
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BUILDING MATERIALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is
2 experiencing an ongoing housing crisis marked by a severe
3 shortage of affordable housing, escalating construction costs,
4 and heavy reliance on imported building materials. These
5 challenges are compounded by the State's geographic isolation,
6 vulnerability to supply chain disruptions, and the urgent need
7 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate
8 resilience in the built environment.

9 The legislature further finds that hempcrete, also known as
10 hemp-lime, is a bio-composite building material made from the
11 woody core of the industrial hemp plant, combined with a lime-
12 based binder and water. Hempcrete is widely used
13 internationally as a non-structural building material for wall
14 infill, insulation, and plaster. Hempcrete is fire-resistant,
15 mold-resistant, pest-resistant, breathable, and capable of
16 sequestering carbon over its lifecycle.



1 The legislature recognizes that indigenous nations and
2 tribal communities in the continental United States, including
3 tribes in Minnesota, have been leaders in advancing hempcrete
4 construction as a means of promoting sustainable housing,
5 cultural self-determination, workforce development, and
6 community resilience. These efforts demonstrate how natural
7 building materials can support housing needs while aligning with
8 values of stewardship, self-sufficiency, and long-term
9 environmental responsibility.

10 The legislature additionally finds that clarifying
11 hempcrete as an approved non-structural building material in
12 state law will reduce regulatory uncertainty, lower barriers to
13 innovation in construction, and allow builders, architects, and
14 homeowners to utilize this material without requiring repeated
15 variances or discretionary approvals. By enabling broader use
16 of hempcrete, Hawaii can support the development of more
17 climate-appropriate housing, diversify construction methods,
18 reduce material costs over time, and help expand the supply of
19 housing necessary to address the State's housing crisis.

20 The purpose of this Act is to support the development of
21 sustainable, affordable, and resilient housing in the State by:



(1) Recognizing hempcrete, also known as hemp-lime, as an allowable non-structural building material under state law;

(2) Clarifying that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a hempcrete; and

(3) Providing clear authority for building officials to approve hempcrete construction that meets applicable safety and performance standards.

SECTION 2. Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§107- Hempcrete use; building material. (a)
Hempcrete, also known as hemp-lime, shall be recognized as an allowable non-structural building material in the State.

(b) No provision of the Hawaii state building codes or any county building code shall prohibit or otherwise limit the use of hempcrete as a non-structural building material.

(c) Hempcrete shall be permitted for use in non-load-bearing construction; provided that the material and the material's application shall comply with all applicable requirements relating to:



1 (1) Fire safety;

2 (2) Structural integrity of the overall building system;

3 (3) Moisture management and durability;

4 (4) Energy efficiency; and

5 (5) Health and safety standards.

6 (d) Hempcrete shall not be used as a load-bearing
7 structural element unless otherwise approved pursuant to
8 applicable state building codes and standards as recognized in
9 section 107-25.

10 (e) State and county building officials may approve the
11 use of hempcrete as a non-structural building material without
12 requiring a variance; provided that the proposed use of
13 hempcrete shall comply with applicable state building codes,
14 rules, and standards.

15 (f) The department, in consultation with the counties, may
16 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section.
17 Rules adopted pursuant to this section may include providing
18 guidance regarding approval of hempcrete construction consistent
19 with applicable state building codes and nationally recognized
20 standards.

21 (g) As used in this section:



1 "Hemp" means Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant,
2 including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts,
3 cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers,
4 whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol
5 concentration of no more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight
6 basis.

7 "Hempcrete" or "hemp-lime" means a bio-composite material
8 consisting of the woody core of industrial hemp, a lime-based
9 binder, and water.

10 "Industrial hemp" means hemp:

11 (1) Grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber
12 produced from such a stalk, or any other non-
13 cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or
14 manufacture of such a stalk;

15 (2) Grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut,
16 hull, or any other non-cannabinoid compound,
17 derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of
18 the seeds of such plant;

19 (3) Grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other
20 edible hemp leaf products intended for human
21 consumption that are derived from an immature hemp



1 plant that is grown from seeds with a total
2 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no more than 0.3
3 per cent on a dry weight basis;

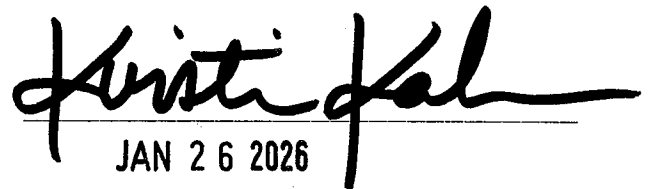
4 (4) That is a plant that does not enter the stream of
5 commerce and is intended to support hemp research at
6 an institution of higher education or an independent
7 research institute; or

8 (5) Grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant
9 produced solely for the production or manufacture of
10 any material described in paragraphs (1) through (4)."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13 INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2151

Report Title:

State Building Codes; County Building Codes; Hempcrete

Description:

Recognizes hempcrete as an allowable non-structural building material under state law. Clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of hempcrete. Provides the authority for building officials to approve hempcrete construction that meets applicable safety and performance standards.

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