



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

March 25, 2005

S. 147

Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 9, 2005

S. 147 would establish a process for establishing and recognizing a Native Hawaiian governing entity. CBO estimates that implementing S. 147 would cost nearly \$1 million annually in fiscal years 2006-2008 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.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Relations within the Department of the Interior (DOI), which would be responsible for developing and overseeing the federal relationship with the Native Hawaiian governing entity. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that this office would require up to three full-time personnel. S. 147 also would establish the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group, consisting of officials from affected 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 members to complete its work.

S. 147 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 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 Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.