



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 26, 2008

H.R. 1143

**A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in
Virgin Islands National Park**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on February 13, 2008*

H.R. 1143 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to execute a lease with the owners of the Caneel Bay Resort on St. John in the Virgin Islands. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no effect on discretionary spending. Enacting the bill would increase both offsetting receipts (from lease payments) and direct spending of those receipts beginning in fiscal year 2009, but CBO estimates that any net effect on the federal budget would be negligible.

H.R. 1143 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Under the lease authorized by H.R. 1143, the owners of Caneel Bay would continue to operate the resort, which is located within the boundary of the Virgin Islands National Park, for up to 40 years. The resort is currently operated under a retained use estate (RUE) that will expire at the end of fiscal year 2023. The RUE was granted by the original owners of the resort when they donated the land under that facility to the NPS in 1983. The original RUE agreement did not provide for any lease payments to the federal government; the lease authorized by H.R. 1143 would. In addition, the bill would authorize the NPS to spend, without further appropriation, 80 percent of any new lease receipts.

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