

## ROTA CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT

---

MAY 17, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

---

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural Resources, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 674]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 674) 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, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 674 is 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.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands contains cultural and natural resources including caves with pictographs, other prehistoric relics and sites from the 20th century Japanese occupation. Additionally, Rota has a natural limestone forest that serves as a habitat for endangered species endemic to the island. H.R. 674 authorizes 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.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 674 was introduced on February 13, 2013, by Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D–MP). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. On April 24, 2013, the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was then adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

## COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

**1. Cost of Legislation.** Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

*H.R. 674—Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act*

H.R. 674 would require the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a study of the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park System. The NPS would have three years to complete the study and report to the Congress on its results.

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that carrying out the study required by H.R. 674 would cost about \$300,000 over the next three years. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 674 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

**2. Section 308(a) of Congressional Budget Act.** As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of

1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that carrying out the study required by H.R. 674 would cost about \$300,000 over the next three years.

**3. General Performance Goals and Objectives.** As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is 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.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

**Directed Rule Making.** The Chairman does not believe that this bill directs any executive branch official to conduct any specific rule-making proceedings.

**Duplication of Existing Programs.** This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.