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# 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 use this material without needing 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 (1) Clarifying that no state or county building code shall  
2 prohibit the use of a hempcrete as a non-structural  
3 building material; and

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

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

10 "§107- Hempcrete use; building material. (a) Except  
11 as provided in subsection (b), no provision of the Hawaii state  
12 building codes or any county building code shall prohibit or  
13 otherwise limit the use of hempcrete as a non-structural  
14 building material.

15 (b) Hempcrete may be used in non-load-bearing  
16 construction; provided that the material and the material's  
17 application shall comply with all applicable requirements  
18 relating to:

19 (1) Fire safety;

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

21 (3) Moisture management and durability;



1       (4) Energy efficiency; and

2       (5) Health and safety standards.

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

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

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

18       (f) As used in this section:

19       "Hemp" means Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant,  
20 including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts,  
21 cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers,



1 whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol  
2 concentration of no more than 0.3 per cent on a dry weight  
3 basis.

4 "Hempcrete" means a bio-composite material consisting of  
5 the woody core of industrial hemp, a lime-based binder, and  
6 water.

7 "Industrial hemp" means hemp:

- 8 (1) Grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber  
9 produced from such a stalk, or any other non-  
10 cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or  
11 manufacture of such a stalk;
- 12 (2) Grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut,  
13 hull, or any other non-cannabinoid compound,  
14 derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of  
15 the seeds of such plant;
- 16 (3) Grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other  
17 edible hemp leaf products intended for human  
18 consumption that are derived from an immature hemp  
19 plant that is grown from seeds with a total  
20 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of no more than 0.3  
21 per cent on a dry weight basis;



- 1        (4) That is a plant that does not enter the stream of  
2        commerce and is intended to support hemp research at  
3        an institution of higher education or an independent  
4        research institute; or  
5        (5) Grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant  
6        produced solely for the production or manufacture of  
7        any material described in paragraphs (1) through (4)."

8        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

State Building Codes; County Building Codes; Hempcrete

**Description:**

Specifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of hempcrete as a non-structural building material. Authorizes building officials to approve hempcrete construction that meets applicable safety and performance standards. 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.*

