



## H.R. 4828 – Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4828 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 Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) on December 18, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 4828 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 4828 redesignates the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, located in Texas, as the 'Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.'

Additionally, the bill designates thirty-four acres of the Resaca de la Palma State Park as an additional unit of the Palo Alto National Historical Park.

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### BACKGROUND

The Palo Alto battlefield is the site of the May 8, 1846 battle of Palo Alto, which was an important battle of the U.S.-Mexico War. Palo Alto is a low-lying, coastal prairie about ten miles north of the Rio Grande River. Here, General Zachary Taylor and his army of 2,300 U.S. soldiers met General Mariano Arista's 3,200 men, ensuing in a four-hour heavy-artillery battle. The U.S. emerged victorious in the battle, with Mexican casualties at 102 killed, 129 wounded, and 26 missing. U.S. casualties were 9 killed, 44 wounded, and 2 missing. Victory in this battle allowed the U.S. to advance their military campaign significantly, and drive Mexican forces further south.

Today, the Park offers a one-mile round trip trail walk which gives an educational overlook of the battlefield. Admission to the battlefield and connected visitor center is free of charge.

[Palo Alto Battlefield – National Park Service website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 4828 'would cost \$1.2 million over the 2009-2013 period. Of that amount, CBO estimates that about \$400,000 would be used to construct trails, a parking lot, and other visitor facilities on the 34-acre parcel to be added to the park, which CBO expects would remain in nonfederal ownership. The remaining amounts (\$200,000 annually beginning in 2010) would be used to operate the site under a cooperative agreement with the Brownsville Community Foundation, which owns the property. Enacting H.R. 4828 would not affect revenues or direct spending.' [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4828](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.