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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING.

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

1       SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department  
2 of agriculture and biosecurity for administrative purposes an  
3 agricultural workforce housing working group to address the  
4 shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce housing in the  
5 State.

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

8       (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
9       biosecurity, who shall serve as co-chair of the  
10       working group;

11       (2) The chairperson of the agribusiness development  
12       corporation, who shall serve as co-chair of the  
13       working group;

14       (3) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance  
15       and development corporation;

16       (4) The chairperson of the land use commission; and



(5) The director of the office of planning and sustainable development.

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

(1) Hawaii Agricultural Foundation;

(2) Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;

(3) Hawaii Farm Bureau; and

(4) Hawaii Farmers Union United.

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

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

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

(g) The working group shall:

(1) Determine:



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



support the construction of agricultural workforce housing projects in the State; and

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

(h) The working group shall submit an interim report of its progress, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028, and submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2029.

(i) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2029.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the agricultural workforce housing working group established in section 1 of this Act to gather the necessary data and prepare the required reports, including any consultation fees and related expenses.



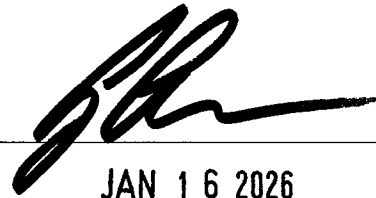
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1       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2       agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

3       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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JAN 16 2026



# H.B. NO. 1604

**Report Title:**

DAB; Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group; Report;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes an Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to address the shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce housing in the State. Requires reports to the Legislature. 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.*

