

WILEY

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If you did not submit written testimony *at least 24 hours* before today's hearing and would like to testify, please sign-up on this sheet.
Testifiers will be taken in the order signed in.

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Testifiers will be taken in the order signed in.

BILL NO: SB 969

[illegible]

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P.O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

COLIN KIPPEN

- Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness •
 - State Coordinator on Homelessness •
- Telephone 808 586-0974

February 10, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Colin Kippen, Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on
Homelessness, State Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **S.B. 969 – RELATING TO FARM WORKER HOUSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2015; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 414; State Capitol

PURPOSE: S.B. 969 allows one or more employee dwellings to be built on an agricultural park lot or non-agricultural park lot that is leased by a long-term lessee with lease terms of at least thirty-five years and a lot size of at least five acres, with restrictions.

Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to be expended by the department of agriculture to develop farm worker housing.

POSITION: I am Colin Kippen, the State Coordinator on Homelessness and the Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am writing in **support** of the general intent of this measure and offer the following comments.

While this measure may not intend to address the issue of increasing available homes to address issues of homelessness, there are examples of public spirited individuals in our community who have developed programs for homeless families where families were provided with a place to live and work, where they are able to grow their own food, learn a trade, and work towards self-sufficiency, as they grow crops and prepare them for market or to share with the community. Programs such as these provide a means for a family to regain its stability, self-respect, and self-reliance, while providing a benefit to the community.

I know of two programs on Oahu that have adopted this model of helping the homeless by providing housing and employment on private lands.

Unfortunately, existing state law limits the ability of an individual leasing agricultural or non-agricultural park lands owned by the state to create housing for its employees. This bill would create a means to allow the provision of housing for those who are employed and working on these leased agricultural and non-agricultural state park lands.

I have been in conversations with homeless advocates who want to expand the programs now operating on private lands to leased agricultural and non-agricultural park lands to providing employment and housing for the homeless. Some homeless advocates see such a proposal as a "win" for the lessee as well as a "win" for the formerly homeless, now employed and housed.

Key in these conversations has been a concern that job training and counseling be offered as needed to give the formerly homeless individuals the job skills and the personal support they need to transition from living on the streets to becoming stably housed, employed and productive

citizens. Programs that presently exist might have to be reconfigured or partnerships among different entities and service providers might have to be formed to create the right set of supports required to help with their education and transition.

If this proposal is passed and employee housing on these leased ag and non-ag park lands is allowed, I would urge that leasees consider giving homeless individuals or families the opportunity to be allowed to work and live on these lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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LATE

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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. 969
RELATING TO FARM WORKER HOUSING

Chairpersons Chun Oakland and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 969. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to allow the construction of one or more employee dwellings on a lot that is leased by a long-term lessee with lease terms of at least thirty-five years and a lot size of at least five acres. The Department appreciates the intent of this bill but respectfully believes it to be unnecessary as the Board of Agriculture already has this authority.

The DOA understands the concerns of the agricultural industry and agrees that affordable farm labor housing is essential for the industry to expand and ultimately meet the goal of food sustainability. The DOA lease conditions do not limit the number of farm dwellings on a parcel or require a lessee to construct a farm dwelling for the lessee's primary residential use only. A farm dwelling may be built on the leased parcel and occupied by the lessee or an authorized employee of the lessee. The only prohibition stated in the statutes, rules and lease terms is that the farm dwelling may not be used for rental purposes. Therefore, generally, a lessee would incorporate the rental value of the farm dwelling into the compensation of the employee. The BOA has, in the



past, approved the construction of a second farm dwelling on a specific farm lot. This type of request is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 10:21 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM

SB969

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United, Kona Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for hearing this important bill. I strongly support this farm housing bill SB969 as it would move small scale famers closer to the reality of financial sustainability. I urge you to pass SB 969 on in the committee process. Mahalo, Steve Sakala Democratic Chair for District 5

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 8:20 AM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: sharedpleasures@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM*

Categories: Red Category

SB969

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vicki levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 3:15 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM

Categories: Red Category

SB969

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: www.WeAreOne.cc

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 9:52 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: makena42@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM*

Categories: Red Category

SB969

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 10, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Turner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:18 AM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: pamelaneswald@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 17, 2015 13:20PM*

Categories: Red Category

SB969

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 17, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Neswald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:30 AM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: mauileab@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB969 on Feb 17, 2015 13:20PM*

Categories: Red Category

SB969

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HSH/AGL on Feb 17, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gaylene L Barron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha,

As a U.S. citizen, Hawai'i resident and a Pacific Islander, I write today to testify in strong support of SB 1327. This measure would redirect a portion of the cost savings and federal revenues realized by the enrollment of COFA residents to ensure their continued access to life-saving healthcare, and reduce the short- and long-term fiscal impacts of healthcare discrimination on our state, its healthcare infrastructure, and our local economy.

Where is our aloha when the state would deny equal access to healthcare to a select group of our community, many of whom are our most health-vulnerable?

For the COFA community *is* our community—our students, our neighbors, our friends, our partners, our children, *our* families. Forcing members of our community who can ill afford it to pay a \$750 out-of-pocket minimum expense, as required by the Obamacare plans available to them, will mean forcing Hawai'i families into greater poverty, and end up costing the state far more in the long run in emergency medical services.

Access to preventative healthcare is key to a healthy community *and* economy. The practice of aloha requires that we care enough about all constituents of our community here in Hawai'i and extend what safeguards we can to the COFA community through SB 1327. I have attached a few additional points below for your consideration. Please pass SB 1327.

Thank you for your aloha.

With respect,

Tagi Qolouvaki
Instructor, UH Mānoa

- 1) This bill will reduce the inestimable economic impacts of public health issues that may arise from categorically restricting access to healthcare for a health-vulnerable group. From a public health standpoint, creating barriers to medical access for a particularly health-vulnerable group, to address communicable diseases, or gain precautionary or preventative care information, may have negative impacts on public health as a whole. The relatively high co-pay and cost-sharing rates charged to indigent individuals who would otherwise go to the doctor create just such a barrier, that could easily be reduced through the relatively small state investment in this bill.
- 2) The children of our COFA community members, many of whom are Hawai'i and U.S. citizens, are seeking to develop their skills and capacity to contribute to our economic and social health, through higher education and other job training opportunities. The need to help cover the debts that may arise from a sick parent's or family member's co-pays and cost-sharing under this bill may force such enterprising young students to forego their education and specialized training, delaying their potential socioeconomic contributions for a generation or more. Such opportunity costs will, in the long-term, likely far exceed the meager state investment proposed in this measure.
- 3) For COFA community members living below the poverty line, a \$750 out-of-pocket minimum expense, as required under the Obamacare plans made available to them, may mean losing the ability to afford rent, purchase groceries and basic necessities, or support a child's education. In many cases, such individuals are likely to forego accessing medical services or purchasing prescription medication until their conditions deteriorate to the point of warranting a much more expensive, and much less effective, emergency room visit. In other words, by redirecting a portion of the approximately \$27 million in cost savings that will be realized by the state, this life-saving measure will avoid forcing our sickest and most indigent community members to choose between medical care, or supporting their families