



H.R. 1143 - TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO LEASE CERTAIN LANDS IN VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1143 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Donna Christensen (D-VI) on February 16, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent from the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 13, 2008.

H.R. 1143 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 4, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1143 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a lease agreement with CBI Acquisitions, LLC, stipulating the terms of CBI's continued management and operation of Caneel Bay Resort on the island of St. John in Virgin Islands National Park.

BACKGROUND

The islands of Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas compose the collection of islands located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, known as the U.S. Virgin Islands. The U.S. purchased the Virgin Islands from the Danish in 1917, after the islands' economic decline since the abolition of slavery in 1848.

The Virgin Islands National Park is located on the island of Saint John, and is 5,000 acres in size. The Caneel Bay Resort is composed of over 170 acres, and is situated within the Virgin Islands National Park. The Resort was founded by Laurence Rockefeller, and has been managed by Rosewood Hotels & Resorts since 1993.

CBI Acquisitions LLC is composed of several investing parties, including Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, and Equis Financial Group. CBI acquired the Caneel Bay Resort property in 2004.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing the bill would have no effect on discretionary spending. Enacting the bill would increase both offsetting receipts (from lease payments) and direct spending of those receipts beginning in fiscal year 2009, but CBO estimates that any net effect on the federal budget would be negligible.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.