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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's climate,  
2 with a year-round growing season and ample rain in many areas,  
3 offers several potential advantages for growing plant-based  
4 materials that can be processed into structural building  
5 materials. For example, there are types of clumping bamboo that  
6 can grow very rapidly with sufficient water; be processed into  
7 building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter  
8 than timber or steel; and be made more fire- and termite-  
9 resistant than wood. For example, "hempcrete", developed from  
10 industrial hemp, can substitute for building blocks, while  
11 "biocements", produced from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae or  
12 "pond scum"), can substitute for Portland cement.

13           The legislature further finds that these and other plant-  
14 based building materials could also attract green agricultural  
15 jobs to Hawaii. The legislature also finds that the use of  
16 plant-based building materials could help the State meet its net  
17 negative carbon and greenhouse gas goals because they sequester



1 carbon, whereas the production of traditional building  
2 materials, such as timber, steel, and cement, emit very large  
3 amounts of greenhouse gases.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
5 appropriate funds for a working group to study and report on how  
6 best to grow plants and develop plant-based building materials  
7 in Hawaii.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the university  
9 of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human  
10 resources a plant-based building materials working group to  
11 study and report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-  
12 based building materials in Hawaii, including for the provision  
13 of green agricultural jobs in Hawaii and the sequestration of  
14 carbon and greenhouse gases to help the State meet its net  
15 negative carbon and greenhouse gas goals.

16 (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
17 members:

18 (1) The dean and director for research and cooperative  
19 extension of the university of Hawaii, or the dean and  
20 director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson of  
21 the working group;



- 1           (2) The director of the university of Hawaii at Hilo  
2           college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource  
3           management, or the director's designee;
- 4           (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
5           chairperson's designee;
- 6           (4) The coordinator of the Hawaii climate change  
7           mitigation and adaptation commission;
- 8           (5) Four individuals who have expertise in growing or  
9           producing plant-based building materials, to be  
10          invited by the chairperson of the working group;
- 11          (6) An expert in building materials, to be invited by the  
12          chairperson of the working group, in consultation with  
13          the General Contractors Association of Hawaii; and
- 14          (7) Additional members with appropriate specialized  
15          expertise, as recommended by the members of the  
16          working group and at the discretion of and to be  
17          invited by the chairperson of the working group.
- 18          (c) Members of the working group shall serve without  
19          compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses  
20          incurred in the performance of their duties, including travel  
21          expenses.



- 1 (d) The working group shall submit to the legislature:  
2 (1) An interim report regarding the progress of its work  
3 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the regular session of 2026; and  
5 (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations,  
6 including any proposed legislation, no later than  
7 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
8 session of 2027.  
9 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2026-2027 to support the work of the plant-based building  
15 materials working group established pursuant to section 2 of  
16 this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university  
18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

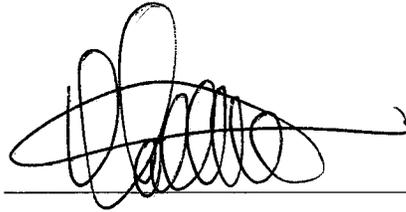
19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO. 1185

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 22 2025



# H.B. NO. 1185

**Report Title:**

UHCTAHR; Plant-based Building Materials Working Group;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Plant-based Building Materials Working Group to study and report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-based building materials in Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

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

