

TITLE 2: NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION 4: LAND RESOURCES

§ 4377. Inventory of Public Land on Tinian.

The Department of Public Lands shall identify and inventory all public lands in the Second Senatorial District that are vacant, undeveloped and unfettered. This shall not include lands designated as public right-of-ways, accesses, roadways and/or easements. The Department of Public Lands shall complete this inventory no later than December 31, 2011.

Source: PL 17-12 § 3 (August 17, 2010) .

Commission Comment: Public Law 17-12 (effective August 17, 2010) included the following:

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be entitled "The Tinian Homestead Act of 2010".

Section 2. Findings and Purposes. The Legislature finds that public land in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a finite resource. The Legislature further finds that public land on the island of Tinian is particularly limited as the United States Department of Defense leases approximately two thirds of the vacant public land on the island. The Legislature finds that the lease of such a large portion of the island's public land has severely hindered the homestead program on Tinian.

Further, the Legislature finds that public lands belong collectively to the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Marianas descent and the Department of Public Lands is tasked with overseeing these lands in the best interest of our people. The Legislature further finds that the Department of Public Lands is constitutionally mandated to make available some portion of public lands on Tinian for a homestead program. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that allocating a portion of public lands on Tinian for current and future homestead development is in the best interest of those Tinian residents who are of Northern Marianas descent. Finally, the Legislature finds that sometime in the future, there will be no lands available for allocating to the people of Tinian.

Therefore, is it the purpose of this Act to designate at least fifty percent of available public land in Tinian for homesteading purposes. In addition, the Department of Public Lands shall set forth a moratorium for accepting any application for homestead program when there are no more available public lands.