WHEREAS, Chapter I, Title XCVII establishes the Guam Territorial Park System under the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service in the Proposed Guam National Seashore recommends protection of southwest Guam; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Comprehensive Development Plan recommends the establishment of the Guam Territorial Seashore Park; and

WHEREAS, southwest Guam is a distinct and valuable natural resource belonging to all the people of Guam and existing as a delicately balanced ecosystem and that the permanent protection of the natural, scenic, and historical resources of the seashore park is of paramount concern to the present and future residents of the island and that in order to promote the public safety, health, and welfare and to protect public and private property, wildlife, marine life, and other oceanic resources, and the natural environment, it is necessary to preserve the ecological balance of southwest Guam and prevent its deterioration and destruction;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICARDO J. BORDALLO, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby establish the Guam Territorial Seashore Park as delineated on the attached map, "Guam Territorial Seashore Park, December 5, 1978", to be comprised only of the 8,885 land and 6,276 water acres, more or less, of Government of Guam real estate, to be jointly managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Land Management, and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency according to a Seashore Park Master Plan to be jointly developed within thirty days.

Signed and promulgated at Agana, Guam this 12th day of December, 1978.

COUNTERSIGNED:

RUDOLPH G. SABLAN
Lieutenant Governor

RICARDO J. BORDALLO
Governor of Guam
Because of several reasons, the southwest portion of Guam is being considered for park status as the Guam Territorial Seashore Park. First, this area has been identified as being second in priority nationwide for protection of the natural and historic features in the area. Second, Guam presently does not have any large parks comparable to state or national parks. Third, the seashore park will be an economic asset to the island and it could be the most viable economic incentive for southwest Guam.

The proposed seashore park will be based on three outstanding areas of southwest Guam: Cocos Lagoon, Fagpi to Pouha coastline, and the southern mountains. The plan calls for excluding private land, the existing villages, areas for their expansion, and agriculture areas. Private land within the seashore park boundaries will remain within private ownership. The park concept will work with private owners to encourage compatible land uses.

Thus, the seashore park will be a multiple use concept on mostly federally or Government of Guam land. Cooperative management with other Government of Guam, private, Interior and Defense agencies will be stressed. Certain identified areas will be preserved while in other areas recreation facilities including beaches, trails, picnic areas, camping areas, group camp areas, water oriented recreation, natural interpretation, and historic site protection and interpretation will be developed. A headquarters, visitors centers, and maintenance facility will be constructed in the park. The plan will also encourage park related commercial enterprises including a resort and recreation service.

Several objectives are warranted in the southwestern portion of Guam. These are to:

1. Insure that an opportunity exists to allow expansion of the present communities.
2. Provide economic benefits for this region of Guam.
3. Insure that certain renewable resources are available for the long-term use of the island's residents.
4. Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.
5. Conservation of significant historical features.
6. Conservation of significant geomorphic, ecological, and scenic landscape features along with open space.

The area is largely government owned and as such is amenable to a use classification of conservation and recreation use without causing a severe impact upon private interests.