



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 15, 2011

### **S. 675**

### **Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on April 7, 2011*

S. 675 would establish a process for a Native Hawaiian government to be constituted and recognized by the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost about \$1 million annually over the 2011-2013 period 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; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

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 a Native Hawaiian governing entity. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that the office would require up to three full-time personnel. S. 675 also would establish the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group, consisting of officials from DOI and certain other federal agencies. Finally, the bill would create a nine-member commission responsible for creating and certifying a roll of adult Native Hawaiians. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that this commission would need three years and three full-time staff to complete its work.

CBO has determined that section 10(c) of S. 675 is excluded from review for mandates under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it enforces constitutional rights of individuals. Other provisions of the bill contain no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government unit to represent Native Hawaiians. The transfer of any land or other assets, including land now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.