
HOUSE 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
6

7 WHEREAS, the State has made sustainability and self-
8 sufficiency in agriculture and food supply a priority; and
9

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
13

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
17

18 WHEREAS, existing laws governing construction of on-farm
19 employee housing are complicated, confusing, and vary across the
20 State; and
21

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
25

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
30

31 WHEREAS, existing laws, ordinances, administrative rules,
32 and processes preclude farms from providing safe, sanitary, and



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1 affordable on-farm employee housing to attract and retain
2 farmworkers, and stand as an obstacle to the State's
3 agricultural self-sufficiency; and
4

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

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

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals, or
22 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
23 the task force:
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- 25 (1) The Director of the Office of Planning, who is
26 requested to serve as the Chairperson;
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- 28 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
29
- 30 (3) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health,
31 Department of Health;
32
- 33 (4) The Chairperson of the Land Use Commission;
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- 35 (5) The directors of the county departments responsible
36 for zoning and planning;
37
- 38 (6) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate,
39 provided that the President is requested to invite one
40 representative from an agricultural or farming
41 association and one representative from a public



1 interest organization that focuses on housing issues;
2 and

- 3
4 (7) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, provided that the Speaker is
6 requested to invite one representative from an
7 agricultural or farming association and one
8 representative from a public interest organization
9 that focuses on housing issues; and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested objectives of the
12 Agricultural Housing Task Force is requested to:

- 13
14 (1) Analyze and provide recommendations to streamline
15 existing laws, ordinances, administrative rules, and
16 processes that may be applied consistently throughout
17 the State to authorize the construction of safe and
18 sanitary on-farm employee housing within agricultural
19 districts and on farms that are engaged in
20 agricultural production;
21
22 (2) Study existing state and county laws, ordinances,
23 administrative rules, and processes for the
24 construction of employee housing within agricultural
25 districts in the State;
26
27 (3) Identify existing barriers in laws, rules, and
28 processes that prohibit the construction of safe and
29 affordable on-farm employee housing for farmworkers,
30 including mobile units for temporary and seasonal
31 farmworkers;
32
33 (4) Give special consideration to modular housing as a
34 solution;
35
36 (5) Create a separate legal designation, as it relates to
37 zoning, for homes with a permanent foundation and
38 modular homes without a permanent foundation;
39
40 (6) Propose one master use application process, as well as
41 laws and administrative rules, that could be applied
42 consistently throughout the State for the construction



1 of safe and affordable on-farm employee housing for
2 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and
3 seasonal farm workers; and
4

- 5 (7) Recommend changes to existing state laws, county
6 ordinances, administrative rules, and processes as
7 necessary; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Agricultural Housing Task Force
10 is requested to prepare and submit to the Legislature:
11

- 12 (1) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the Regular Session of 2021, a preliminary report that
14 includes a discussion of the objectives of the
15 Agricultural Housing Task Force and its findings and
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation;
17

- 18 (2) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2022, a draft guide that
20 explains for the public's understanding and benefit
21 the existing process for, and the laws and rules
22 relating to, approval of employee housing in
23 agricultural districts across the State, as proposed
24 by the master use application process developed by the
25 Agricultural Housing Task Force, including county
26 ordinances that pertain to each locality; and
27

- 28 (3) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
29 the Regular Session of 2025, a final report of its
30 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
31 legislation; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Office of Planning is requested
34 to provide administrative and clerical support required by the
35 Agricultural Housing Task Force; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Agricultural Housing Task Force
38 shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President of the
42 Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Director of the



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1 Office of Planning; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
 2 Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Department of Health;
 3 Chairperson of the Land Use Commission; and directors of the
 4 county departments responsible for zoning and planning.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 07 2019

