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April 4, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HCR 148 / HR 95, REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SQUATTING IN THE STATE.

HEARING: Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 2:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

I am Myoung Oh, Director of Government Affairs, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 9,200 members. HAR offers **comments** on H.C.R. 148 and H.R. 95 which convenes a working group to examine and develop recommendations to address the issue of squatting in the state.

The formal eviction process in Hawai'i exists as a mechanism to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords, but the current state of the law places most of the burden on the landlord. As such, despite a formal eviction process, it could take months and cost thousands of dollars in lost rent, additional fees, and clean-up costs.

HAR is available and looks forward to offering substantive input in the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

