To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on lands that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai‘i, and for other purposes.
A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on lands that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai‘i, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HAWAI’I NATIONAL FOREST STUDY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to identify
lands within the study area that would—

(1) support the conservation of biodiversity not
found elsewhere in the National Forest System;

(2) support or expand the research mission of
the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry;

(3) promote shared stewardship with local com-
munities, including indigenous populations, the State
of Hawai’i, and non-profit groups; and

(4) support or expand the international pro-
grams of the Forest Service related to conservation
of forest ecosystems, sustainable forestry, protection
of threatened, endangered, and migratory species,
controlling the spread of invasive species, inter-
national reforestation, and other forest restoration
efforts.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
shall conduct a study to identify available land with-
in the study area that could be included in a Na-
tional Forest in Hawai’i.
(2) Coordination Requirement.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under paragraph (1) in coordination the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

(3) Consultation Requirement.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) shall consult with—

(i) the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

(ii) the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture; and

(B) may consult with such other governmental or nonprofit entities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(4) Report.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives that identifies—

(A) available land within the study area that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai‘i;
(B) the ownership of the land within the study area;

(C) any undeveloped land in the study area that may be at risk of development; and

(D) any actions that could be carried out to preserve the open and undeveloped character of the land within the study area.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land not owned by the United States.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AVAILABLE LAND.—The term “available land” means any land within the study areas that is—

(A) Federally owned;

(B) managed by a Federal land management agency in partnership with a non-Federal entity; or

(C) land not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) that fulfills the purpose of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.
(3) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” means the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i in the State of Hawai‘i.

(4) **UNDEVELOPED LAND.**—The term “undeveloped land” means land—

(A) that is located within the study area;

(B) that is free or primarily free of structures; and

(C) the development of which is likely to affect adversely the scenic, research, wildlife, or recreational value of the study area.
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NOVEMBER 19, 2020