

Chapter 32

Natural Heritage Reserve System

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3201. Short title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Natural Heritage Reserves System Act" of the Republic of Palau.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 1, modified.

3202. Findings and declaration of necessity.

The Olbiil Era Kelulau of the Republic of Palau finds and declares that:

- (a) the Republic of Palau possesses unique natural resources such as geological features and distinctive freshwater, marine and terrestrial plants and animals, many of which occur nowhere else in the world that are highly vulnerable to loss by the growth of population and technology;
- (b) in order to accomplish these purposes, a system of reserves, sanctuaries, and refuges must be identified, developed and strengthened. Additional terrestrial and freshwater and marine areas suitable for preservation should be set aside and administered solely and specifically for the aforesaid purposes; and
- (c) that a nation-wide ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System should be established to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support unique communities of natural flora and fauna, as well as unique geological sites.

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Source RPPL 3-51 § 2, modified.

3203. Natural Heritage Reserves System.

There shall be a Natural Heritage Reserves System of the Republic of Palau hereinafter called "ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System" which shall consist of areas in the Republic which are designated and nominated by the Bureau of Resources and Development in the manner hereinafter provided as ROP Natural Heritage Reserves. The ROP Natural Heritage Reserves shall be managed by the Ministry of Resources and Development, through the Bureau of Resources and Development in consultation with state government officials.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 3, modified.

3204. Powers of the state.

Each governor through the state legislatures and state chiefs, shall designate any and various area in mutual consent with the Bureau of Resources and Development within the state as part of the ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System. Such designations may be made as follows:

- (a) state-owned land or any other areas which are set aside by resolution of the state government as ROP Natural Heritage Reserve;
- (b) private land or any other areas which may be given as gifts to the state for the specific purpose to set aside as ROP Natural Heritage Reserve; or
- (c) any land or any other areas which is purchased by the state for the purpose of establishing ROP Natural Heritage Reserve.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 4, modified.

3205. Powers of the national government.

The Ministry of Resources and Development through the Bureau of Resources and Development may designate any and various areas within the Republic as part of the ROP Natural Heritage System and bring them

under its control and management, as follows:

- (a) Republic-owned land or any other areas which are set aside by Executive Order of the Trust Territory Government as ROP Natural Heritage Reserve;
- (b) state-owned land or any other areas which may be conveyed to the Republic to set aside as ROP Natural Heritage Reserve by resolution of the State government;
- (c) private land or any other areas which may be given as gifts to the Republic for the specific purposes to set aside as ROP Natural Heritage Reserve; or
- (d) any land or any other areas which are purchased by the Republic for the purpose of establishing ROP Natural Heritage Reserve.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 5, modified.

3206. Rules and regulations.

The Ministry of Resources and Development through the Bureau of Resources and Development, may:

- (a) make, amend and repeal rules and regulations having the force and effect of law, governing the use, control, and protection of the areas included within the ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System, provided that no rule or regulation which relates to the permitted use of any area shall be permitted unless such rule, regulation, or permitted use shall also have been specifically approved by the appropriate state government officials.
- (b) confer upon such of its employees, and those of the state government, as it deems reasonable and necessary, the powers to serve and execute warrants, arrest offenders and issue citations in all matters relating to enforcement within the ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System of the laws and rules and regulations applicable thereto.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 6, modified.

207. Penalties.

Any person who violates any of the laws and rules and regulations applicable to the ROP Natural Heritage Reserves System, upon conviction thereof, shall be guilty of a crime and shall be fined not less than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not less than one year, or both, for each offense committed.

Source RPPL 3-51 § 7, modified.