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March 25, 2019

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair,
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.C.R. 134/ S.R. 103 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, TO SUBMIT A REPORT DETERMINING A LIVING WAGE STANDARD
FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS LIVING IN THE STATE**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This resolution proposes that DLIR, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DoA), submit a report to the Legislature determining a living wage standard for agricultural workers living the State and include the following in the report:

- a breakdown of the average living wage for each county;
- the living wage for each county adjusted for employer-provided housing, health insurance, transportation, and meals, as applicable;
- a breakdown of the average living expenses for an agricultural worker living in each country;
- the current median wage earned by agricultural workers in the State;
- annual data of local food production in the State since 2000; and
- annual data of agricultural workers employed in the State since 2000.

The report would be required to be submitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020.

DLIR provides comments on this resolution.

II. COMMENTS ON THE RESOLUTION

DLIR strives to accomplish its mission of increasing the economic security, physical and economic well-being, and productivity of workers, as well as developing, preparing, and disseminating information on employment, unemployment, and general labor market conditions. DLIR's Research and Statistics Office (R&S) collects data, conducts surveys, and aggregates data as required by federal law. With its limited staff and resources, R&S has been able to meet its federally and statutorily mandated obligations.

However, R&S neither has nor collects the information requested by the resolution. If the DoA has information specific to the wages earned by agricultural workers, R&S could assist in determining the current median wage earned by agricultural workers. R&S does not have the expertise to analyze and assess the cost of living for each county and the State and to make adjustments for employer-provided housing, health insurance, transportation, and meals.

DLIR suggests that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism may be in the best position to prepare a report determining a living wage standard for agricultural workers living in the State because it has the research capabilities and expertise as well as produces reports such as the Hawaii Data Book, which is an official summary of the statistics on the social, economic, and political organization of the State.

SR-103

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 3:39:25 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/27/2019 2:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis F Lokmer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SR-103

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 3:02:00 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/27/2019 2:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cindy Evans | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: