
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OHANA ZONES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to subpart B of part XVIII to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§346- Ohana zones program; establishment; reports.

5 (a) There is established within the statewide office on
6 homelessness and housing solutions the ohana zones program to
7 provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals
8 and families based on principles similar to the housing first
9 program.

10 (b) The office shall determine the number and locations of
11 ohana zone sites, which shall be situated on public or private
12 lands in accordance with subsection (c).

13 (c) The office may coordinate with public or private
14 entities, as appropriate, to develop and implement the ohana
15 zones program; provided that:



- 1 (1) If any public land under the jurisdiction of a state
2 or county agency is determined to be suitable for use
3 as an ohana zone, the office shall:
- 4 (A) Work with the appropriate state or county agency
5 that controls the land to transfer the land
6 designated for use as an ohana zone to an agency
7 whose mission is more suited to the management of
8 ohana zones; and
- 9 (B) Work with the appropriate state or county agency
10 that controls the land and its construction
11 agency to ensure that an ohana zone's
12 infrastructure needs are met and minimize adverse
13 impacts to the environment, including to
14 nearshore resources, such as corals, reef fish,
15 and seabirds;
- 16 (2) Use of any private lands determined to be suitable for
17 use as an ohana zone shall be for limited purposes and
18 require a written agreement between the private land
19 owner and any state or county agency that any
20 structure built with public funds may be moved or is
21 temporary; provided further that, if the land ceases



1 to be used for an ohana zone or low-income housing
2 before the time specified in the agreement, the state
3 or county agency may choose to move the structure off
4 the private land to a location of the state or county
5 agency's choosing; and

6 (3) The ohana zones program may allow for off-the-grid
7 technologies that can:

8 (A) Provide drinking water and electricity; and

9 (B) Process sewage,

10 without existing infrastructure; provided further that
11 ohana zone sites with the ability to hook up to
12 electricity, water, and sewer shall be preferred when
13 considering ohana zone sites; provided further that
14 connections to these utilities shall be made as soon
15 as the project is able, unless there is a more cost-
16 effective renewable energy option.

17 (d) The ohana zones program may provide the following
18 facilities and services at each ohana zone site:

19 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:

20 (A) May be private or communal;



1 (B) Have access to toilets, showers, and other
2 hygiene facilities; and
3 (C) Have access to an area for food storage and meal
4 preparation;
5 (2) Medical and social support services; and
6 (3) Transportation to appointments related to medical care
7 or supportive services that are not available onsite;
8 provided that a person receiving accommodations or services from
9 an ohana zone site may request a ninety-day extension of the
10 person's receipt of accommodations or services, subject to
11 approval by the applicable ohana zone site and other eligibility
12 criteria as determined by each ohana zone site.
13 (e) Contracts entered into by the office shall be exempt
14 from the requirements of chapters 6E, excluding section 6E-43.6;
15 46, excluding sections 46-1.5(5)(D), 46-1.5(14)(A)(iii),
16 46-88(c)(5), and 46-88(j); 103D; 103F; and 343; provided that no
17 contract entered into pursuant to the ohana zones program or
18 structures constructed thereunder shall be exempt from county,
19 state, or federal floodplain management development standards,
20 or statutes, codes, ordinances, rules, or regulations with which



1 compliance is required under the National Flood Insurance
2 Program.

3 (f) The office shall establish the following:

4 (1) The criteria that the agencies shall use to evaluate
5 potential ohana zone locations;

6 (2) A monthly timetable of milestones that the office
7 expects to meet in establishing ohana zones;

8 (3) The specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and
9 time-based performance measures that the office
10 expects to meet at the end of each fiscal year;

11 (4) The evaluation criteria and process that the office
12 shall use each year when reviewing the success and
13 sustainability of the ohana zones; and

14 (5) The monitoring and oversight controls that the office
15 shall establish over the ohana zones to identify,
16 address, and prevent possible fraud, waste, and abuse
17 and ensure compliance with local, state, and federal
18 laws.

19 (g) The coordinator shall compile and consolidate
20 information from the office to effectuate this section and
21 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of each regular session, which shall
2 include:

3 (1) A summary and explanation of the process that the
4 office engaged in to identify possible ohana zone
5 locations;

6 (2) The milestones established pursuant to subsection (f)
7 that were met by the office and ohana zones
8 established during the immediately preceding fiscal
9 year;

10 (3) An evaluation of the ohana zones to determine whether
11 the objectives set have been met or exceeded;

12 (4) Any proposed changes that need to be made to the
13 performance measures used to assess the achievement of
14 program goals;

15 (5) An assessment of the impact of the ohana zone model on
16 the homelessness problem in the State; and

17 (6) A summary of the information required under
18 subsection (f)."

19 SECTION 2. Section 201H-36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:



1 "(a) In accordance with section 237-29, the corporation
2 may approve and certify for exemption from general excise taxes
3 any qualified person or firm involved with a newly constructed,
4 or a moderately or substantially rehabilitated, project that is:
5 (1) Developed under this part;
6 (2) Developed under a government assistance program
7 approved by the corporation, including but not limited
8 to the United States Department of Agriculture's
9 section 502 direct loan program [~~and~~], Federal Housing
10 Administration's section 235 program[+], and the ohana
11 zones program established under section 346- ;
12 (3) Developed under the sponsorship of a private nonprofit
13 organization providing home rehabilitation or new
14 homes for qualified families in need of decent,
15 low-cost housing;
16 (4) Developed by a qualified person or firm to provide
17 affordable rental housing where at least fifty per
18 cent of the available units are for households with
19 incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area median
20 family income as determined by the United States
21 Department of Housing and Urban Development, of which



1 at least twenty per cent of the available units are
2 for households with incomes at or below sixty per cent
3 of the area median family income as determined by the
4 United States Department of Housing and Urban
5 Development; or
6 (5) Approved or certified from July 1, 2018, to June 30,
7 2030, and developed under a contract described in
8 section 104-2(i)(2) by a qualified person or firm to
9 provide affordable rental housing through new
10 construction or substantial rehabilitation; provided
11 that:
12 (A) The allowable general excise tax and use tax
13 costs shall apply to contracting only and shall
14 not exceed \$30,000,000 per year in the aggregate
15 for all projects approved and certified by the
16 corporation; and
17 (B) All available units are for households with
18 incomes at or below one hundred forty per cent of
19 the area median family income as determined by
20 the United States Department of Housing and Urban
21 Development, of which at least twenty per cent of



1 the available units are for households with
 2 incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area
 3 median family income as determined by the United
 4 States Department of Housing and Urban
 5 Development; provided further that an owner shall
 6 not refuse to lease a unit solely because the
 7 applicant holds a voucher or certificate of
 8 eligibility under section 8 of the United States
 9 Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

10 (b) To obtain certification for exemption under this
 11 section, rental housing projects shall, unless exempted by the
 12 corporation, enter into a regulatory agreement with the
 13 corporation to ensure the project's continued compliance with
 14 the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in subsection
 15 (a), as follows:

- 16 (1) For moderate rehabilitation projects, a minimum term
 17 of five years as specified in a regulatory agreement;
- 18 (2) For substantial rehabilitation projects^[7] and ohana
 19 zones projects under contracts entered into pursuant
 20 to section 346- , a minimum term of ten years as
 21 specified in a regulatory agreement; or



1 (3) For new construction projects, a minimum term of
2 thirty years from the date of issuance of the
3 certificate of occupancy."

4 SECTION 3. Section 346-361, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
6 inserted and to read as follows:

7 "Kauhale" means:

8 (1) A program to address the basic needs of individuals
9 experiencing houselessness; and

10 (2) Affordable housing spaces that are communal living
11 spaces with individual household units and charge
12 monthly rents no more than thirty per cent of the area
13 median income level.

14 "Ohana zone" means a place:

15 (1) That has a program to address basic needs of
16 individuals experiencing homelessness; and

17 (2) Where wrap-around services, social and health care
18 services, transportation, and other services may be
19 offered with the goals of alleviating poverty and
20 transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness
21 into affordable housing.



1 "Ohana zone" includes a kauhale."

2 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
3 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
5 the ohana zones program's transient temporary housing; provided
6 that no more than \$ in general funds shall be spent on
7 kauhale.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 human services for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
13 the development and management of kauhales or semi-permanent
14 housing to transition persons out of homelessness.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 human services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

SOHHS; Ohana Zones Program; Establishment; HHFDC; General Excise Tax; Exemption; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Ohana Zones Program as a program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to exempt ohana zones projects from general excise taxes. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

