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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT A NEEDS-BASED ASSESSMENT OF FARM WORKER HOUSING THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

WHEREAS, affordable housing in general is scarce in Hawaii primarily because of the cost of land and construction; and

WHEREAS, farmers that have long-term agricultural land leases, particularly those which are long-term lessees of agricultural and non-agricultural parks, are frequently unable to provide housing for workers; and

WHEREAS, shortages in adequate farm worker housing reduce the numbers of available farm workers and contribute to increased difficulty for farmers in Hawaii who operate small farms to make their farms sustainable; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning is requested to convene a working group to conduct a needs-based assessment of farm worker housing throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include representatives of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, and Hawai'i Farmers Union United; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is requested to be the lead agency charged with the responsibility of coordinating the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,

including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of the Office of Planning; Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture; Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Housing; Chairperson of the House Committee on Agriculture; Chairperson of the House Committee on Housing; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and Hawai'i Farmers Union United.