

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 674

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2013

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

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

4 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 prehistoric site that is surrounded by tall-canopy
2 limestone forest.

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

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

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

1 resources and its best examples of its native lime-
2 stone forest.”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 sources of the Senate a report describing the results of
- 2 the study.

Passed the House of Representatives June 17, 2013.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.