

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 661

Honolulu, Hawaii
Feb 16, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1457
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services & Housing and Public Safety
& Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1457 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AT-RISK PERSONS ON HAWAII
ISLAND,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a conservation
corps program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources
to help at-risk persons on the island of Hawaii develop life
skills and job skills and to gain work experience.

Specifically, this program will be designed to serve at-risk
youth and adults by providing guidance, life skills, counseling,
vocational training, educational activities, and case management.
The bill provides for an executive director to oversee the
program, and the program will be permitted to seek and accept
grants from outside sources. Additionally, the Department of Land
and Natural Resources will be required to submit annual reports to
the Legislature on the progress and results of the program.

Kealakehe Ahupua'a 2020 and The Corps Network submitted
testimony in support of this measure. The Department of Land and
Natural Resources submitted testimony in opposition to this
measure, and the Department of Public Safety submitted comments.

Your Committees find that an outreach and assistance program
is an effective tool for serving at-risk members of the community.

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However your Committees believe such a tool is best used to serve at-risk youth in Hawaii and that an appropriate method of doing so would be to expand the existing youth conservation corps program to a year-round program for at-risk youth. This would provide ongoing outreach, assistance, counseling, and vocational skills to youth at risk of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and other threats.

Accordingly, your Committees have amended this bill by:

- (1) Amending section 193-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to expand the youth conservation corps to a year-round program for at-risk youth and defining "at-risk youth;"
- (2) Amending section 195-4(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to empower the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer the youth conservation corps;
- (3) Adding a new section to chapter 193 that allows the Department of Land and Natural Resources to seek grants and additional funding for the youth conservation corps from private and public sources; and
- (4) Requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a five-year pilot program of the youth conservation corps on the island of Hawaii.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services & Housing and Public Safety & Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1457, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1457, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services &
Housing and Public Safety &
Military Affairs,


CINDY EVANS, Chair


MAILE SHIMABUKURO, Chair



