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GOVERNOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII
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April 13, 2018

To: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair;
The Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice Chair; and
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018

Time: 10:20 am

Place: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: SCR No. 145 SD1 Requesting the Department of Agriculture, in
collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to
Convene an Agricultural Task Force.**

SCR145 SD1 urges the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to convene an agricultural task force to address a labor shortage in the coffee industry.

The Department does not support the measure as written, as there are components to the resolution that remain unclear, such as funding, staffing and other resources to convene an agricultural task force. The Department is additionally concerned with the size and composition of the task force.

DLIR notes that workforce development is largely federally funded, therefore, any responsibilities given to the Department through the resolution would require an appropriation.

The Department currently is involved in two related initiatives that could address workforce needs in the coffee subsector and other industries in agriculture. Act 229 (SLH, 2016, §371-21) created the Agricultural Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative, which seeks to expand the pipeline of agricultural workers to address pending shortages in Hawaii's agricultural workforce. An appropriation measure (HB2115) is moving through the legislative process to continue funding for this initiative.

In addition, DLIR's Hawaii Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board provides grants to subsectors to assist with workforce needs. The coffee subsector may develop grant proposals to present to the Board to help the address workforce shortages in the industry.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND LABOR & PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT**

**APRIL 13, 2018
10:20 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145 SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO CONVENE AN
AGRICULTURAL LABOR TASK FORCE**

Chairperson Creagan, Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 145 SD1 that requests the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to convene an Agricultural Labor Task Force of no less than 20 members to look for ways to address the present workforce shortage and improve the availability of affordable housing for laborers in alignment with the goals of the K-12 agricultural workforce development pipeline initiative. A report is due to the 2020 Legislature. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

Data and information are needed to establish a basis for developing and evaluating options to improve upon the current agricultural labor situation. For instance, it may be useful to identify the current labor needs of each of the sectors comprising Hawaii's agricultural industry and the minimum skills and other attributes desired by employers in each sector. Further, information on farm employees and their wage level by sector may help other housing-focused agencies and interests in determining wage-appropriate housing options.



The Department would like to note that there are bills currently moving through the Legislature to support the Agricultural Workforce Development Pipeline Initiative. HB 2115 provides the necessary resources to support the development of an agricultural workforce statewide through a K-12 workforce pipeline initiative.

The Department is concerned about the size of the Task Force, the staffing it will require, and the reallocation of resources that are already fully committed to existing activities and to the various legislative initiatives this session. The Department suggests pursuing a bill next session that dedicates resources to this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

SCR-145-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 8:28:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2018 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

To the Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair; the Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR145 SD1** relating to the Agriculture Labor Task Force; Department of Agriculture; and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR145 SD1** and supports its adoption.

SCR145 SD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests that the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, is to convene an agriculture labor task force to look for ways to address the immediate workforce shortage and improve the availability of affordable housing for laborers, in alignment with the goals of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative.

The Platform of the DPH provides that "Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life."

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. (Platform of DPH, P.2, Line 76-80, 97-99 (2016)).

"Housing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent." (Platform of DPH, P.7, Line 340-344 (2016)).

We believe in the concept of “Housing First” to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population, to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless. (Platform of DPH, P.7, Line 354358(2016)).

Given that **SCR145 SD1** requests that the requests that the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, is to convene an agriculture labor task force to look for ways to address the immediate workforce shortage and improve the availability of affordable housing for laborers, in alignment with the goals of the K-12 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support its adoption.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja
Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities
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April 13, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

TESTIMONY ON SCR 145, SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO CONVENE AN
AGRICULTURE LABOR TASK FORCE.

Room 312
10:20 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Chair Johanson, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Holt, and
Members of the Committees:

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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports SCR 145, SD1**, which requests the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to convene an agriculture labor task force.

Hawaii's farmers find it difficult to retain employees, especially during harvesting seasons. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need to explore solutions for employment. This is critical to achieving Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
and

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Friday, April 13, 2018 at 10:20 a.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Vice Chancellor for Research

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 145 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS, TO CONVENE AN AGRICULTURE LABOR TASK FORCE

Chairs Creagan and Johanson, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Holt, and members of the
House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 145 SD1.

For commercial agriculture to be successful in Hawai'i, sufficient farm labor and
affordable housing for farm workers, are two of the main issues that will need creative
solutions. In fact, sufficient farm labor is an issue facing agriculture nationally, not just in
Hawai'i. Aspects of the problem include labor that is paid a viable living wage,
availability of housing, skills to do the job, and a dependable farm labor force.

Since the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is requested within the
resolution to be a member of the task force, we feel that the college has people well-
qualified in the area of Human Resources to provide meaningful participation.

The college can, and is willing, to participate as resources allow.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 145 SD1.