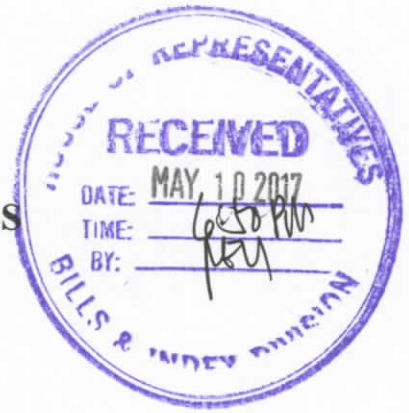




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5614**



**INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
AND HONORABLE RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Kalayaan Island Group situated in the Province of Palawan as alienable and disposable land for agricultural, residential and commercial purposes.

Presidential Decree No. 1596, entitled "*Declaring Certain Area Part of the Philippine Territory and Providing for Their Government and Administration*," constituted the Kalayaan Island Group as a distinct and separate municipality of the Province of Palawan, now known as the Municipality of Kalayaan. Kalayaan Island Group is composed of islets and reefs with aggregate land area of approximately 79 hectares: a) Pagasa with 32.7 hectares; b) Likas with 18.6 hectares; c) Parada, 12.7 hectares; d) Lawak, 7.9 hectares; e) Kota, 6.45 hectares; f) Patag, 0.57 hectare; g) Parata, 0.44 hectare; h) Ayungin Reef, 0 hectare; and (1) Rizal Reef, 0 hectare.

The Kalayaan Island Group offers rich fishing grounds and contains significant oil and natural gas reserves. It is vital to the security and economic survival of the Philippines. The Municipality of Kalayaan is in the process of making new projects to promote tourism for the island group. It is inviting Filipino businessmen to invest in Kalayaan but investors are reluctant to invest because the island group is inalienable and non-disposable for agricultural, residential and commercial purposes. Even residents who have been long tilling and developing the parcels of land within the Kalayaan Island Group cannot apply for title for their occupied area.

Thus, there is an urgent need to declare the Kalayaan Island Group as alienable and disposable to promote permanent dwelling and develop a viable source of livelihood for the residents therein. This will also promote the growth of business opportunities and spur the development of trade and industry by attracting investors to the area.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ



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HOUSE BILL NO. **5614**

**INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ AND
HONORABLE RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP LOCATED IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAYAAN, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. The Kalayaan Island Group composed of Pagasa (Thitu), Likas, Parola, Lawak, Kota, Patag, Panata, Ayungin Reef, Balagtas Reef and Rizal Reef containing a total land area of 0.79 km² (0.31 sq. mi) constituting the Municipality of Kalayaan, Province of Palawan, is hereby declared as alienable and disposable land for agricultural, residential, commercial and other productive purposes, subject to actual survey and delineation, and more particularly described in Presidential Decree No. 1596, entitled "*Declaring Certain Area Part of the Philippine Territory and Providing For Their Government and Administration*" as follows:

KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP

From a point [on the Philippine Treaty Limits] at latitude $7^{\circ}40'$ North and longitude $116^{\circ}00'$ East of Greenwich, thence due West along the parallel of $7^{\circ}40'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of longitude $112^{\circ}10'$ E, thence due north along the meridian of $112^{\circ}10'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $9^{\circ}00'$ N, thence northeastward to the intersection of the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N with the meridian of longitude $114^{\circ}30'$ E, thence, due East along the parallel of $12^{\circ}00'$ N to its intersection with the meridian of $118^{\circ}00'$ E, thence, due South along the meridian of longitude $118^{\circ}00'$ E to its intersection with the parallel of $10^{\circ}00'$ N, thence Southwestwards to the point of beginning at $7^{\circ}40'$ N, latitude and $116^{\circ}00'$ E longitude; including the seabed, sub-soil, continental margin and air space.

SEC. 2. Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,