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Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 15, 2017
10:50 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

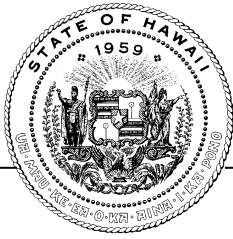
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No.2 that seeks to amend Chapter 205 by authorizing “tiny homes” of less than 500 square feet for farm workers on licensed farms in agricultural districts in a county with a population of more than 180,000 but less than 250,000, notwithstanding any county ordinance or regulation to the contrary. The Department of Agriculture has strong concerns about this measure that, if passed, may result in adverse consequences and offers comments.

Section 205-4.5(a)(4), already identifies “employee housing” related to farming and animal husbandry as a permitted use throughout the State. Section 46-4 authorizes the counties to undertake land use zoning in accordance with plans to guide the overall development within each county. This includes “The location of buildings and structures designed for specific uses and designation of uses for which buildings and structures may not be used or altered.” HB2 circumvents this county authority by allowing “tiny homes” where they are occupied by farm workers and immediately family members on a farm with a business license and currently engaged in agricultural production on Hawaii County. Chapter 205 is replete with piecemeal amendments that



attempt to address a problem by imposing a solution upon the counties. The Department is concerned that these “tiny homes” do not become de facto residential dwellings if the County is unable to adequately monitor and enforce the farm worker/family occupancy requirement for these “tiny homes.”

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony on this measure.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
10:50 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

The Office of Planning (OP) opposes HB 2. HB 2 would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 205-4.5 (a)(4) to allow dwellings of less than 500 square feet, whether stationary or mobile, as a farm dwelling on lands in the State Agricultural Land Use District in a county with a population more than 180,000 and less than 250,000.

HB 2 is intended to encourage the use of “tiny homes” for farm worker housing in support of local agricultural production. OP fully supports efforts to help local farmers and grow the State’s agricultural economy, including addressing the cost of housing for farm labor.

However, OP objects to the bill as written for the following reasons:

- The counties have sufficient authority under HRS Chapter 205 and HRS § 46-4 to enact ordinances for affordable farm labor housing such as proposed in HB 2, and these initiatives need to be pursued at the county-level;
- HRS Chapter 205 is intended to set thresholds for land use policy and district standards on a statewide basis to permit a level of consistency and predictability for land use, regardless of location. HB 2 would limit this new provision to a particular county, and would thus not be available to farmers elsewhere in the State; and
- As written, the definition and standards for permitting a “tiny home” as a farm dwelling could create problems for county implementation and enforcement, and frustrate county efforts to regulate and control non-agricultural residential uses in the State Agricultural District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lew@kokolulu.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lewis Whitney	Kokolulu Farm & Cancer Retreats Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Aloha friends of Agriculture and affordable housing for farm workers and farm. We highly support this bill. Now is the time to create safe and affordable housing so Hawaii can feed itself instead importing food from the mainland Aloha and Peace Lew and Karin Kokolulu Farm and Cancer Retreats a 501 C3 Non-profit Public Charity on the Big Island www.kokolulu.org

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:06 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United Kona Chapter	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Committee Members, I'm writing you today as an individual and as President of the Kona Chapter of HFUU. We support the intent of HB2 and affordable farm worker housing. It is vital to our success as family farmers in Hawaii to attract and accommodate farm workers. Currently there is no legal way to house many of these farm workers. This law also paves the way to recruit new young farmers which, we all know necessary to replace the aging population of current farmers. The governor has committed to expanding local production in the next 20-25 years and to accomplish this goal we must create a solution to farm housing and HB2 is one part of this solution. This bill also supports the diversity of farm uses that will expand the success of the family farm by allowing for housing for education purposes and agriculture tourism. In all honesty I don't fully understand all the components around energy in this bill. I hope this committee will work with the intent of this bill to pass a comprehensive farm worker housing bill. Mahalo, Steve Sakala President, HFUU Kona Chapter Owner, Honaunau Farm

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: Housing for workers on Ag lands is currently problematic. This idea helps to solve and simplify permitting and utility infrastructure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kamaili_organic@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilee Wallace	Environmental Caucus/DPH	Support	No

Comments: As Chair of the Environmental Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawaii as well as Subcommittee on Food & Farm Sustainability, I am in support of HB2 as it will promote more locally grown food production as well as ease the growing housing shortage. County oversight of parcels not more than 50 acres will create a manageable opportunity for small farms.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:27 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rucallahan99@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Callahan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass tiny home legislation. There is a need for affordable housing and a need to support for food independence (and sustainability). Allowing tiny houses on farms can help solve multiple issues on our island.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: valerie@isomedia.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Barnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am strongly in favor of this bill. A significant barrier to achieving our food independence goal is affordable housing for farm workers. And farmers need to live on the land they are farming for a multitude of reasons. Tiny houses are an important solution to solving some of the problems we face in promoting agriculture in Hawaii. Please pass this bill.

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:14 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ljb3@ljb3.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LJ Bates III	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and all its intentions. The methods by which we construct housing is one of the biggest and invisible forms of environmental catastrophe and we must change how we perceive housing as adequate, viable, safe and fulfilling.
LJ Bates III

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: aameden@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ali Ameden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Anything to help the housing crisis should be considered. This is the right thing to do.

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HB 2 – Think BIG – Support Tiny Homes!



Aloha and thank you for hearing the Tiny House farm Housing Bill comments.

This is Marcy Montgomery, writing in support for the 2017 HB 2 promoting On Farm Tiny Houses. The climate and lifestyle of Hawaii encourages an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. It is also one of the best settings in the world to implement green building and energy efficient practices. Many farmers are wanting to down size the scale of their indoor living spaces, lower their cost for housing, be on farm to monitor their crops, lower farmworker rental housing and transportation/commute costs, spend more time farming, and lower the environmental impact of their housing.

Tiny Houses are a great solution for our affordable housing crisis. On-farm housing is an ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK to reclaiming our State's, and Hawaii Island's, local food system.

Tiny Houses – on wheels or on foundations – are a perfect solution for getting Farmers on their land farming more locally grown food, and in turn increasing our island food security.

I support making a State level decision that allows Tiny Houses, both mobile and permanent, to become viable farm worker and farm owner housing. I ask you to approve this Bill, and to keep in mind that it should apply to future building as well as retroactive to small dwellings that can be grandfathered in as small on-site farm homes.

To lower barriers to affordable housing, I support following other States' laws, and city ordinances, that allow buildings under a certain square footage to not require a building permit, including accessory

dwelling units, permanent or mobile. If we could allow under 500 square foot structures, for a farm owner's personal/family member dwelling or for farmworker housing to be allowed, with minimal registration costs, this would assist hundreds of island farms in providing affordable, small footprint, housing directly tied to increasing farm production.



Home IS where the Farm is!

Our organization, One Island, is actively convening Tiny House Community Conversations around the Big Island, and is hosting working group planning meetings to gather public input to help define the parameters of approvable small-footprint housing. We are engaging the public in this very important conversation and ask our State Representatives and Senators to join us solving one facet of our food security crisis – more housing = more farmers = more food independence!

Think Big! Support Tiny Homes.

Marcy Montgomery

One Island Sustainable Living

PO Box 1438

Kapa'au HI 96755

greenschool@oneisland.org

808-328-2452

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lizafranzoni@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liza Franzoni	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. I strongly support bill HB2. I ask you to support this bill that will directly and indirectly support all of the people in Hawaii. Hawaii has an affordable housing crisis and a food security crisis that more bandaids and more studies are failing to relieve in any meaningful way for those citizens on the ground. When people are homeless, or houseless, we all suffer, and many of us are just a paycheck away from joining those ranks. Coinciding with the affordable housing crisis is the food security crisis, where 90% of our food is imported. In uncertain times such as this time of global political, social and environmental upheaval, we do not have a choice but use all of the collective knowledge and wisdom at our disposal to proactively address these looming crises for these Hawaiian Islands and the people who make their lives here. The Tiny House movement is exploding elsewhere as a viable alternative to address these global issues of inadequate shelter and food security. Hawaii Legislators need to step up and proactively support this grassroots movement now because these crises are not getting any better anytime soon. In supporting HB2, legislators are sending the message to their constituents that they care about the future of Hawaii, its' people and its' land, food security and the beginning of an end to homelessness. Please act now. More studies and more shelving of issues will only exacerbate this critical issues. Mahalo, Liza Franzoni

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jbfemail-hawaiigov@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN B FISHBACK	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this bill. We on the Big Island need to start using less and creating more for our family, friends and neighbors in order to become more self-sufficient. When the next great earthquake hits California, most of the shipping facilities to Hawaii will become unavailable. According to the latest statistics, there is only 3 weeks worth of food in the food chain at any one time. WE MUST PREPARE, the Tiny House bill is one start I highly recommend. John Fishback, Waimea, Big Island, small scale farmer.

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Subject: HB2 Tiny Houses – Support

Allowing tiny houses to be built on or moved onto agricultural property with help alleviate the homelessness crisis facing our islands. These homes can be rented at an affordable fee to farm workers. They could even be moved from location to location on large islands such as Hawaii Island where workers sometimes travel hours to work in the fields early in the morning.

Thank you to Representative Cindy Evans for introducing this bill.

Shirley David

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:33 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jimvigorito@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Vigorito	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support HB2. I am co-owner of a small farm and am unable to afford to build a standard-sized home at this time. Allowing tiny homes on ag land will facilitate our family's desire to be self sustaining. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:05 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: d.bt@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM*

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Brucato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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We live in Hawi and have a 34 acre farm. My family has more financial resources than many others but we were not prepared for how expensive it is to farm and produce good food. The land is expensive and it is difficult to work, pay others, produce food and make a profit. We see and hear from farm workers that they do not have options for suitable affordable and decent housing in this area. We support this house bill as we think it will help farmers and farm workers and result in more and higher quality food for the community.

Holly & Eila Algood
55-3309 Hoesa Makai Road or
PO Box 190694
Hawi, HI 96719

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: angelaleslee@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Leslee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Farm use of Tiny houses is a great step toward solving our affordable housing crisis AND supports more farmers growing more local food. Hawaii has a rich tradition as a farming state, the multitude of coffee shacks are evidence that we have long used minimal sized housing to create affordable lodging for farm workers. Also in the increasingly expensive housing market both purchasing and renting, we need to allow for affordable Tiny houses to help fill a basic need for many.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:16 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mumu@hawaiiipalmproperties.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Christianson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Tiny houses are not only energy efficient but also cost effective. they should be considered in a broader scope to alleviate our extreme housing shortage on this island, not just farm workers. Elaine Christianson (808) 889-1295

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mojo@hedonisiahawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mojo Mustapha	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, In a tropical environment it makes no sense to always build large. Not only does that make more room for trees on a plot of land thus reducing global warming. With the increase of single and two person households especially among seniors and other groups, it allows for more efficient living. Tiny homes make sense for people and for the planet! Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: realestate@barrierose.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barrie Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support this bill which would allow for affordable tiny homes to be allowed to help provide housing both for farm workers as well as Agro-tourism. This is of utmost importance to the island of hawaii in order to provide alternative housing options for people of lower incomes

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM*

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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In support of HB2

Dear committee members,

We are presently in the process of creating our first tiny house here at Youth Challenge Academy/Hilo. The home will be built by the students as part of a learning project to promote post residential employment. The tiny house will then be "loaned" to the most qualified applicant and placed at a location that serves him and or his potential employer. 15-20% of our at risk student population leave the 5 1/2 month residential phase of our program with substandard living situations and some go straight back to being completely homeless on the streets. All of this criteria will be used in the selection of the appropriate candidate for our tiny home. I am in great support of HB2 as many of our homeless and less advantaged youth find positive employment with farm work

The bill will allow for temporary housing to be placed to not only serve the populations in need of housing but also increase our food security. We hope to generate multiple tiny homes for our at risk graduates to help them become health productive citizens who serve the community with pride. Giving a youth a positive place sleep and rest as well as productive way to make a living does more than just help them earn a paycheck. It helps them boost self-esteem and helps them break down pattern in life that might have kept them from being successful.

Please support HB2 and help those who can help provide positive housing for farm workers and those whom can help increase food security.

Thank you

Joshua Anthony

Lead instructor/Youth Challenge Academy Hilo

808-282-1867

Joshua.k.anthony@hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dmitts@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Mitts	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB2 which would allow farm quarters on agricultural lands in Hawaii. As a Hamakua farmer I support this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: malamapuna@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Kuykendall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. We need affordable housing for workers so we can bring our avocados and sheep to market. Thank you for your consideration.

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AGRtestimony

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hollyalgood@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM
Attachments: tinyhousevillageoregon.jpg

HB2

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Algood	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Here's a photo of an actual tiny house village in Oregon. I hope we can replicate something like this on our farm to provide attractive and affordable options to farmworkers to share our beautiful land in Hawi. Holly & Eila Algood 55-3309 Hoea Makai Road PO Box 190694 Hawi, HI 96719

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Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: suzannewakelin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Wakelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Food security in Hawai'i is crucial. We need housing for people that work on farms growing food. Tiny houses can provide that housing. Please support this bill to make this type of housing legal and help provide a solution. Mahalo

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HB 2 – Think BIG – Support Tiny Homes!



Aloha and thank you for hearing the Tiny House Farm Housing Bill comments.

This is Stephen Shrader, writing in support for the 2017 HB 2 promoting On Farm Tiny Houses. The climate and lifestyle of Hawaii encourages an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. It is also one of the best settings in the world to implement green building and energy efficient practices. Many farmers are wanting to down size the scale of their indoor living spaces, lower their cost for housing, be on farm to monitor their crops, lower farmworker rental housing and transportation/commute costs, spend more time farming, and lower the environmental impact of their housing.

Tiny Houses are a great solution for our affordable housing crisis. On-farm housing is an ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK to reclaiming our State's, and Hawaii Island's, local food system.

Tiny Houses – on wheels or on foundations – are a perfect solution for getting Farmers on their land farming more locally grown food, and in turn increasing our island food security.

I support making a State level decision that allows Tiny Houses, both mobile and permanent, to become viable farm worker and farm owner housing. I ask you to approve this Bill, and to keep in mind that it should apply to future building as well as retroactive to small dwellings that can be grandfathered in as small on-site farm homes.

To lower barriers to affordable housing, I support following other States' laws, and city ordinances, that allow buildings under a certain square footage to not require a building permit, including accessory

dwelling units, permanent or mobile. If we could allow under 500 square foot structures, for a farm owner's personal/family member dwelling or for farmworker housing to be allowed, with minimal registration costs, this would assist hundreds of island farms in providing affordable, small footprint, housing directly tied to increasing farm production.



Home IS where the Farm is!

Our organization, One Island, is actively convening Tiny House Community Conversations around the Big Island, and is hosting working group planning meetings to gather public input to help define the parameters of approvable small-footprint housing. We are engaging the public in this very important conversation and ask our State Representatives and Senators to join us solving one facet of our food security crisis – more housing = more farmers = more food independence!

Think Big! Support Tiny Homes.

Stephen Shrader

One Island Sustainable Living

PO Box 1438

Kapa'au HI 96755

greenschool@oneisland.org

808-328-2452

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: guldsmed808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Varner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 2. The scarcity of affordable housing for farm workers in rural areas makes it hard to operate or even start a farm in an economical manner in areas where the land may be economical but isolated. Growing and strengthening our food security is important to the State's and its people. Tiny homes give farmers and their workers an option to stay close to the farm to protect it and help it thrive. Cindy Varner 2405 Kalaniana'ole Ave. #305 Hilo, HI 96720

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM*

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: k2pome@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Pomeroy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB2 - In support

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM*

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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In Support of HB2

Tiny Houses on Farms and Agricultural Programs

I support tiny houses for many reasons:

The most important to us is public health. Living in a clean, dry and hygienic space really helps people to stay well. Last year when I caught dinghy fever I had a comfortable bed available and spend the worse days and nights in a screened bedroom. I felt safe and reassured that I wasn't sharing my disease with others in my community. Had I been living in a tent this just wouldn't have been possible.

A second reason is the feeling of belonging and being a part of the society in which I'm living. An important outcome of this feeling is pride of self and the surrounding grounds. The public areas become more of my responsibility as well. Waking up in your own space is a very nice way to start the day.

Many of us have become blasé about personal privacy, personal security of our food and equipment when we're away at work but these are the two of the ghosts of living rough anywhere. Tiny houses provide a refuge from these teasing anxieties.

Safe, comfortable and secure habitats make for stronger citizens that bring forth a better quality of life not just for themselves but for all of us that share the community.

Joan and Casey McCarty

Camp Aloha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:54 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Lesliewingate7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Wingate	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I'd like to see the bill allow tiny homes anywhere in Hawai'i, not just in county's with 180,000 people! Tiny homes make it soooooo much easier to grow food on Ag land.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: karenrosen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM

HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017
Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Rosen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Karen Rosen and I am in support of Bill HB2. Tiny houses would be an amazing opportunity for our local farmers and businesses to provide much needed housing. Please! Support this effort.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: shoregirlstudios@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM



HB2

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mila Horak	Onila Farms	Support	No

Comments: We are a small farm that strongly supports this bill. Allowing for tiny houses, which are more affordable and sustainable, to house people closer to the food they grow and eat, is a win, win, win. Good for the individuals, the community, the environment. Thank you for considering it.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: robinroserasch@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2 on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM



HB2

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 10:50AM in Conference Room 312

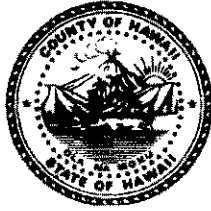
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robin rasch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support bill hb2 for all the reasons detailed in the bill... north kohala, big island is promoting food security, sustainability practices yet many dedicated farmers are leaving the area b/c of unavailable/unaffordable housing...housing is critical to the success of self sufficiency goals & tiny houses is a practical, low impact solution

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Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 15, 2017

Representative Richard Creagan
Agriculture Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Creagan and members:

RE: **HB 2**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 2.

The problem of unaffordable housing calls for creative thinking, and therefore I must thank Representative Evans for presenting the idea of "tiny homes" and this committee for giving the idea a hearing.

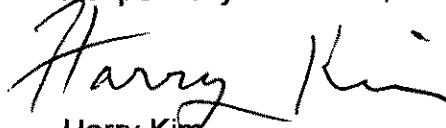
Nevertheless, I find I cannot support this bill.

First, there is a potential conflict with building codes which may not allow mobile "tiny homes" as a permanent residence without proper foundation.

Then there are issues regarding qualifying the total number of "tiny homes" allowed on any licensed farm. Would such a determination be left to the farmer? Typically, the intensity and scale of agricultural activity dictates how many on-site farm dwellings will be permitted.

Farm dwellings and employee housing are already allowed on agricultural lands by state law. Suggesting, by resolution or otherwise, that the County also consider "tiny homes" may be worth looking into. But imposing "tiny homes" on Hawaii County and Maui, "notwithstanding any county ordinance or regulation," as HB2 calls for, should not be done.

Respectfully submitted,


Harry Kim
Mayor

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