700 acres of land and habitat within the Nisqually Watershed. In addition, the Land Trust and its partners have been successful in permanently protecting 71 percent of the river's salmon-producing shoreline. As these efforts have helped to ensure the continued health and sustainable population of the Pacific Northwest Native Wild Salmon, it is clear why Coastal America selected this effort for its Spirit Award.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Nisqually Land Trust on its excellent work to protect and manage the critical wildlife and habitat areas of the Nisqually River Delta.

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RECOGNIZING SCHERTZ TALES  
MAGAZINE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schertz Tales Magazine, the monthly publication of the City of Schertz, which was recently honored with four international 'Awards of Distinction' at the 2010 Communicator Awards announced by the

International Academy of the Visual Arts in New York City, New York.

Schertz's award-winning entries consisted of the July 2008 Magazine Cover; billboard design for the 2008 Festival of Angels event; poster ad for Artz '09; and overall design for the Artz exhibit.

Schertz' newsletter, founded in the mid-1980's, has evolved over the years into the popular monthly Schertz Tales Magazine format. Patterned after successful travel magazines and Texas-centric human interest publications, Schertz Tales Magazine's design reflects its namesake city's acclaimed quality-of-life and can-do spirit. Publisher Brad E. Bailey and his team have shaped the publication to offer important city news and business information while sharing interesting character profiles and local stories.

Schertz Tales Magazine serves a vibrant, fast-growing community that does not have the tradition of a local newspaper, radio station or other source of news and, yet, fills that void effectively. In fact, Schertz Tales Magazine's transformation from newsletter to an internationally acclaimed metropolitan magazine mirrors the emergence of Schertz from a small town founded by German immigrants to one of the premier communities in the State of Texas. Backed by the creative genius of Graphic Designer Alexis Souza, the magazine continues to evolve and grow.

With thousands of entries received from across the U.S. and around the world, the Communicator Awards program is the largest and most competitive awards event honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. Current International Academy of the Visual Arts membership represents a "Who's Who" of acclaimed media, advertising, and marketing firms.

Current and past staff members involved in the award-winning Schertz Tales Magazine include: Leslie Hernandez, Advertising Sales Manager; Mary A. Spence, Business Manager; Jessica Robinson, Event Coordinator; Chuck McCollough, Editor and Writer; and Chris Matzenbacher, Advertising Sales Director. City of Schertz City Manager Don Taylor, Assistant City Managers David J. Harris and John Bierschwale and the entire City Staff can be proud of the recognition bestowed through the IAVA.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the Schertz Tales Magazine, a valued and recently awarded news source.

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LOCAL COLLEGE TAKES NATIONAL  
BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the women's bowling team of a college located in my district, Webber International University. In their inaugural year as a team, the Lady Warriors took home the 2010 United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Bowling National Championship.

The United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Bowling National Championship was held this year in El Paso, Texas on April 15 through April 17. The tournament pitted together teams from NCAA Division I, II, III, and NAIA colleges.