

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND HOUSING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

HOUSE BILL NO.1737, HOUSE DRAFT 3
RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING

Chairs Gabbard and Chang, Vice Chairs Richards and Hashimoto and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1737, House Draft 3 that clarifies the permitted uses within the Agricultural District with respect to farm dwellings and farm employee housing. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) offers comments.

HD3 makes clear that farm employee housing is to be accessory to farm operations. In the case of farm dwellings, they are to be located on and accessory to farms where agricultural activities provide income to the families occupying the dwellings. This provides an opportunity for the counties to consider determining acceptable thresholds of agricultural activity and/or income from farm sales.

The Department recommends that the counties be consulted with respect to their preference on the degree of specificity regarding structural details of the farm employee housing (see bold text in following paragraph):

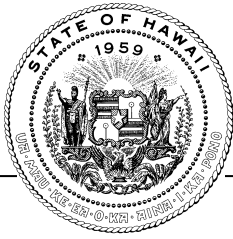
Page 9, lines 1-7

"(B) "Farm employee housing" means one or more residential dwelling units accessory to the farm operation that may be attached or detached from the primary farm dwelling; **provided that each residential dwelling unit shall not exceed eight hundred square feet of habitable area under roof;**"

Testimony of Sharon Hurd
March 18, 2026
Page 2

The Department notes there is no guidance on who may occupy these farm employee housing units.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
HB 1737, HD 3
RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING.

Chairs Gabbard and Chang, Vice Chairs Richards and Hashimoto, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Housing.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1737, HD 3, which amends HRS § 205-2 and §205-4.5 to clarify the permitted uses within the State Agricultural District with respect to farm dwellings and farm employee housing.

OPSD supports more farm employee housing on bona fide farms in the State Agricultural District. Farm employee housing helps bona fide farms retain workers and helps to alleviate the state's housing shortage. OPSD believes that HB 1737, HD 3 promotes this goal while also protecting agricultural lands from non-farm related residential uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/dpp

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

BRYAN GALLAGHER, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

REGINA MALEPEAI
2ND DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O KUALUA

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

March 18, 2026
Conference Room 224

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,
Vice Chair, and Members of Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair, The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice
Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

RE: COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1737, HD 3, RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE
HOUSING

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on House Bill No. 1737, HD 3, which amends § 205-2 and § 205-4.5 by clarifying the allowable uses within the agricultural district with respect to farm dwellings and farm employee housing.

While the City is in favor of efforts to support our agricultural industry by allowing flexibility for various forms of housing for farm workers, allowing multi-family dwellings, i.e., an apartment building, without safeguards in place is not in keeping with the desired character and intent of the agricultural district. We note that the amendments to § 205-4.5 appear to be largely consistent with the new farm worker housing use that was added to the City's Land Use Ordinance (LUO) (Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 21) under Ordinance 25-2. We also appreciate that the Bill prohibits separating ownership through a condominium property regime and using the farm dwellings for agricultural tourism and as transient vacation rentals.

Specifically, the City's LUO provides that farm worker housing may be composed of multiple single-unit, two-unit, or multi-unit dwellings; one employee and the employee's family or up to three unrelated employees may share one dwelling unit; each dwelling unit must not exceed 800 square feet of floor area; and no more than eight dwelling units are allowed in any multi-unit dwelling. The latter is the main difference between the City's LUO and the proposed Bill – the LUO provision establishes a maximum number of units per structure at eight units, rather than placing a maximum ratio of square feet of agricultural-

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
and Members of Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Senate
House Bill No. 1737, HD 3
March 18, 2026
Page 2

related structures per acre of agricultural land. We note that the proposed ratio is undetermined in the proposed Bill, and may not be the most appropriate measure since it does not align with the City's zoning regulations.

We further note that amendments to § 205-4.5 include in the definition of farm dwelling that the agricultural activity on the farm provide income to the family occupying the dwelling. In order to ensure bona fide farm income, we suggest that this Bill further define what constitutes such income, such as requiring that the farm activity provide a significant portion of the farmer's personal income, i.e., establish a threshold that must be met as evidenced by supporting, credible documentation.

In summary, we recommend that amendments to Chapter 205 be broad enough to allow consistency with each county's zoning code without creating conflicting language. Respectfully, the State should defer to the counties' localized experience and expertise to ensure that the farm worker housing is justified and, as such, allow the counties to implement further safeguards by requiring a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to ensure bona fide farm worker housing in the agricultural districts. We note that during the review of the CUP, the Director of the DPP evaluate the required agricultural plans and the amount of labor necessary to farm the land to ensure the plans justify the number of dwelling units proposed. When the associated farm is no longer in active production or no longer employing farm workers, no workers may be housed on the zoning lot.

We respectfully offer these comments on House Bill No. 1737, HD 3, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

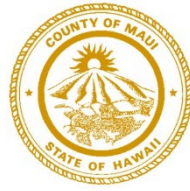
Very truly yours,



Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Housing

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB1737 HD2, RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure.

The Act clarifies the allowable uses within the agricultural district with respect to farm dwellings and farm employee housing. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. HB1737 will clarify allowable farm dwellings and accessory employee housing in agricultural districts, enabling Maui County farmers to provide safe, on-site housing for essential workers without navigating complex zoning hurdles.
2. HB1737 addresses critical workforce shortages in Maui County's agriculture sector by streamlining permitting for farm employee structures, helping retain skilled laborers amid high housing costs.
3. By promoting stable farm employee housing, HB1737 bolsters long-term food security and economic vitality on Maui County, aligning with our mission to sustain local agriculture while complementing broader state efforts for lease stability.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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

March 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON HB 1737, HD3
RELATING TO HOUSING

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Chang, Vice-Chairs Richards and Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports the intent of HB 1737, HD3, which clarifies the permitted uses within the agriculture district with respect to farm dwellings and farm employee housing.

HFB has long supported farm dwellings and farm worker housing as essential components of viable agricultural operations. On-site housing allows farmers and ranchers to live near their operations, respond to livestock and crop needs, support agricultural workers, deter agricultural crimes, and maintain productive farms, particularly in rural areas where housing options are limited. Farm dwellings and farm worker housing play an important role in sustaining local agricultural production and supporting Hawai'i's agricultural workforce.

At the same time, HFB is concerned about the misuse of agricultural lands for residential purposes that are not tied to bona fide agricultural activity. "Gentleman farms" and farm dwellings that function primarily as residential units undermine the intent of the Agricultural District, inflate land values, reduce access to land for working farmers, and create conflicts that ultimately harm legitimate agricultural operations. We support appropriate enforcement to address non-bona fide agricultural use and protect the integrity of agricultural lands.

HB 1737, HD3 provides clearer definitions of “farm dwelling” and “farm employee housing,” establishes size limitations for employee housing units, prohibits the separation of farm employee housing from the primary farm dwelling through condominium property regimes, and prohibits the use of farm dwellings for agricultural tourism or related accommodations. These provisions reinforce that such housing must remain accessory to bona fide agricultural operations and not become a pathway for residential development unrelated to farming.

HB 1737, HD3 includes language establishing a ratio of square footage per acre for farm dwellings and employee housing. While we understand the intent is to prevent abuse, we encourage the Committee to ensure that any statewide ratio does not conflict with or supersede county zoning standards. Hawai'i's counties differ significantly in parcel size, zoning structure, and agricultural conditions. Counties are best positioned to regulate development intensity, building size, setbacks, and related standards through their permitting processes. Clarifying that county zoning authority remains intact, or removing the ratio language to avoid unintended conflicts, would help preserve the traditional division of responsibilities between the State and the counties.

Chapter 205 establishes permissible land uses at the State level, while counties retain authority over zoning, building standards, and the regulation of size, placement, and design of dwellings. Preserving that balance will help ensure consistent implementation while avoiding unintended consequences.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

March 18, 2026, 3 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 415 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Housing

Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair
Sen. Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1737 HD3 — RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and other Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** — and **offers amendments** to — [HB1737 HD2](#), which would add a definition of the term “farm employee housing” to state law.

Under the bill, farm employee housing would be defined as “one or more residential dwelling units accessory to the farm operation that may be attached or detached from the primary farm dwelling; provided that the farm employee housing shall be no larger than eight hundred habitable square feet under roof per residential dwelling unit.”

Grassroot pointed out in its January 2026 policy brief “[How to facilitate more housing for Hawaii farm and ranch workers](#)” that a lack of affordable housing has consistently been cited as a barrier to expanding agricultural production in Hawaii. The report also made clear that there is no statewide standard for how and where farm employee housing can be built.

Regarding the proposed amendment, Grassroot believes that farmers and ranchers in counties without an 800 square foot cap on the size of farm employee homes should not have to redesign existing farm employee and

farm labor dwellings to comply with this bill. In other words, while statewide clarity regarding farm employee housing is much needed, any new state law governing farmworker housing should not be more strict than regulations that are currently in place at the county level.

Thus, Grassroot believes this bill should include the following underlined language:

"Farm employee housing" means one or more residential dwelling units accessory to the farm operation that may be attached or detached from the primary farm dwelling; provided that the farm employee housing shall be no larger than eight hundred habitable square feet under roof per residential dwelling unit; provided further that farm employee housing for which a building permit or a certificate of occupancy has been approved under a county ordinance prior to the effective date of this act shall be considered nonconforming;

Grassroot also believes that this measure should give farmers, ranchers and the counties greater clarity as to how permits for farm employee housing should be processed. Research indicates that public hearing processes can complicate approvals and slow down the review process for applicants.¹ Adding the following underlined language to the bill would simplify the permitting process:

provided that the total land area upon which the farm dwelling, farm employee housing, and all appurtenances are situated shall be no larger than a ratio of _____ square feet per acre of agricultural land leased to the fee owner of the farm dwelling; provided further that no fee owner of the farm dwelling shall submit any portion thereof to a condominium property regime to separate the ownership of the farm employee housing units from the farm dwelling pursuant to chapter 514B; provided further that no portion of the farm dwelling shall be used for agricultural tourism or related accommodations under paragraph (14); provided further that the county planning director shall have the authority to approve plans for farm employee housing without a public hearing;

Approving this bill with these amendments would give farmers and ranchers an extra tool to help attract and retain workers, because living on the land could minimize commute times and transportation expenses.

Consider the following information:

>> Hawaii imports 85-90% of its food supply.²

>> A 2020 U.S. Department of Agriculture survey found that 41% of the state's farmers and ranchers cited a lack of labor as a barrier to expanding their operations.³

¹ Michael Manville, Paavo Monkkonen and Nolan Gray et al., "[Does Discretion Delay Development?](#)" Journal of the American Planning Association, Vol. 89, Issue 23, 2023.

² Hannah Leto, Jordan Mitkowski and Katie Hogan et al., "[Agricultural Labor on Hawai'i Island](#)," Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University, May 2025, p. 1.

³ "[Labor Shortage as a Barrier to Agricultural Expansion 2020](#)," Hawaii Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, April 2022.

>> More than 9,500 people in Hawaii were employed as “hired farm labor” in 2023.⁴

>> More than half of those people worked on farms and ranches on Hawaii Island alone,⁵ but only one-quarter of Hawaii Island farmers reported hiring labor.

Allowing more housing on farms and ranches, especially for temporary and seasonal workers, would be a win for farm and ranch owners, a win for their employees and a win for everyone who enjoys local food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

⁴ [“Hawaii PYs 2024-2027,”](#) Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, p. 70.

⁵ Hannah Leto, Jordan Mitkowski and Katie Hogan et al., [“Agricultural Labor on Hawai‘i Island,”](#) Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University, May 2025, pp. 4-5.



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Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Chang, Vice Chairs Richards & Hashimoto, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB1737.**

By making farm employee housing an allowable use within the agricultural district, HB1737 helps farmers provide housing for their workforce while maintaining appropriate safeguards to ensure these dwellings remain tied to agricultural use.

The high costs of living, especially housing, have historically made it difficult for agricultural operations to compete with other industries in retaining skilled labor. On-site housing not only alleviates commuting burdens but also makes farm employment a more attractive and sustainable option for residents, promoting a stable and dedicated agricultural workforce.

We suggest a clear definition of affordable as it applies to agricultural workers to prevent misuse or speculative conversion of these units. While the 30% of income (HUD affordability standard), and 80% AMI (HUD low-income threshold) standards offer baselines, those metrics reflect the broader economy and do not accurately represent agricultural wages. A stronger approach would base affordability on actual agricultural wage data, such as the median annual wage for agricultural workers. Grounding the definition in real farmworker earnings would ensure these units remain genuinely affordable to the workforce they are intended to serve, rather than nominally affordable under standards that exceed typical agricultural incomes.

Ensuring that farm employee housing remains truly workforce-focused and accessible to agricultural laborers will help preserve agricultural lands for productive use, support family farmers, and advance Hawai'i's broader food security and sustainability goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:55:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbra Green	Testifying for The Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in support of this measure.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:40:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Nellis	Testifying for Dole Food Company Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dole Food Company Hawaii is in support of this bill clarifying the allowable use of agricultural workforce housing on Agriculture zoned land. Our ag labor shortage needs to be addressed and allowing affordable ag labor housing on farms is a step in the right direction.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:35:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oh my gosh, are you kidding me? Working on a "farm" or any endeavor to grow any type of food or livestock is super hard work. ADU's a MUST, let people live where they work. Mahalo!

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:36:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Alles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ive heard that farmers are getting squeezed by how hard it is to find good help. Please vote for HB1737 and SB2006 to give them the ability to Build Housing for their employees, that would let them offer the housing as a perk of working on the farm. Would also save on Gas and Fuel costs for the employees!

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:08:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelo Hanza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcelo Hanza and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1737 which would clarify that farm employee housing is a permitted use within the agricultural district as an accessory structure to a farm dwelling.

Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector faces a compounding crisis. A 2020 survey of farmers across the state found that 41% reported a lack of labor as a barrier to expanding their operations, and a significant reason for that is the lack of housing for agricultural workers. At the same time, there is currently no statewide standard for how and where farm employee housing can be built, leaving farmers and ranchers without the clarity and consistency they need to plan their operations and invest in their workforce.

This bill takes a sensible, targeted step to address both problems at once. By defining farm employee housing as residential dwelling units accessory to a farm operation, the measure gives farmers and ranchers an additional tool to attract and retain workers, with the practical benefit that living on the land can minimize commute times and transportation expenses for employees. The bill also wisely prohibits the use of these units as vacation rentals, ensuring that this housing pathway serves its intended purpose: supporting the people who grow our food.

Hawai‘i’s food security and agricultural vitality depend on a stable workforce. Enabling farmers and ranchers to provide modest, on-site housing for their employees is not a dramatic policy shift — it is a practical, overdue recognition of how working farms actually function. It strengthens agricultural communities, supports working families, and helps ensure that locally grown food remains a viable part of our economy and culture.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Marcelo Hanza
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:37:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Hinshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi - Please vote YES on sb2006 and hb1737 when you hear it in committee. It lets farmers and ranchers build small homes for their families and workers. Hawaii needs more people working on the land, and this bill is a great way to encourage rural lifestyles. The ability to have people living on the farm will help to reduce theft of agriculture products and provide timely aid to livestock suffering from illness or injury.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:38:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane D Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 2006 along with H.B. 1737. Small homes make agriculture more realistic for young people starting out. Without housing options, we lose the next generation of farmers. These bills are practical and overdue. Please pass them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:39:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Dillon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1737 and SB2006. ADUs on farms are not luxury housing. They are simple homes for families and workers. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:41:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Feike	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will make it easier for people who live on farms to build small homes. This would be good for Hawaii's farms, because it would get more people in touch with nature, and also it would help housing be more affordable. Please pass this bill.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:42:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Roy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass S.B. 2006 and H.B. 1737. These bills will help farmers stay rooted in Hawaii. ADUs are a reasonable way to support agriculture.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:46:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alessio Stossich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will make it easier for people who live on farms to build small homes. This would be good for Hawaii's farms, because it would get more people in touch with nature, and also it would help housing be more affordable. Please pass this bill.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:47:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit testimony in support of sb2006 and hb1737. This change helps farmers stay on their land and keep producing food.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:49:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Posatiere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support HB1737 & SB2006 because farmers already face enough challenges. Housing should not be one of them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:49:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support House Bill 1737 / Senate Bill 2006 because agriculture depends on people living on the land. ADUs will help make that possible. I live on Ag5 land. My wifes mother is probably coming to live with us. There is room in the house for her, but at 94 we may need to bring in an onsite health provider. The way the laws are written I cannot do that now.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:01:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John-Michael Kamakahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im writing in support of hb1737 and sb2006. Farming is often a family business, and housing flexibility helps families stay together. These bills reflect the reality of rural life in Hawaii.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:50:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Bernier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 2006 along with H.B. 1737. Small homes make agriculture more realistic for young people starting out. Without housing options, we lose the next generation of farmers. These bills are practical and overdue. Please pass them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:39:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Monoscalco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit testimony in support of sb2006 and hb1737. This change helps farmers stay on their land and keep producing food. We need more local food production.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:51:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Hastings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote yes on House Bill 1737 and Senate Bill 2006. Farmers and ranchers deserve reasonable housing options. These bills are common sense.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:53:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Erickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support House Bill 1737 and Senate Bill 2006 because farming is a family commitment, not just a job. Families grow, kupuna need care, and workers need stable housing. ADUs give farmers flexibility without harming agricultural land. This is a common sense change. Please vote yes!

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:57:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Wendt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I support HB 1737 & SB 2006. Farming families grow and change over time. Small homes help them adapt without harming ag land.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:58:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willa Marten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support House Bill 1737 and Senate Bill 2006. Letting people live where they work makes sense, especially on farms.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:59:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Tamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members - I strongly support hb1737 and sb2006. These bills remove barriers that dont make sense anymore. I hope you will approve them!

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:00:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronda Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of sb2006 and hb1737. Workers need affordable places to live, and farms need workers. Allowing housing on farms helps solve both problems. I need help to farm but have no proper dwelling under the current 200 sq ft allowance. That is not adequate space for one person let alone a couple to desire to work our farm.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:02:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I strongly support sb2006 & hb1737. Let farmers farm and live on their land.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:52:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Takeya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 1737 / S.B. 2006. If farmers cant afford to live here, they will leave. That means less local food for everyone. These bills help keep agriculture alive.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:03:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Pelca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1737 / SB 2006. The current rules make it harder to house farm workers even when there is plenty of land. That doesnt make sense during a housing shortage. Allowing ADUs helps farms stay staffed and productive. It also strengthens the connection between people and the land they work. Hawaii needs more local food, not more barriers.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:06:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Starr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members - I strongly support hb1737 and sb2006. These bills remove barriers that dont make sense anymore. I hope you will approve them!

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:03:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Askman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass H.B. 1737 and S.B. 2006. Farmers need housing options that fit farm life. This change is overdue.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:08:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Lutzenhiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im writing in strong support of House Bill 1737 and Senate Bill 2006. Farming in Hawaii is already expensive and unpredictable, and housing rules only make it harder. Farmers should be able to build small homes for themselves, their kids or their workers on land they actively farm. This isnt about development, its about survival. If farmers cant live on their land, they wont stay in agriculture. This will not only add more housing; that is desperately needed, but it can also create more jobs. Mahalo.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:09:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tawna Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 1737 / S.B. 2006. If farmers cant afford to live here, they will leave. That means less local food for everyone. These bills help keep agriculture alive.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:09:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Vetter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I support House Bill 1737 / Senate Bill 2006. ADUs on farms help attract and keep good workers. These bills help farmers focus on farming instead of looking for employees. Please pass them this year.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:18:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fawn Bertram	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi - Please vote YES on sb2006 and hb1737 when you hear it in committee. It lets farmers and ranchers build small homes for their families and workers. Hawaii needs more people working on the land, and this bill is a great way to encourage rural lifestyles.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:19:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Aipa-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I strongly support sb2006 & hb1737. Let farmers farm and live on their land.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:20:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Ann Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1737 and SB2006. ADUs on farms are not luxury housing. They are simple homes for families and workers. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:22:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am submitting testimony in support of S.B. 2006 along with H.B. 1737. Small homes make agriculture more realistic for young people starting out. Without housing options, we lose the next generation of farmers. These bills are practical and overdue. Please pass them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:21:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tre Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1737 / sb2006 because too many farmers are being forced out. Housing flexibility helps them stay and provides stability for them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:24:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 1737 and Senate Bill 2006 because housing is one of the biggest challenges facing farmers today. ADUs help families stay together and help farms stay open. This is a practical solution. Please vote yes.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:25:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Bruno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support HB1737 & SB2006 because farmers already face enough challenges. Housing should not be one of them.

HB-1737-HD-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:23:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Hanna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass S.B. 2006 and H.B. 1737. These bills will help farmers stay rooted in Hawaii. ADUs are a reasonable way to support agriculture.