

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 579

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of action plans aimed at reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of action plans aimed at reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

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. INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED**  
2 **STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term  
5 “comprehensive energy plan” means a comprehen-  
6 sive energy plan prepared and updated under sub-  
7 sections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled  
8 “An Act to authorize appropriations for certain in-  
9 sular areas of the United States, and for other pur-  
10 poses”, approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C.  
11 1492).

12 (2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term “energy  
13 action plan” means the plan required by subsection  
14 (d).

15 (3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term  
16 “Freely Associated States” means the Federated  
17 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall  
18 Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

19 (4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term “insular areas”  
20 means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the  
21 Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of  
22 Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

23 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

25 (6) TEAM.—The term “team” means the team  
26 established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
3 tablish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

4 (1) to develop an energy action plan addressing  
5 the energy needs of each of the insular areas and  
6 Freely Associated States; and

7 (2) to assist each of the insular areas and Free-  
8 ly Associated States in implementing such plan.

9 (c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANI-  
10 ZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall  
11 consider including regional utility organizations.

12 (d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with sub-  
13 section (b), the energy action plan shall include—

14 (1) recommendations, based on the comprehen-  
15 sive energy plan where applicable, to—

16 (A) reduce reliance and expenditures on  
17 imported fossil fuels;

18 (B) develop indigenous, nonfossil fuel en-  
19 ergy sources; and

20 (C) improve performance of energy infra-  
21 structure and overall energy efficiency;

22 (2) a schedule for implementation of such rec-  
23 ommendations and identification and prioritization  
24 of specific projects;

1           (3) a financial and engineering plan for imple-  
2           menting and sustaining projects; and

3           (4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward  
4           implementation.

5           (e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year  
6           after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team  
7           and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Sec-  
8           retary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its  
9           charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

10          (f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
11          than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary re-  
12          ceives a report submitted by the team under subsection  
13          (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate commit-  
14          tees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

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