

Union Calendar No. 493

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7045

[Report No. 116-600]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2020

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall conduct a study to identify available land with-
24 in the study area that could be included in a Na-
25 tional Forest in Hawai'i.

1 (2) COORDINATION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
2 retary shall conduct the study under paragraph (1)
3 in coordination the Hawai'i Department of Land
4 and Natural Resources.

5 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In car-
6 rying out the study under paragraph (1), the Sec-
7 retary—

8 (A) shall consult with—

9 (i) the Hawai'i Department of Land
10 and Natural Resources; and

11 (ii) the Hawai'i Department of Agri-
12 culture; and

13 (B) may consult with such other govern-
14 mental or nonprofit entities as the Secretary
15 determines appropriate.

16 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
18 submit a report to the Committee on Energy and
19 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
20 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
21 tives that identifies—

22 (A) available land within the study area
23 that could be included in a National Forest in
24 Hawai'i;

1 (B) the ownership of the land within the
2 study area;

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

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

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

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

15 (A) Federally owned;

16 (B) managed by a Federal land manage-
17 ment agency in partnership with a non-Federal
18 entity; or

19 (C) land not described in subparagraph
20 (A) or (B) that fulfills the purpose of this sec-
21 tion, as determined by the Secretary.

22 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
24 Chief of the Forest Service.

1 (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
2 means the islands of Hawai’i, Maui, Moloka’i,
3 Lāna’i, O’ahu and Kaua’i in the State of Hawai’i.

4 (4) UNDEVELOPED LAND.—The term “undevel-
5 oped land” means land—

6 (A) that is located within the study area;

7 (B) that is free or primarily free of struc-
8 tures; and

9 (C) the development of which is likely to
10 affect adversely the scenic, research, wildlife, or
11 recreational value of the study area.

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