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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO EXAMINE WWOOFING IN HAWAII, REVIEW RELEVANT HAWAII LABOR LAWS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROTECT THESE WORKERS.

1           WHEREAS, there exists a loose network of national  
2 organizations that facilitate placement of volunteers on organic  
3 farms, commonly known as "WWOOFing", which can stand for either  
4 World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms or Willing Workers on  
5 Organic Farms; and  
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7           WHEREAS, there are several organizations that advertise on  
8 college campuses across the United States and other outlets to  
9 recruit young students to work on organic farms in exchange for  
10 room and board; and  
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12           WHEREAS, once WWOOFers arrive at their host farms, they can  
13 be exposed to dangerous conditions such as cramped boarding  
14 accommodations that may not meet public health standards,  
15 extended working hours, inadequate or nonexistent bathroom  
16 facilities, drug use, and sexual assault; and  
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18           WHEREAS, WWOOFing has become popular in Hawaii and some  
19 WWOOFers find themselves stuck in the State, often in poverty,  
20 after completing their agreed-upon time on the farm; and  
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22           WHEREAS, presently, there are no rules or regulations in  
23 place for these WWOOFing exchange programs; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the Legislature believes there is a need to  
26 evaluate these placements to determine if regulations, such as  
27 certification, permitting, or registration, would reduce the  
28 risks associated with WWOOFing in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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30           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



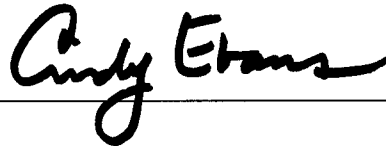
# H.R. NO. 42

1 of 2017, that the Legislature requests the Department of Labor  
2 and Industrial Relations to examine WWOOFing in Hawaii, review  
3 relevant Hawaii labor laws, and make recommendations on how to  
4 protect these workers; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and  
7 Industrial Relations submit a report on the prevalence of  
8 WWOOFing in the State, whether any safeguards should be  
9 established to protect persons participating in WWOOFing in the  
10 State, and include proposed legislation, if any, to the  
11 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
12 the 2018 Regular Session; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of  
16 Labor and Industrial Relations.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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MAR - 3 2017

