

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER, LAND, &  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**APRIL 12, 2019  
11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 165 SD1  
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL  
TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXISTING COUNTY AND STATE LAWS, RULES, AND  
PROCESSES TO PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ON-FARM EMPLOYEE  
HOUSING WITHIN THE STATE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT.**

Chairpersons Creagan and Yamane and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 165 SD1 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 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. The Department 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.

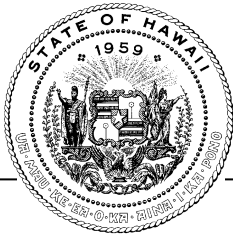
In response to previous legislation, the Department searched for evidence of the lack of affordable housing for farm workers needed by working farms to attract and retain employees and to operate farms in an economical manner on the Big Island.



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.

Our research also revealed 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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of  
**RODNEY FUNAKOSHI**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
AGRICULTURE  
AND  
WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
Friday, April 12, 2019  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**SCR 165, SD1**  
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL  
HOUSING TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXISTING COUNTY AND STATE LAWS,  
RULES, AND PROCESSES TO PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ON-FARM  
EMPLOYEE HOUSING WITHIN THE STATE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.**

Chairs Creagan and Yamane, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Todd, and Members of the House Committees on Agriculture, and Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) offers **comments** on SCR 165, SD1, which aims to establish an agricultural housing task force within OP to review State and county laws, rules, and processes to identify and address 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 on-farm employee housing for farmworkers. We appreciate the added emphasis in SD1 on ensuring that the intended farmworker housing serve the needs of active, commercial agriculture. However, OP does not have the resources to cover the cost of the participation and collaboration of Neighbor Island counties, which is essential to arriving at effective statewide approaches to address this issue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 9:47:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

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  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 10, 2019

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chairs Creagan and Yamane, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Todd, and Committee Members:

**RE: SCR 165, SD1 Relating to Requesting the Office of Planning to Establish an Agriculture Housing Task Force to Study Existing County and State Laws, Rules, and Process to Plan for the Construction of On-Farm Employee Housing within the State Agricultural District**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SCR 165, SD1.

The County of Hawai'i would be happy to work with the Office of Planning and others, in pursuit of economically safe, sanitary, and affordable on-farm employee housing that also meets regulations at the federal level and laws and rules established by the state and counties.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim  
MAYOR





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 165**

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXISTING COUNTY AND STATE LAWS, RULES, AND PROCESSES TO PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ON-FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING WITHIN THE STATE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Room 325  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Creagan and Yamane, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Todd, 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 SCR 165**, 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.

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 2:39:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kennard Kekona	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaipo Kekona Chair of the HFUU Lahaina Chapter and am in support of SCR165 SD1



**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 6:57:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suellen Barton	Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 1:26:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Winslow	Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Friday, April 12, 2019 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 325

**Ulupono Initiative Supports SCR 165 SD 1, Requesting the Office of Planning to Establish an Agricultural Housing Task Force to Study Existing County and State Laws, Rules, and Processes to Plan for the Construction of On-Farm Employee Housing within the State Agricultural District**

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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 SCR 165 SD 1**, 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*

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 10:23:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:25:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reba O'Day	Birds With Arms Farms	Support	No

Comments:

THIS TASK FORCE MUST LISTEN TO FARMERS!!!

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:52:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 11:04:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donovan	Pesticide Action Network North America / Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Donovan Kanani Cabebe and I live in on the island of Kauai.

As a chef and life long resident of Hawaii, I have developed a close relationship with many of the food producers on Kauai that practice Aina centric agriculture. Producing livestock and produce that is GMO-FREE, organic, free range and utilizing chemical-free methods that have as low an environmental impact as possible. I have come to understand many of the nuances that exist and the challenges they face in their pursuits. I strongly support HB 1101. and the proposed make up of the task force.

One of the major problems we face on Kauai is a shortage of housing. Farmers are already allowing workers to live on property out of necessity to attend to a farm's needs. Rather than criminalizing a necessity instead creating an opportunity that allows farmers to provide safe, clean, temporary housing will bolster the economy and aid in building a stronger more resilient agricultural infrastructure.

I am pleased to see that mobile units for temporary and seasonal farm workers will be included in the permitting process.

Mobile housing means that workers are closer to their work. Present workers make for a safer farm and reduce the threat of criminal trespassing and theft.

I would suggest that the major focal points of this committee be

1. Look into and support mobile units and small housing
2. Create parameters that would allow for Ohana style housing and mobile units to be placed where needed.

Mobile units, small housing, and Ohana style housing is the most affordable option for most farmers.

Mahalo,

Donovan



**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:07:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Isn't this a part of Act 233 and Important Agricultural Lands (IAL)?

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 12:54:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 1:43:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 2:03:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ON-FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING WITHIN THE STATE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT would greatly enable farmers to make newly released farm lands productive as diversafied and regenerative farms while also increasing the availability of affordable housing on farms for family farmers.

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 2:48:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gwen Morinaga-Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:35:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:43:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need this bill because the lack of agricultural housing is undermining our efforts to feed ourselves without being dangerously dependent on the mainland.

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:51:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:45:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 10:00:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dowd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to make it easier and more affordable for farmers to farm so that it can be a viable occupation for more people. No farmers, no food. On-site dwellings for farm workers can provide more affordable housing, lessen their burden of commuting, establish on-site presence to deter ag theft, and provide landowners a means to attract "real" farmers who can help increase the productivity of their gentleman farms. It may even encourage more sustainable and regenerative practices, as farmers may be less inclined to spray pesticides and herbicides where they and their family members live.

Mahalo,

Lisa Dowd

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 6:24:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

Please pass this important Bill.

Farmers need to live on the land they farm on.

Its the best way to house them.

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 11:17:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-165-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 9:14:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments: