

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3325

To establish the Azores Cooperative Initiative Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Azores Cooperative Initiative Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Azores Cooperative Ini-
5 tiative Program Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1995, the United States and Portugal
9 negotiated an agreement to institute the Azores Co-
10 operative Initiative Program (ACIP). ACIP replaced
11 an earlier United States lease payment agreement

1 for the use of Lajes Air Force Base on the Island
2 of Terceira in the Azores.

3 (2) Seven hundred United States Air Force per-
4 sonnel and their families are stationed at Lajes Air
5 Force Base.

6 (3) In exchange for United States access to
7 Lajes Air Force Base, the United States agreed to
8 undertake “cooperation programs with the Azores”,
9 including in the areas of agriculture, education,
10 tourism, and health.

11 (4) However, the Department of Defense ceased
12 funding ACIP because its activities have not been
13 explicitly authorized by law.

14 (5) The Government of Portugal and the Azor-
15 ean people have allowed the United States Air Force
16 presence on the Island, which is an important stra-
17 tegic location for United States security interests.

18 (6) There are many vibrant Azorean commu-
19 nities in the United States, including in California,
20 Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Is-
21 land, and as a result the relationship between the
22 United States and the Azores remains strong and
23 important, for strategic, diplomatic, and cultural
24 reasons.

1 (7) ACIP is a non-defense initiative, and is
2 critically important to the United States relationship
3 with Portugal and the Azores.

4 (8) The 65th Air Base Wing is a United States
5 military unit stationed at Lajes Air Force Base,
6 Azores, Portugal, and is currently the only United
7 States military organization in the Azores.

8 (9) Lajes Air Force Base supported transiting
9 aircraft during the course of Operations Joint
10 Guard, Deny Flight, Provide Comfort, and Southern
11 Watch.

12 (10) Beginning in 1997, large fighter aircraft
13 movements called Air Expeditionary Forces filled the
14 Lajes Air Force Base flightline. Lajes has also
15 hosted B-52 and B-1 bomber aircraft en route from
16 global air missions.

17 (11) Lajes Air Force Base has supported many
18 routine North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
19 exercises, such as the biennial Northern Viking exer-
20 cise.

21 (12) For Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraq
22 Freedom, New Dawn, and Odyssey Dawn, airmen
23 have been deployed in support of these operations
24 and Lajes Air Force Base hosted aircraft transiting
25 the Azores in support of these missions.

1 (13) Lajes Air Force Base is an important stra-
2 tegic location for the United States Armed Forces
3 and NATO, and ACIP helps to support United
4 States strategic interests in the region.

5 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AZORES COOPERATIVE**
6 **INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State is author-
8 ized to establish a program, to be known as the “Azores
9 Cooperative Initiative Program”, to provide bilateral co-
10 operation, expertise, and resources to design and imple-
11 ment solutions to the provisions of the 1995 United
12 States-Portugal Agreement on Cooperation and Defense,
13 in areas of science, technology, education, environment
14 and agriculture in order to further Luso-American rela-
15 tions.

16 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—The program shall in-
17 clude the following activities:

18 (1) Integrated pest management program for
19 horticultural crops in the Azores, Portugal.

20 (2) Establishment of aquacultural research in
21 the Azores.

22 (3) Sustainable fisheries in the Azores.

23 (4) Improvements to the Azores health care sys-
24 tem, including epidemiology and control of Lepto-
25 spirosis in the Azores.

- 1 (5) Geological risk monitoring.
- 2 (6) Tourism promotion.
- 3 (7) Assistance in economic policy analysis.
- 4 (8) Technical cooperation for rural develop-
- 5 ment.
- 6 (9) Export promotion of Azorean products.
- 7 (10) Training exchanges with regard to the ac-
- 8 tivities described in paragraphs (1) through (9).

