

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.

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## 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

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## 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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