
A LOCAL ACT

To prevent the spread of LANTANA CAMARA to the island of Rota, and providing penalties for deliberate introduction of the plant to the flora of Rota; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4 OF DIVISION 1 OF TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the
2 "Lantana Camara Control Act of 1990".

3 Section 2. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds
4 that the Lantana Camara, a member of the Family Verbenaceae,
5 although having considerable ornamental value in temperate
6 zones, is easily controlled and poses no threat to local
7 ecosystems, in the tropics and especially in the pacific
8 region. It has become one of the World's top ten worst
9 noxious weeds and poses serious problems in these areas. The
10 Lantana Camara grows rapidly in the tropics, forms bushy
11 thickets and kills neighboring plants due to its allelopathic
12 properties; additionally, a toxic effect of the Lantana Camara
13 causes photosensitization in various animals. The plants
14 contain a photodynamic substance which, when ingested by
15 domestic animals, sensitizes them to light so that they may
16 develop serious symptoms often resulting in death after
17 exposure to strong sunlight. The Lantana Camara is currently
18 a serious problem in the pastures of **Tinian** and Saipan and in
19 all cleared areas of Aguijan. The island of Rota is,
20 according to recent competent surveys, free of the noxious
21 weed, and it is the desire of the Legislature that strong
22 measures be taken to continue to keep Rota free of the Lantana
23 Camara.

1 Section 3. Prohibition. Entry of any seeds, roots,
2 seedlings, fruit or any other part of the plant known as
3 Lantana Camara, L. Var. Aculeate, into the island of Rota is
4 prohibited. Conspicuous signboards shall be posted at the
5 entry "arrival" gates at the Rota Airport and at the exit
6 "departure" gates from the Saipan International Airport to
7 provide notice of the prohibition.

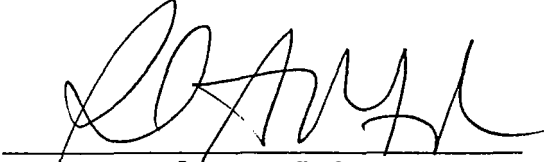
8 Section 4. Penalty. Any person found guilty of
9 attempting to bring any matter pertaining to the Lantana
10 Camara and described in Section 2 of this Act into the island
11 of Rota or who is aiding or abetting such act shall be guilty
12 of a misdemeanor and fined five thousand dollars or serve a
13 prison term of no more than one year and no less than three
14 months or both.

15 Section 5. Rules and Regulations. The Director of the
16 Department of Natural Resources shall within 90 days of the
17 effective date of this Act, promulgate such rules and
18 regulations necessary for effective enforcement of this Act.

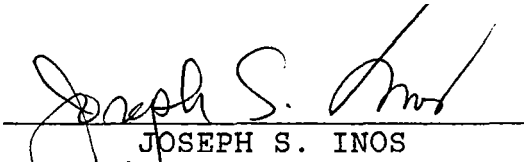
19 Section 6. Severability. If any section of this Act or
20 any regulation issued under the authority of this Act should
21 be declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent
22 jurisdiction, the judicial determination shall not affect the
23 validity of the Act or regulations as a whole, or any part
24 thereof, other than the particular part declared invalid or
25 unenforceable.

1 Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect
2 upon its approval by the Governor, or upon its becoming law
3 without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

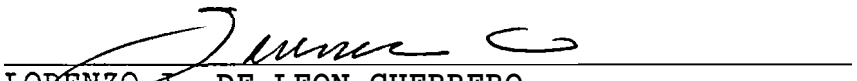


PAUL A. MANGLON
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation



JOSEPH S. INOS
President of the Senate

APPROVED this 1st day of NOV. 1991.



LORENZO I. DE LEON GUERRERO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands