

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 12, 2010

RE: H.B. No. 1942
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 1942, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS COURT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to help honorably discharged veterans who have committed crimes, as well as address prison overcrowding, by establishing a temporary Veterans Court at the State Circuit Court level.

The Oahu Veterans Council, Mental Health America of Hawaii, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, and a concerned individual testified in support of this bill. The Office of Veterans Services and City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney supported the intent of this measure but asked to amend the language of this measure. The Judiciary supported the intent of this bill but not the implementation of it.

Your Committee finds that the aberrant behavior displayed by these veterans may have been caused by stresses experienced through their service to our country. These veterans may not need incarceration, but rather treatment.

Your Committee is informed that many convicted, qualifying veterans have been placed in Adult Court, Drug Court, or HOPE



Court, and there may be overlap in or duplication of services without proper screening of qualifying veterans.

Although your Committee recognizes that the Judiciary may be facing further budget cuts and reductions, affecting its ability to provide services through its existing specialty courts, your Committee believes that the establishment of a Veterans Court warrants further discussion.

Your Committee notes that although some testimony mentioned the availability of federal funding, there were no concrete representations that such funding would be available for the operations of the Veterans Court.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1942, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

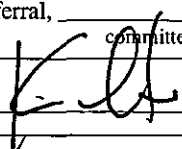

JON RIKI KARAMATSU, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fifth Legislature

HDJR 401-10

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1942, HD1	Committee Referral: EBM, JUD, FIN	Date: 2/11/10		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JUD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KARAMATSU, Jon Riki (C)	✓			
2. ITO, Ken (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au		✓		
4. CABANILLA, Rida	✓			
5. CARROLL, Mele				✓
6. HERKES, Robert N.	✓			
7. LUKE, Sylvia	✓			
8. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
9. MIZUNO, John M.	✓			
10. MORITA, Hermina M.		✓		
11. OSHIRO, Blake K.	✓			
12. SOUKI, Joseph M.	✓			
13. TSUJI, Clift	✓			
14. WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
15. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.	✓			
16. THIELEN, Cynthia	✓			
TOTAL (16)	13	2		1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
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