
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 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;



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

3 (6) The chairperson of the board of trustees of the office
4 of Hawaiian affairs; and

5 (7) The mayors of each county.

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

9 (1) Hawaii Agricultural Foundation;

10 (2) Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;

11 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau; and

12 (4) Hawaii Farmers Union United.

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

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

18 (f) The working group shall:

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

21 (2) 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 (3) Assess existing laws, policies, and procedures that
- 7 would allow the construction of agricultural workforce
- 8 housing:
- 9 (A) Near agricultural zones; or
- 10 (B) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
- 11 developmental zones;
- 12 (4) Consider any revisions necessary to existing zoning,
- 13 building, and land use policies that would allow the
- 14 construction of:
- 15 (A) Workforce housing:
- 16 (i) Near agricultural zones; or
- 17 (ii) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
- 18 developmental zones; or
- 19 (B) Innovative housing models such as modular homes,
- 20 tiny homes, and container homes;



- 1 (5) Explore partnerships with private and public entities
- 2 to construct agricultural workforce housing projects;
- 3 (6) Identify any financial incentives, including tax
- 4 credit programs for agricultural employers who invest
- 5 in housing solutions for their workforce, that would
- 6 support the construction of agricultural workforce
- 7 housing projects in the State; and
- 8 (7) Study the feasibility of implementing a state income
- 9 tax credit to investors who incur costs to construct,
- 10 install, acquire, or rehabilitate agricultural
- 11 workforce housing in the State.
- 12 (g) The working group shall submit an interim report of
- 13 its progress, including any proposed legislation, to the
- 14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
- 15 the regular session of 2028 and submit a final report of its
- 16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
- 17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
- 18 to the convening of the regular session of 2029.

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

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the agricultural workforce housing working group established by
3 this Act to gather the necessary data and prepare the required
4 reports, including any consultation fees and related expenses.

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

7 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)

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