



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 23, 2001

H.R. 617

A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 16, 2001

H.R. 617 would establish a process for a Native Hawaiian government to be constituted and recognized by the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 617 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 617 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. Enactment of this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government to represent native Hawaiians. The transfer of any lands or other assets to this new government, including lands now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations. Similarly, federal payments to native Hawaiians following recognition of a Native Hawaiian government would depend on future legislation.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Affairs within the Department of the Interior (DOI) to coordinate services to native Hawaiians. In addition, H.R. 617 would establish the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group to coordinate federal programs and policies that affect native Hawaiians. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that the agency would require up to five additional employees to implement the bill. Therefore, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 617 would cost less than \$500,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette J. Walker (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.