



*Secretary Brooks L. Rollins*

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 21, 2026

THE HONORABLE MARTIN HEINRICH  
*Ranking Member*  
*Committee on Energy & Natural Resources*  
*United States Senate*  
*307 Dirksen Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Ranking Member Heinrich,

This letter fulfills the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service requirements under the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023* (P.L. 117-328), Division DD Title II, Section 202 to report on the findings regarding the study of feasibility and suitability of establishing a unit of the National Forest System in Hawai'i.

Section 202 defined the study area as the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, and required the Forest Service to identify available land that could be included; coordinate with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; consult with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and other governmental, nonprofit, and private stakeholders; and evaluate ecological, administrative, and economic factors. The statute further provides that nothing in Section 202 authorizes the Secretary to take any action that would affect the use of any land owned by or not owned by the United States.

The Forest Service, in coordination with the Trust for Public Lands, conducted the requested study and, given feedback from focus groups, the complexity of land management designations in Hawaii, and the need to right-size the current Federal estate and reduce Federal costs for land management and asset maintenance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not recommend establishing a unit of the National Forest System in the study area. The Trump Administration recognizes that those closest to lands and the people who use them – State and local governments that understand and respect the needs and desires of their communities – are in the best position to manage lands to meet those needs.

After 45 days from the date of this letter, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance>, per Public Law 118-42.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or [ocr@usda.gov](mailto:ocr@usda.gov). We provided a similar letter and a copy of the enclosed report to Chairman Mike Lee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke L. Rollins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke L. Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture