

**HB-2151**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:10:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT! Hempcrete and other plant-based building materials such as bamboo and blue green algae can substitute for carbon-intensive timber, steel and concrete to reduce greenhouse gases. Please pass this bill!



To: The House Committee on Water & Land  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:00am

**In support of HB2151**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Water & Land committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB2151** that recognizes hempcrete as an allowable non-structural building material under state law, and provides the authority for building officials to approve hempcrete construction that meets applicable safety and performance standards.

This measure will help reduce greenhouse gases, which is critically needed in our fight against the climate crisis. Moreover, with the escalating construction costs Hawaii is experiencing, hempcrete construction offers a means of promoting sustainable housing.

Plant-based products such as industrial hempcrete are excellent alternatives to replace carbon-intensive materials used today such as concrete and steel. We need to target all emission sources, especially cost-effective low hanging fruit like this.

Please pass HB2151 that would support the development of sustainable, affordable, and resilient housing in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



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February 10, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2151**  
RELATING TO BUILDING MATERIALS

Conference Room 411 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2151**, which recognizes hempcrete as an allowable non-structural building material under state law and clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of hempcrete. Provides the authority for building officials to approve hempcrete construction that meets applicable safety and performance standards.

Hempcrete represents a value-added opportunity for local farmers. Industrial hemp can be grown as a rotational or diversified crop and processed locally to support construction, housing, and infrastructure needs. Developing markets for hemp-based materials strengthens farm viability, supports agricultural diversification, and keeps more of the economic value generated from agriculture within the state.

Hempcrete and other plant-based building materials also offer potential benefits for Hawai'i, including reduced reliance on imported construction materials and increased resilience in the building supply chain. Allowing these materials to be used, subject to applicable safety and performance standards, supports innovation without mandating their use or displacing existing construction options.

We appreciate that HB 2151 removes barriers to adopting an emerging, agriculture-based material that can support both the agriculture and the construction sectors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 6, 2026

TO: Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair  
Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water and Land

Hawaii State Council  
A Chapter of the  
American Institute of Architects

FROM: Legislative Advocacy Committee  
American Institute of Architects, Hawai'i State Council

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1.1.19 ver.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The American Institute of Architects, Hawaii Chapter (AIA Hawaii) would like to submit testimony in **support of HB 2151**, which would recognize hempcrete as an allowable non-structural building material under Hawaii law and clarify that no state or county building code may prohibit its use.

We support the intent of this bill to expand the suite of sustainable building materials available in Hawaii. By clarifying that hempcrete is a permitted material, HB 2151 would help reduce regulatory uncertainty and lower barriers to innovation for architects, builders, and homeowners.

Hempcrete has recently been included in the 2024 International Residential Code (IRC) as an appropriate non-structural material for wall infill. This is an important milestone in mainstream code recognition of hempcrete construction and sets a model standard for jurisdictions across the United States, including Hawaii

The IRC's inclusion reflects that hempcrete can meet building performance requirements when properly used, especially for non-load-bearing applications, while offering benefits such as improved insulation, moisture regulation, fire resistance, and carbon sequestration relative to many conventional materials.

State law that clearly recognizes hempcrete will give building officials explicit authority to approve hempcrete projects without the need for special variances or discretionary approvals. This clarity will better enable design professionals to use hempcrete in homes and other non-structural applications that comply with established safety and performance standards.

For these reasons, we strongly support HB 2151. This bill aligns with Hawaii's broader goals for sustainability, housing innovation, and resilience and would help integrate a proven, low-carbon building material into everyday construction practice. We respectfully request your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Islam, AIA  
President  
AIA Hawai'i

**HB-2151**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 9:16:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a supporter of HB2151, which recognizes hempcrete as an allowable non-structural building material under state law and clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of hempcrete. As the crisis of climate change is a reality for us, especially here in Hawai‘i, it is imperative that sustainable solutions exist and are legal within Hawai‘i to do so for residents to be allowed to use hempcrete when building a structure.

**HB-2151**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 2:29:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

**HB-2151**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:21:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Skow, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2151. Hawaii urgently needs more affordable, climate-resilient housing, and hempcrete offers a safe, proven, low-carbon material that can help us get there.

Thank you!