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# 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 agricultural workforce housing working group shall  
7 comprise the following members 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 board of directors of the  
12           agribusiness development corporation, who shall serve  
13           as co-chair of the 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



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

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

7 (1) Hawaii Agricultural Foundation;

8 (2) Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;

9 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau; and

10 (4) Hawaii Farmers Union United.

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

14 (e) The department of agriculture and biosecurity may  
15 provide administrative support to the working group.

16 (f) The agricultural workforce housing working group  
17 shall:

18 (1) Gather data and information and survey farm operators  
19 to assess the realistic demand for farm workers;

20 (2) Determine the specific housing needs of each  
21 agricultural workforce within each county;



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



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

12 (h) The agricultural workforce housing working group shall  
13 be dissolved on June 30, 2029.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
17 the agricultural workforce housing working group established in  
18 section 1 of this Act to gather the necessary data and prepare  
19 the required reports, including any consultation fees and  
20 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, 3000.



**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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

