

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 3, 2014

RE: H.B. No. 2639
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. 2639 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to effectuate its title.

H.B. No. 2639 was introduced as a short-form bill, which is sometimes referred to as a "vehicle" bill primarily used to introduce a bill containing only a general idea as to the purpose of the bill without specific details in the long form.

Your Committee has amended the bill to provide the substantive contents of the bill in long form so that a public hearing may be properly held on its substantive contents. The purpose of the amended measure is to provide a comprehensive scheme of regulation for geothermal resource exploration and development.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to issue permits for geothermal resource development within a conservation district;



- (2) Authorizes the appropriate county authority to issue permits for geothermal resource development within agricultural, rural, and urban districts if the proposed activities are not expressly permitted uses under the applicable county plan and zoning ordinances;
- (3) Amends the definition of "renewable energy producer" to include geothermal resource developers;
- (4) Requires renewable energy producers to apply to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a mining lease on state lands; and
- (5) Prescribes penalties and remedies for violation of laws and rules relating to state mineral rights and requires penalties, fees, and costs that are collected in connection with regulation of state mineral rights to be deposited into the special land and development fund.

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 action to report out H.B. No. 2639, as amended herein, and recommends that it be recommitted to the Committee on Water & Land, for the purpose of holding a public hearing thereon, in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2639, H.D. 1.

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 85-14

Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2639	Committee Referral: WAL	Date: 1/31/2014		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input checked="" 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	/			
TOTAL (10)	9			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 10pt;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				