

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 297

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the establishment of, and the potential land that could be included in, a unit of the National Forest System in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2021

Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. KAHELE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the establishment of, and the potential land that could be included in, a unit of the National Forest System in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes.

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. HAWAII NATIONAL FOREST STUDY.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
7 Chief of the Forest Service.

1 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
2 means the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai,
3 Oahu, and Kauai in the State of Hawaii.

4 (b) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
6 a study—

7 (A) to determine the suitability and feasi-
8 bility of establishing a unit of the National For-
9 est System in the study area; and

10 (B) to identify available land within the
11 study area that could be included in the unit
12 described in subparagraph (A).

13 (2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In
14 conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Sec-
15 retary shall—

16 (A) coordinate with the Hawaii Depart-
17 ment of Land and Natural Resources; and

18 (B) consult with the Hawaii Department
19 of Agriculture and other interested govern-
20 mental entities, private and nonprofit organiza-
21 tions, and any interested individuals.

22 (3) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

24 (A) consider unique vegetation types that
25 occur in the study area and that should be tar-

1 geted for inclusion in the unit of the National
2 Forest System described in paragraph (1)(A);
3 (B) evaluate the ability of the Secretary—
4 (i) to improve and protect forest areas
5 within the study area; and
6 (ii) to secure favorable water flows
7 within the study area;
8 (C) determine whether the unit of the Na-
9 tional Forest System described in paragraph
10 (1)(A) would expand, enhance, or duplicate—
11 (i) resource protection; and
12 (ii) visitor-use opportunities;
13 (D) consider parcels of an appropriate size
14 or location to be capable of economical adminis-
15 tration as part of the National Forest System
16 separately or jointly with the other land identi-
17 fied under paragraph (1)(B);
18 (E) evaluate the willingness of landowners
19 to sell or transfer land in the study area to the
20 Secretary;
21 (F) evaluate the suitability of land in the
22 study area for potential selection and designa-
23 tion as a research natural area or an experi-
24 mental forest;

1 (G) identify cost estimates for any Federal
2 acquisition, development, operation, and main-
3 tenance that would be needed to establish the
4 unit of the National Forest System described in
5 paragraph (1)(A); and

6 (H) consider other alternatives for the con-
7 servation, protection, and use of areas within
8 the study area by the Federal Government,
9 State or local government entities, or private
10 and nonprofit organizations.

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

15 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
16 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
17 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
18 Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
19 House of Representatives a report that describes—

20 (1) the results of the study; and

21 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
22 Secretary.

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