

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 12, 2014

RE: H.B. No. 1919
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1919, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATIONAL RETREATS, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize state and county planning and permitting agencies to issue various development, occupancy, and use permits for educational retreat facilities that promote education on ecology, sustainable living, and wellness; provided that the proposed retreat facilities:

- (1) Will not have a detrimental impact on the environment;
- (2) Will not violate construction and zoning requirements that protect public health and safety;
- (3) Will comply with applicable rules; and
- (4) Will be beneficial to the surrounding community through demonstration and development of sustainable living principles and practices.



Several individuals submitted testimony in support of this measure. The Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu submitted testimony in opposition. The Office of Planning and Department of Agriculture submitted testimony in opposition.

Your Committee notes the concerns expressed by some testifiers about the impact that this measure may have on the availability of agriculturally zoned land for purposes other than agricultural production. However, your Committee finds that the purpose of the proposed educational retreats, to teach and demonstrate sustainable living and ecology principles, is compatible with the development of appreciation for and skills in agriculture and related practices. Your Committee finds that the State's growing agricultural sector will benefit from increased community education about the practices and principles of sustainability and ecology.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1919, 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 Water & Land,


CINDY EVANS, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-seventh Legislature

HSCR 375-14

Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1919 HD1		Committee Referral: EEP, WAL, FIN		Date: 2-7-14	
<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)					
WAL Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. EVANS, Cindy (C)		/			
2. LOWEN, Nicole E. (VC)		/			
3. CULLEN, Ty J.K.		/			
4. HANOHANO, Faye P.		/			
5. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.		/			
6. LEE, Chris		/			
7. SAY, Calvin K.Y.		/			
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.		/			
9. FALE, Richard Lee		/			
10. THIELEN, Cynthia			/		
			(initials)		
TOTAL (10)		9	1		
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Nicole E. Lowen</i>					
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