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April 4, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

HB 1418 SD1: RELATING TO LAND

Room 229
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1418 SD1, that would amend the current law regarding certain exemptions from building permit and building code requirements in order to ensure that Hawaii's communities are not suspended from participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

As you know, agriculture in Hawaii is struggling because of a myriad of reasons, not the least of which is that it is extremely expensive to farm here. In 2013, Hawaii Farm Bureau advocated for the passage of the bill that became Act 203, which is helping our farmers build specific non-residential, low risk agricultural structures without the burden and expense of overly stringent and inapplicable regulations.

HB 1418 SD1 would expeditiously modify that law in a way that is acceptable to FEMA and ensures Hawaii's continued eligibility for flood insurance under the NFIP, while preserving as much of the benefits to Hawaii's farmers of Act 203 as possible.

HFB supports this effort and **respectfully requests passage of this bill**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support of this measure.