



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

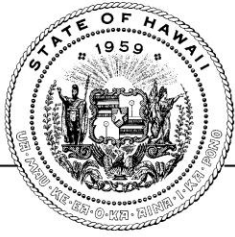
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014
9:30 A.M.
Room 312
HOUSE BILL NO. 1918
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1918 that seeks to establish educational retreats on remote rural farms with overnight accommodations and other facilities. The retreat activities include learning and educational programs related to agricultural practices. The Department of Agriculture supports efforts to increase food production and promote agricultural education; however, we believe the uses proposed in this measure may best be considered via the existing special permit process.(Section 205-6, HRS).

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Monday, January 27, 2014
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 1918
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

House Bill 1918 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §§ 205-2 and 205-4.5(a) to allow educational retreats including overnight accommodations within the State agricultural district.

The Office of Planning strongly supports the promotion of agricultural tourism for the economic diversification and potential support it provides to agricultural activities. We believe, however, that there are existing and well-used processes in place to permit uses such as educational retreats in appropriate areas in the agricultural district such that the bill is not necessary. In particular, the Special Permit process in HRS § 205-6 authorizes county planning commissions to “permit certain unusual and reasonable uses within the agricultural and rural districts other than those for which the district is classified.” Special permits have been granted by county planning commissions for proposed educational retreats and overnight accommodations in accordance with county special use permit rules and the guidelines set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §15-15-95.

Accordingly, we believe the current county regulatory processes and the provisions of HRS Chapter 205 and HAR Chapter 15-15 adequately address the intent of the proposed bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 7:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1918 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1918

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representatives: "Includes at least 3 islands" has already been struck from the bill, has it not? If so, I support the bill. If not, and the "3 island" county requirement is still in the bill, then I do not support the bill. This bill seems like a little bit duplicative of HB772. I think you all need to decide which one you want to go with. Aloha, Brad Parsons

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: AGRtestimony
Cc: elysa.hoaaina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1918 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1918

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elysa ermatinger	Ho'a 'Aina O Makaha	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi2-Micah-Seth

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Cc: 3333sd@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1918 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1918

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue Donaldson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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