SHAN S. TSUTSUI Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

## BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2015 3:00 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 414

SENATE BILL NO. 775 RELATING TO HOUSING

Chairpersons Chun Oakland and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 775. This bill amends Chapter 205 to allow temporary shelters on lands in the Agricultural District. The temporary shelters may be occupied by a family for up to five years and is to be located on and used in connection with a farm, where agricultural activity provides income to the families occupying the temporary shelters, and includes clusters of temporary shelters permitted within State Agricultural Parks

The Department of Agriculture has very strong concerns about this measure as it allows substandard housing on farms and presumes that the people who occupy these units will work for a farmer and derive income. The Department supports permitting those activities and uses that clearly promote agriculture and farming and the protection of agricultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



Dear Legislators,

I strongly support SB775/HB1427 (Temporary Shelters; Agricultural Land).

Affordable housing and affordable rentals do not exist in Hawaii and never will. Innovative measures must be tried to create living areas for our homeless and low income families.

Temporary shelters should be allowed at least on an experimental basis to prove the viability of alternative housing options; traditional ideas will never satisfy the requirement. It is time for a new paradigm for affordable housing in Hawaii Nei.

Please pass SB775/HB1427.

Mahalo,

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