

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7045

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

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;

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

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

11 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

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

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

21 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In car-
22 rying out the study under paragraph (1), the Sec-
23 retary—

24 (A) shall consult with—

1 (i) the Hawai'i Department of Land
2 and Natural Resources; and

3 (ii) the Hawai'i Department of Agri-
4 culture; and

5 (B) may consult with such other govern-
6 mental or nonprofit entities as the Secretary
7 determines appropriate.

8 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
10 submit a report to the Committee on Energy and
11 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
12 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-
13 tives that identifies—

14 (A) available land within the study area
15 that could be included in a National Forest in
16 Hawai'i;

17 (B) the ownership of the land within the
18 study area;

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

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

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

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

8 (A) Federally owned;

9 (B) managed by a Federal land manage-
10 ment agency in partnership with a non-Federal
11 entity; or

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

15 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
17 Chief of the Forest Service.

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

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

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

24 (B) that is free or primarily free of struc-
25 tures; and

- 1 (C) the development of which is likely to
- 2 affect adversely the scenic, research, wildlife, or
- 3 recreational value of the study area.

