
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH
WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK
FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the State has the duty to conserve and protect
2 agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase
3 agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of
4 agriculturally suitable lands, as required under article XI,
5 section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State has made sustainability and self-
8 sufficiency in agriculture and food supply a priority; and
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10 WHEREAS, the overall lack of affordable housing in the
11 State combined with the high cost of living contribute to the
12 difficulty that farmers face in recruiting farm workers; and
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14 WHEREAS, economically affordable, safe, and sanitary on-
15 farm employee housing is critical so that working farms may
16 attract and retain long-term and short-term farm workers; and
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18 WHEREAS, existing laws governing construction of on-farm
19 employee housing are complicated, confusing, and vary across the
20 State; and
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22 WHEREAS, on-farm housing is required to comply with
23 different layers of federal regulations and state and county
24 laws, ordinances, and administrative rules; and
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26 WHEREAS, many of the laws, ordinances, and administrative
27 rules governing construction of traditional residential housing
28 units are ill-suited to the demands and economic realities of
29 working farms; and
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1 WHEREAS, existing laws, ordinances, administrative rules,
2 and processes preclude farms from providing safe, sanitary, and
3 affordable on-farm employee housing to attract and retain
4 farmworkers, and stand as an obstacle to the State's
5 agricultural self-sufficiency; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Farm Bureau believes that the shortage
8 of affordable agricultural workforce housing is an impediment to
9 attracting farmworkers who are necessary to expand agriculture
10 in the State; and

11
12 WHEREAS, a streamlined process to develop farmworker
13 housing will address the challenges of complying with state and
14 county requirements, as well as federal regulations; now,
15 therefore,

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
19 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Director of the Office of
20 Planning is requested to establish within the Office of Planning
21 an Agricultural Housing Task Force for administrative purposes
22 only; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or
25 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
26 the task force:

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28 (1) The Director of the Office of Planning, who is
29 requested to serve as the Chairperson;
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31 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
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33 (3) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health,
34 Department of Health;
35
36 (4) The Chairperson of the Land Use Commission;
37
38 (5) The directors of the county departments responsible
39 for zoning and planning;
40
41 (6) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate,
42 provided that the President is requested to invite one



1 representative from an agricultural or farming
2 association and one representative from a public
3 interest organization that focuses on housing issues;
4 and

- 5
6 (7) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, provided that the Speaker is
8 requested to invite one representative from an
9 agricultural or farming association and one
10 representative from a public interest organization
11 that focuses on housing issues; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested objectives of the
14 Agricultural Housing Task Force is requested to:

- 15
16 (1) Analyze and provide recommendations to streamline
17 existing laws, ordinances, administrative rules, and
18 processes that may be applied consistently throughout
19 the State to authorize the construction of safe and
20 sanitary on-farm employee housing within agricultural
21 districts and on farms that are engaged in
22 agricultural production;
23
24 (2) Study existing state and county laws, ordinances,
25 administrative rules, and processes for the
26 construction of employee housing within agricultural
27 districts in the State;
28
29 (3) Identify existing barriers in laws, rules, and
30 processes that prohibit the construction of safe and
31 affordable on-farm employee housing for farmworkers,
32 including mobile units for temporary and seasonal
33 farmworkers;
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35 (4) Give special consideration to modular housing as a
36 solution;
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38 (5) Create a separate legal designation, as it relates to
39 zoning, for homes with a permanent foundation and
40 modular homes without a permanent foundation;
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1 (6) Propose one master use application process, as well as
 2 laws and administrative rules, that could be applied
 3 consistently throughout the State for the construction
 4 of safe and affordable on-farm employee housing for
 5 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and
 6 seasonal farm workers; and
 7

8 (7) Recommend changes to existing state laws, county
 9 ordinances, administrative rules, and processes as
 10 necessary; and
 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Agricultural Housing Task Force
 13 is requested to prepare and submit to the Legislature:
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15 (1) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 16 the Regular Session of 2021, a preliminary report that
 17 includes a discussion of the objectives of the
 18 Agricultural Housing Task Force and its findings and
 19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation;
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21 (2) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 22 the Regular Session of 2022, a draft guide that
 23 explains for the public's understanding and benefit
 24 the existing process for, and the laws and rules
 25 relating to, approval of employee housing in
 26 agricultural districts across the State, as proposed
 27 by the master use application process developed by the
 28 Agricultural Housing Task Force, including county
 29 ordinances that pertain to each locality; and
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31 (3) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 32 the Regular Session of 2025, a final report of its
 33 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 34 legislation; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Office of Planning is requested
 37 to provide administrative and clerical support required by the
 38 Agricultural Housing Task Force; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Agricultural Housing Task Force
 41 shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President
 3 of the Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Director
 4 of the Office of Planning; Chairperson of the Board of
 5 Agriculture; Deputy Director for Environmental Health,
 6 Department of Health; Chairperson of the Land Use Commission;
 7 and directors of the county departments responsible for zoning
 8 and planning.

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OFFERED BY: Richard [Signature]
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