

Isla Verde reef and marine reserve proposed

THE DAILY SUN STAFF

By next summer, the Legislature should have passed the proposed "Isla Verde Reef and Marine Reserve" to protect this Carolina area, according to New Progressive Party Rep. Eric Correa, chairman of the Natural Resources, Environment and Energy Committee, and Rep. Elizabeth Casado.

The two made their remarks following an on-site hearing at La Playita in Isla Verde with members of the non-profit group Reefs for Cities, headed by Francisco López.

"We have six years requesting a law that would enable the creation of a marine reserve. We want buoys to be placed in the area to protect researchers, visitors and marine life in the reef as well as raise an inventory of the species and protect species at the verge of extinction," López said.

The reef could become an area of conservation, an educational center for researches, a place to raise species, plant corals and bushes in the cay and a tourism attraction.

Meanwhile, Correa said that the bill has the support of the committee and the Tourism Company.

"The only thing missing is a public hearing with pertinent government agencies, fishermen associations and businesses that rent jet skis in the area," Correa said.

He also said he wants to seek the input of individuals who practice parasailing. The bill is slated to be passed by the House and then it will go to the Senate.

"Because it is a big area that also touches the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, I want to make sure everyone has the knowledge that we are working on House Bill 3721. It is a beautiful bill for the community," he said.



Isla Verde coastline

Courtesy