

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4686

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

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:

1 (1) The island of Rota was the only major is-
2 land in the Mariana Islands to be spared the de-
3 struction and large scale land use changes brought
4 about by World War II.

5 (2) The island of Rota has been described by
6 professional archeologists as having the most numer-
7 ous, most intact, and generally the most unique pre-
8 historic sites of any of the islands of the Mariana
9 Archipelago.

10 (3) The island of Rota contains remaining ex-
11 amples of what is known as the Latte Phase of the
12 cultural tradition of the indigenous Chamorro people
13 of the Mariana Islands. Latte stone houses are rem-
14 nants of the ancient Chamorro culture.

15 (4) Four prehistoric sites are listed on the Na-
16 tional Register of Historic Places: Monchon Archeo-
17 logical District (also known locally as Monchon
18 Latte Stone Village), Taga Latte Stone Quarry, the
19 Dugi Archeological Site that contains, latte stone
20 structures, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave that
21 contains examples of ancient Chamorro rock art.
22 Alaguan Bay Ancient Village is another latte stone
23 prehistoric site that is surrounded by tall-canopy
24 limestone forest.

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

7 (6) The island of Rota’s natural resources are
8 significant because of the extent and intact condition
9 of its native limestone forest that provides habitat
10 for several federally endangered listed species, the
11 Mariana crow, and the Rota bridled white-eye birds,
12 that are also native to the island of Rota. Three en-
13 dangered plant species are also found on Rota and
14 two are endemic to the island.

15 (7) Because of the significant cultural and nat-
16 ural resources listed above, on September 2005, the
17 National Park Service, Pacific West Region, com-
18 pleted a preliminary resource assessment on the is-
19 land of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
20 iana Islands, which determined that the “establish-
21 ment of a unit of the national park system
22 appear[ed] to be the best way to ensure the long
23 term protection of Rota’s most important cultural
24 resources and its best examples of its native lime-
25 stone forest.”.

1 **SEC. 2. NPS STUDY OF SITES ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA,**
2 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MAR-**
3 **IANA ISLANDS.**

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

5 (1) carry out a study regarding the suitability
6 and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic,
7 and limestone forest sites on the island of Rota,
8 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as
9 a unit of the National Park System; and

10 (2) consider management alternatives for the is-
11 land of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
12 iana Islands.

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

18 (c) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—Not later
19 than 18 months after the date that funds are made avail-
20 able for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the
21 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
23 Resources of the Senate a report describing the results
24 of the study.

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