
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) 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



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

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

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

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

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

19 (g) The working group shall:

20 (1) Determine:





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

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

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

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



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.

