

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HOUSING

**MARCH 22, 2019
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76
REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH
WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK FORCE.**

Chairpersons Creagan and Brower and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 76 that establishes an 11-member Agricultural Housing Task Force in the Office of Planning. The Task Force is to identify barriers to construction of on-farm employee housing within agricultural districts by studying existing relevant State and county laws, ordinances, rules, and processes; make recommendations; and propose a "master use application process to be applied throughout the State". A series of reports to the Legislature is requested. The Department of Agriculture offers comments and otherwise defers to the Office of Planning and to the counties, who have the primary responsibility for permitting habitable structures on agricultural land.

The outcome expected from the Task Force is recommendations to streamline the processes to authorize the construction of safe, sanitary, and affordable on-farm employee housing on farms that are engaged in agricultural production within agricultural districts.

In response to previous legislation, the Department searched for evidence of the lack of affordable housing for farm workers needed by working farms to attract and retain employees and to operate farms in an economical manner on the Big Island.

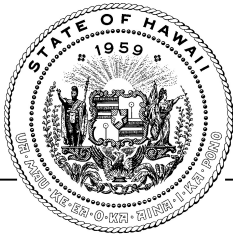


Available statistics show that the majority of hired farm laborers in Hawaii worked on Big Island farms and are the lowest paid farm laborers among the four counties.

- Statewide farm labor statistics (2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture – Hawaii County Data; Table 7, pages 238 and 215, respectively) show increases in the number of farms with hired labor (1,783 to 1,977) and the total number of hired laborers (11,523 to 12,492). The statewide total number of farms was 7,521 in 2007 and 7,000 in 2012, so about 25% of Hawaii’s farms hired at least one farm laborer during both census periods.
- From 2007 to 2012, there was a 62% increase in the number of farms with one hired laborer. The Big Island accounted for the largest increase in farms with one farm laborer. Statewide, farms with 2, 3-4, and 5-9 hired laborers showed declines of 16% to 2%. One possible explanation for the increase in farms with one hired laborer is that farms with multiple hired laborers reduced their work force but kept at least one laborer.
- In 2012, the Big Island accounted for more than 50% of the statewide total of farms with hired labor, and the number of hired laborers. However, the total payroll for hired farm labor on the Big Island was 25% of the statewide total payroll for hired farm labor.

These indicators show a declining trend from 2007 to 2012 in the number of farms that hire multiple farm laborers – this sets a point of reference for identifying the characteristics of housing that is needed. It is unknown whether simply providing affordable farmworker housing is enough to retain farm workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of
RODNEY FUNAKOSHI
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE
AND
HOUSING**
Friday, March 22, 2019
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HCR 76 / HR 74
**REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING
TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PLANNING
AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK FORCE.**

Chairs Creagan and Brower, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Matayoshi, and Members of the House Committees on Agriculture and Housing.

The Office of Planning (OP) offers **comments** on HCR 76 / HR 74, which aims to establish an agricultural housing task force within OP to review State and county laws, rules, and processes to identify barriers to the provision of farmworker housing on farms in the State Agricultural Land Use District.

OP is certainly willing to explore with State agencies, the counties, and agricultural organizations how regulations and procedures can be improved to provide safe, sanitary, and affordable employee housing for farmworkers. However, OP does not have the resources necessary to cover the cost of the participation and collaboration of Neighbor Island counties for this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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March 22, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON HCR 76/HR 74

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH
WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK FORCE

Room 309
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Creagan and Brower, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 HCR 76 and HR 74, which establishes the agricultural housing task force within the office of planning to study existing county and state laws, rules, and processes for construction of housing units within agricultural districts to identify barriers to construction, make recommendations, and propose one master use application process to be applied throughout the State.

HFB recognizes the need for agricultural workforce housing and believes that affordable housing is necessary to attract farm workers. This has been a major shortfall as we try to address labor needs for expanding agriculture. Agricultural employee housing does not just come under the jurisdiction of the State and County but under the Department of Labor. Farmers wishing to provide worker housing face their own challenges with extensive federal rules enforced by the Department of Labor, the State, and Counties. A streamlined process would encourage more farmers to develop farmworker housing.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully request that we are included as a member of the Agricultural Housing Task Force. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HOUSING
Friday, March 22, 2019 — 10:00 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Supports HCR 76, Requesting the Director of the Office of Planning to Establish Within the Office of Planning an Agricultural Housing Task Force

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Murray Clay, and I am Managing Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports HCR 76, which establishes an agricultural housing task force within the Office of Planning, because it aligns with our goal of more locally produced food.

A lack of on-site housing for agricultural workers has helped to exacerbate Hawai'i's agricultural workforce shortage. Without a housing benefit, jobs in the agricultural field are often not as competitive compared to other sectors of the economy. Plus, being on-site will give farmers more time for operations, the ability to monitor growing challenges on the farm, and have a stronger presence to reduce agricultural theft.

We believe this task force is a good first step toward finding a solution to the complex issue of agricultural workforce housing.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become increasingly complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that through collaboration, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Kau'i Pratt-Aquino - Secretary • Patrick Shea - Treasurer
Kristin Hamada • Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Testifying in Support

Aloha, Chair and Committee members

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **is in support of HCR76/HR74** which requests the Office of Planning to create an Agricultural Housing Task Force to examine the State and County laws, rules and process for the construction of on-farm employee housing.

Agriculture is important to Hawaii, not only as an industry and export but it is vital element in food sustainability. Local farmers face many challenges, among them are the lack of affordable housing available for their workers on site. One of the hurdles in the creation of onsite affordable units is the many overlapping laws and jurisdictions make the process confusing and cumbersome.

HCR76/HR74 will help to bring together the various agencies and people in a room with real farmers to help work out a plan to make the process more accessible. Creating uniform laws and rules are essential to clearing up the confusion and will eliminate the barriers that are currently in place. These potential changes will help Hawaii reach its goal of food sustainability and ensure that the men and women doing the work have sanitary, safe and affordable housing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser

Executive Director

Pono Hawai'i Initiative, an organization member of the Common Good Coalition



HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

House Committees on Agriculture and Housing Hawai'i Center for Food Safety strongly supports: HCR 76 and HR 74

Dear Chair Creagan, Chair Brower, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committees,

My name is Autumn Ness and I am the Co-Director of the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety. CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on supporting the increase of sustainable local food production, and increasing public transparency in food production. We have over 1 million farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i.

I am writing in support of HCR 76 and HR 74, as I recognize them as an important step in providing tangible support for our farmers who are advancing the State of Hawai'i local food production goals, while also providing housing solutions.

HCFS specifically strongly supports the language about giving special consideration to modular housing as a solution. I strongly believe that modular homes are not just a small part of the solution, but should be the focus of this task force, for a few reasons.

1. It's more economically realistic for a farm to build 1-4 modular homes for \$20-60,000 each than 1 'ohana unit for \$350,000.
2. Modular homes are less attractive to luxury, gentleman estate-type investors. If small, modular homes are the only type of structure allowed on ag. land as farmworker dwellings, developers are less likely to want to turn that land into a luxury investment property.
3. When and if that farm/ag. land changes ownership, the modular homes can be easily moved off property if needed, and there is no permanent loss of that ag land.

However, it is my understanding that, existing building codes and zoning regulations do not always support the building of such modular structures. I am particularly hopeful that this problem can be addressed with language that specifies that the intent of the task force is to create a separate legal designation, as it relates to zoning, for homes with a permanent foundation and modular homes without a permanent foundation.



HAWAI'I
CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY

HCFS also supports the proposed make-up of the task force, and I would be happy to answer any questions as to why each proposed representative is an important part of the task force's success.

Mahalo nui loa for your support of HCR 76 and HR 74.

Autumn Ness, Co-Director
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

LATE

HCR-76

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:58:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HCR-76

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 7:04:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donovan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: