



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 22, 2004

H.R. 4282

Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 15, 2004

H.R. 4282 would establish a process for a Native Hawaiian government to be constituted and recognized by the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4282 would cost nearly \$1 million annually in fiscal years 2005-2007 and less than \$500,000 in each subsequent year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4282 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government to represent Native Hawaiians. The transfer of any land or other assets to this new government, including land now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Relations within the Department of the Interior (DOI) to consult and coordinate the relationship with the Native Hawaiian governing entity. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects this office would require up to three full-time personnel. H.R. 4282 also would establish the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group, consisting of officials from interested agencies. Finally, the bill would create a nine-member commission responsible for creating and certifying a roll of adult Native Hawaiians. Based upon information from DOI, CBO expects that this commission would need three years and three full-time staff to complete its work.

On May 30, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 344, the Native Hawaiian Recognition Act of 2003, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, on May 14, 2003. On May 3, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 344 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on April 21, 2004. Both versions of S. 344 are similar to H.R. 4282; however, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4282 would have a higher cost because it would authorize the commission that would be tasked to create and certify a roll of Native Hawaiians to hire full-time staff and to procure temporary services.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mike Waters (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.