

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To prohibit the cutting of trees and vegetation in the rock islands, to provide penalties for violations of this Act, and for related purposes.

**THE PEOPLE OF KOROR REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF KOROR DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Findings.**

The Tenth Koror State Legislature hereby finds that the cutting of trees and the clearing of vegetation was illegal under Section "5.(d)(4) of KSPL No. K5-74-97, an Act creating the "Rock Island Recreation Area". KSPL No. K5-74-97 was repealed by KSPL No. K6-113-2000, the "Year 2000 Rock Island and Conservation Act", which did not contain any prohibitions relating to the cutting of trees or vegetation. Finally, KSPL No. K8-207-2009, the "Rock Islands Management and Conservation Act" repealed KSPL No. K6-113-2000, and similarly, KSPL No. K8-207-2009 did not contain any prohibitions relating to the cutting of trees or vegetation in the rock islands.

The Legislature further finds that the rock islands are currently zoned as a "Conservation" zone (former 31 PNC 3175-3178), but the cutting of trees and vegetation is not expressly prohibited in such law.

The trees and vegetation, and insect and animal life, of the rock islands have grown and adapted to the rock islands over thousands and thousands of years, without human intervention. The cutting of trees and vegetation destroys animal habitat, and creates unnatural conditions that allow other forms of vegetation to replace old growth and other trees and vegetation. It is in the best interests of the people and environment of Koror to prohibit the cutting of trees in the rock islands.

**Section 2. Definitions.**

As used in this Act, the term:

(1) "Rock Islands Conservation Area" means all of the islands and areas above the ordinary high water mark as defined in Section "3" of the "Rock Islands Conservation Area" established under KSPL No. K6-100B-99, but does not include the islands of Malakal and Arakebesang, the

