SCR 145 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO CONVENE AN AGRICULTURE LABOR TASK FORCE

Chairs Gabbard and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Riviere and English, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Labor:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 145.

For commercial agriculture to be successful in Hawaii’, sufficient farm labor and affordable housing for farm workers, are two of the main issues that will need creative solutions. In fact, sufficient farm labor is an issue facing agriculture nationally, not just in Hawaii’. Aspects of the problem include labor that is paid a viable living wage, availability of housing, skills to do the job, and a dependable farm labor force.

Since the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is requested within the resolution to be a member of the task force, we feel that the college has people well-qualified in the area of Human Resources to provide meaningful participation.

The college can, and is willing, to participate as resources allow.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 145.