
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The department of agriculture shall
2 establish an agricultural workforce housing working group to
3 address the shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce
4 housing in the State.

5 (b) The working group shall comprise the following members
6 or their designees:

- 7 (1) The governor;
- 8 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, who shall
9 serve as co-chair of the working group;
- 10 (3) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission;
- 11 (4) The director of labor and industrial relations;
- 12 (5) The director of taxation;
- 13 (6) The administrator of the state procurement office;
- 14 (7) The chairperson of the agribusiness development
15 corporation, who shall serve as co-chair of the
16 working group;



- 1 (8) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance
2 and development corporation;
- 3 (9) The executive director of the Hawaii public housing
4 authority;
- 5 (10) The chairperson of the land use commission;
- 6 (11) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
7 development;
- 8 (12) The chief of the department of health clean water
9 branch;
- 10 (13) The chief engineer of the department of land and
11 natural resources engineering division;
- 12 (14) The deputy director for the department of
13 transportation highways division;
- 14 (15) The chairperson of the commission on water resource
15 management;
- 16 (16) The mayor of each county;
- 17 (17) The director of each county planning department;
- 18 (18) The director of each county housing department; and
- 19 (19) The chief engineer of each county board of water
20 supply.



1 (c) The co-chairs of the working group shall invite one
2 representative from each of the following organizations to
3 participate as a member of the working group:

- 4 (1) Hawaii Agricultural Foundation;
- 5 (2) Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;
- 6 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau; and
- 7 (4) Hawaii Farmers Union United.

8 (d) The co-chairs of the working group may invite other
9 individuals with relevant knowledge and expertise to serve as
10 working group members.

11 (e) No member shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii
12 Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation
13 as a member of the working group.

14 (f) The department of agriculture is requested to provide
15 administrative support to the working group.

16 (g) The working group shall:

17 (1) Determine:

18 (A) The specific housing needs of each agricultural
19 workforce within each county; and



- 1 (B) Existing government resources available for
2 adaptive reuse into agricultural workforce
3 housing;
- 4 (2) Assess existing laws, policies, and procedures that
5 would allow the construction of workforce housing:
6 (A) Near agricultural zones; or
7 (B) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
8 developmental zones;
- 9 (3) Consider any revisions necessary to existing zoning
10 and land use policies that would allow the
11 construction of workforce housing:
12 (A) Near agricultural zones; or
13 (B) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
14 developmental zones;
- 15 (4) Explore partnerships with private and public entities
16 to construct agricultural workforce housing projects;
- 17 (5) Identify any financial incentives, such as tax credit
18 programs for agricultural employers who invest in
19 housing solutions for their workforce, that would
20 support the construction of agricultural workforce
21 housing projects in the State; and



1 (6) Study the feasibility of implementing a state income
2 tax credit to investors who incur costs to construct,
3 install, acquire, or rehabilitate agricultural
4 workforce housing in the State.

5 (h) The working group shall submit an interim report of
6 its progress, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the regular session of 2025, and submit a final report of its
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

12 (i) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2026.

13 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

14

INTRODUCED BY:  

S.B. NO. 2961

Report Title:

DOA; Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group; Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish an Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group to address the shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce housing in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

