

This bill very simply places those 40 acres into restricted fee status, which is in essence putting it into trust.

My bill ensures that those two Tribes working together can protect this land as sacred without any commercial development, and they can retain their sovereignty to manage that land appropriately.

It was last Congress that I told you all about my trip to the massacre site in June of 2023. It was there I spoke at length to an older gentleman whose grandmother had survived the massacre that day. He, with his own ears, had heard the oral history of the terrible tragedy that occurred that day.

I then went and visited St. John's Church where the Lakota had taken their wounded to treat their injuries. Their blood, the blood of the survivors, stained the floorboards in the church that day. The wounds of that dark day remain present to this day, and this land is sacred. I do think this action, this cooperation between the two Tribes and our Federal Government, will make sure that we do right as much as we can in the wake of that tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Wounded Knee descendants. I thank Oglala Sioux Tribal Chairman Frank Star Comes Out and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Ryman LeBeau for their teamwork in advancing this legislation.

Last Congress, this bill passed unanimously out of this body, and I would just ask my colleagues to again vote for H.R. 165, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, so that we can provide the Oglala and the Cheyenne River Tribes the authority they need to protect this land.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota for this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will further allow the Lakota people to memorialize and honor their relatives and ancestors killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre.

It gives the title of the land to both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, while ensuring that the land has the protections provided by restrictions against alienation and taxation.

I again commend my friend from South Dakota for bringing us this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 165.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CONTINUED RAPID OHIA DEATH RESPONSE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 375) to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 375

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **RAPID OHIA DEATH.**—The term "Rapid Ohia Death" means the disease caused by the fungal pathogen known as *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that affects the tree of the species *Metrosideros polymorpha*.

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Hawaii.

#### SEC. 3. COLLABORATION.

The Secretary of the Interior shall partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State to address Rapid Ohia Death.

#### SEC. 4. SUSTAINED EFFORTS.

(a) **TRANSMISSION.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting through the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, shall continue to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death vectors and transmission.

(b) **UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall continue to partner with the Secretary of Agriculture, the State, and with local stakeholders to manage ungulates in Rapid Ohia Death control areas on Federal, State, and private land, with the consent of private landowners.

(c) **RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall continue to provide—

(1) financial assistance, including through agreements with the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia Death; and

(B) to restore the native forests of the State; and

(2) staff and necessary infrastructure funding to the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 375, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Representative TOKUDA's legislation, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025, is important legislation that directs the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address rapid ohia death.

Rapid ohia death is a fungal disease that has ravaged Hawaii's ohia tree population. The ohia tree is important ecologically and culturally to Hawaii. Ohias play an important role in regulating water flow in addition to preventing soil erosion.

If the loss of ohia trees continues, there could be significant economic impacts, including lost tourism revenue and increased water treatment and erosion control costs. Unfortunately, there is currently no cure that can help the afflicted trees.

H.R. 375 helps address rapid ohia death by focusing Federal and State agencies' efforts on detection, prevention, and restoration to combat this disease.

I thank Representative TOKUDA for her work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 15, 2025.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 375, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 375 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,  
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 15, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 375, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 375 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman.

□ 1515

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act, introduced by my colleague from Hawaii, Representative JILL TOKUDA. We worked on this bill last Congress. Unfortunately, it didn't make it all the way across the finish line, but I thank Chair WESTERMAN and my colleagues across the aisle for agreeing to schedule a vote early in this new Congress to keep the momentum going.

This legislation is vital. It addresses an urgent need to combat rapid ohia death, which has already led to the loss of over 1 million native ohia trees in Hawaii just since 2014 when this harmful fungus was discovered.

The significance of these trees can't be overstated. They are Hawaii's most abundant native tree. They play a critical role in preserving the State's unique biodiversity and protecting its native ecosystems. It is essential that we take immediate action to prevent further devastation and ensure the survival of this iconic species.

This bill emphasizes the need for research and aid to enhance our understanding of this deadly fungus and explore innovative solutions to combat its impact. It also fosters collaboration between Federal agencies, the State of Hawaii, and local stakeholders.

This comprehensive approach will help mitigate the threat of this disease and protect Hawaii's native forests and ecosystems, safeguarding these treasured and ecologically vital trees for future generations and preserving the unique ecosystems and rich biodiversity that make our Nation so exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TOKUDA for her leadership and tenacity on this critical issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 375, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025.

The ohia lehua tree forms the backbone of Hawaii's forest and watersheds making up 80 percent of our native forests. It is the very first tree that you will see spring up from a recent lava flow. It grows from sea level to 8,000 feet above, and it protects our communities by literally holding up our mountains from eroding, keeping them together.

Ohia lehua also provides critical habitat for Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds and many culturally important species.

These trees are a keystone species in Hawaii's forest, and it is catastrophic to see its decline. It has the potential to trigger major imbalances in our ecosystem that would impact watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources, and the safety and quality of life of our people.

Because of the vital role they play in maintaining Hawaii's forest canopies and watersheds, rapid ohia death, or ROD, poses an existential threat to the ecological balance of our islands and the everyday life of our people.

Initially reported in 2010, ROD has already spread to tens of thousands of acres and killed over a million trees on Hawaii island alone. If you visited the Big Island of Hawaii where our volcano erupts from time to time, literally, we have lost a million trees just on that island. Large swaths of dead ohia trees leave environments more prone to habitat-modifying noxious weeds and trees like miconia and strawberry guava, all of which are known to harm watershed health and alter ecosystem functions.

Efforts to contain ROD have also failed to prevent its spread to the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and Maui. With no known cure for ROD, it has the potential to kill off ohia trees statewide and devastate our island ecosystems.

In addition to its impacts on delicate native ecosystems, ROD has the potential to create deadly consequences for our local residents and visitors alike. The death of tens of thousands of acres of native forests, turning them into brittle tinder, creates acres of deadly fire fuel for wildfires that pose a growing threat to our communities. One of the things that people love about Hawaii is the greenery and the vegetation in and around our communities. Tragically, we know all too well the risks that come when our greenery and vegetation are no longer green and the consequences that can happen as a result of fire.

Despite the dire implications of ROD on Hawaii's natural resources and com-

munities, Federal support for combating ROD has been extremely limited. For example, the Lyon Arboretum, a local research facility on Oahu, relied on funding through a GoFundMe campaign to further the vital seed banking for ohia lehua.

My bill, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act, seeks to address ROD and the urgent threat that it presents. The bill requires the Department of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address ROD. It also supports ongoing detection, prevention, and restoration efforts to combat rapid ohia death. By empowering the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fully assist the State of Hawaii in its ROD efforts, we can begin to not only more effectively prevent the spread of ROD but move to restoring native forests throughout our State.

Mr. Speaker, I very much thank and send our sincerest "mahalos," "thanks" to Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member HUFFMAN, and their staff, especially the Federal lands team, for the support, assistance, and continued prioritization of this very important bill.

We cannot afford to wait. We cannot afford to stand alone and continue to lose our native forests in Hawaii. They protect and sustain our people and provide critical habitat for native species. This bill can also help to turn the tide in the fight against Rapid Ohia Death and, in doing so, protect and preserve ohia lehua and Hawaii's unique ecosystems for our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again all who have supported our bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes."

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, before a lot was understood about the science of forestry, Teddy Roosevelt, maybe our original conservationist in America, understood that trees were the lungs of the Earth. They breathe in carbon dioxide; they breathe out oxygen, but he also understood that trees are kind of like the kidneys of the Earth. They are extremely important to protect watersheds. They are extremely important to maintain our ecosystems. It is what we are looking at today with the ohia tree and the importance that it has to Hawaii's ecosystem, to the people there, and to the economy.

When we talk about an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, figuring out what is happening to these trees and stopping that will save tens of millions if not billions of dollars in the future if damage is done to the watershed there in Hawaii.

It is another example of how having a healthy resilient forest benefits everyone. We are not necessarily talking

about wildfire. We are not talking about a tree that has timber value, but it has tremendous value in the ecosystem and the economy there in Hawaii.

This legislation, again, will help focus Federal and State resources on conserving one of Hawaii's most important species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 375.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 186; and

H.R. 187.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

## HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 186) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of

Honor recipients, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 18]

YEAS—414

Adams	Crow	Harris (NC)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Harshbarger
Aguiar	Davidson	Hayes
Alford	Davis (IL)	Hern (OK)
Amo	Davis (NC)	Higgins (LA)
Amodei (NV)	De La Cruz	Hill (AR)
Ansari	Dean (PA)	Himes
Arrington	DeGette	Hinson
Auchincloss	DeLauro	Horsford
Babin	DeBene	Houchin
Bacon	Deluzio	Houlahan
Baird	DesSaunier	Hoyer
Balderson	DesJarlais	Hoyle (OR)
Balint	Dexter	Hudson
Barr	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Barragán	Doggett	Huizenga
Barrett	Donalds	Hunt
Baumgartner	Downing	Hurd (CO)
Bean (FL)	Dunn (FL)	Issa
Beatty	Edwards	Ivey
Begich	Elfreth	Jack
Bell	Ellzey	Jackson (IL)
Bentz	Emmer	Jackson (TX)
Bera	Escobar	Jacobs
Bergman	Españillat	James
Beyer	Estes	Jeffries
Bice	Evans (CO)	Johnson (GA)
Biggs (AZ)	Evans (PA)	Johnson (SD)
Biggs (SC)	Ezell	Johnson (TX)
Bilirakis	Fallon	Jordan
Bishop	Fedorchak	Joyce (OH)
Boebert	Feenstra	Joyce (PA)
Bonamici	Fields	Kamlager-Dove
Bost	Figures	Kaptur
Boyle (PA)	Finstad	Kean
Brecheen	Fischbach	Keating
Bresnahan	Fitzgerald	Kelly (IL)
Brown	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Brownley	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)
Buchanan	Fletcher	Kennedy (NY)
Budzinski	Flood	Kennedy (UT)
Burchett	Fong	Khanna
Burlison	Foster	Kiggans (VA)
Bynum	Foushee	Kiley (CA)
Calvert	Fox	Kim
Cammack	Frankel, Lois	Knott
Carbajal	Franklin, Scott	Krishnamoorthi
Carey	Friedman	Kustoff
Carson	Frost	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Fry	LaLota
Carter (LA)	Fulcher	LaMalfa
Casar	Garbarino	Landsman
Case	Garcia (CA)	Langworthy
Casten	Garcia (IL)	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Garcia (TX)	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Gill (TX)	Latimer
Cherfilus-	Gillen	Latta
McCormick	Golden (ME)	Lawler
Chu	Goldman (NY)	Lee (FL)
Ciscomani	Goldman (TX)	Lee (NV)
Cisneros	Gomez	Lee (PA)
Clark (MA)	Gonzales, Tony	Leger Fernandez
Clarke (NY)	Gonzalez, V.	Letlow
Cleaver	Gooden	Levin
Cline	Goodlander	Liccardo
Cloud	Gosar	Lieu
Clyburn	Graves	Lofgren
Clyde	Gray	Loudermilk
Cohen	Green (TN)	Lucas
Cole	Green, Al (TX)	Luna
Collins	Greene (GA)	Luttrell
Comer	Griffith	Lynch
Conaway	Grothman	Mace
Connolly	Guest	Mackenzie
Costa	Guthrie	Magaziner
Courtney	Hageman	Malliotakis
Craig	Hamadeh (AZ)	Maloy
Crane	Harder (CA)	Mann
Crank	Haridopolos	Mannion
Crawford	Harrigan	Massie
Crenshaw	Harris (MD)	Mast
Crockett		Matsui

McBath	Perez	Steil
McBride	Perry	Steube
McCaul	Peters	Stevens
McClain	Pfluger	Strickland
McClain Delaney	Pingree	Strong
McClellan	Pocan	Stutzman
McClintock	Pou	Subramanyam
McCollum	Pressley	Suozi
McCormick	Quigley	Swalwell
McDonald Rivet	Ramirez	Sykes
McDowell	Randall	Takano
McGarvey	Raskin	Taylor
McGovern	Reschenthaler	Tenney
McGuire	Rivas	Thanedar
McIver	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
Menendez	Rose	Thompson (PA)
Messmer	Ross	
Meuser	Rouzer	
Mfume	Roy	
Miller (IL)	Ruiz	
Miller (OH)	Rulli	
Miller (WV)	Rutherford	
Miller-Meeks	Ryan	
Mills	Salazar	
Min	Salinas	
Moolenaar	Sánchez	
Moore (AL)	Scalise	
Moore (NC)	Scanlon	
Moore (UT)	Schakowsky	
Moore (WI)	Schmidt	
Moore (WV)	Schneider	
Moran	Scholten	
Morelle	Schrier	
Morrison	Schweikert	
Moskowitz	Scott (VA)	
Moulton	Scott, Austin	
Mullin	Scott, David	
Murphy	Self	
Nadler	Sessions	
Neal	Sewell	
Neguse	Sherman	
Nehls	Shreve	
Norcross	Simon	
Norman	Simpson	
Nunn (IA)	Smith (MO)	
Obernolte	Smith (NE)	
Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (NJ)	
Ogles	Smith (WA)	
Olzewski	Smucker	
Omar	Sorensen	
Onder	Soto	
Owens	Spartz	
Pallone	Stansbury	
Palmer	Stanton	
Panetta	Stauber	
Pappas	Stefanik	
Allen	Gottheimer	Pelosi
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	Petersen
Correa	Jayapal	Riley (NY)
Dingell	Meng	Sherrill
Garamendi	Mrvan	Williams (TX)
Gimenez	Newhouse	Wilson (FL)

## NOT VOTING—18

□ 1858

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC WATERS ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 187) to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by