
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under article XI,
2 section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, the State has the
3 duty to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote
4 diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency,
5 and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.
6 The State has made sustainability and self-sufficiency in
7 agriculture and food supply a priority.

8 The legislature further finds that economically affordable,
9 safe, and sanitary on-farm workforce housing units are critical
10 for working farms to attract and retain both long-term and
11 short-term farmworkers. Yet, existing laws governing
12 construction of such on-farm workforce housing units are
13 complicated, confusing, and vary across the State. Currently,
14 on-farm workforce housing units must comply with different
15 layers of regulations at the federal level, and laws and rules
16 at the state and county level. Many of the laws and rules
17 governing construction of traditional residential housing units



1 are ill-suited to the demands and economic realities of working
2 farms. These existing laws, rules, and processes preclude farms
3 from providing safe, sanitary, and affordable on-farm workforce
4 housing units to attract and retain farmworkers and stand as an
5 obstacle to the State's agricultural self-sufficiency.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
7 agricultural housing task force to analyze and provide
8 recommendations that would streamline existing laws, rules, and
9 processes to authorize the construction of safe and sanitary on-
10 farm workforce housing units for residential use by farmworkers
11 within agricultural districts, on farms that are engaged in
12 agricultural production.

13 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the agricultural
14 housing task force within the office of planning for
15 administrative purposes only. The agricultural housing task
16 force shall have the following objectives:

17 (1) Study existing county and state laws, rules, and
18 processes for the construction of housing units for
19 residential use by the workforce within agricultural
20 districts across the State;



- 1 (2) Identify existing barriers in laws, rules, and
2 processes that prohibit the construction of safe and
3 affordable on-farm workforce housing units for
4 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and
5 seasonal farmworkers;
- 6 (3) Make recommendations for changes to existing state and
7 county laws, rules, and processes as necessary; and
- 8 (4) Propose one master use application process, as well as
9 laws and rules that can be applied consistently
10 throughout the State for the construction of safe and
11 affordable on-farm workforce housing units for
12 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and
13 seasonal farmworkers.
- 14 (b) The agricultural housing task force shall consist of
15 the following:
- 16 (1) The director of the office of planning or the
17 director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;
- 18 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
19 chairperson's designee;



- 1 (3) The deputy director of the department of health's
- 2 environmental health administration or the deputy
- 3 director's designee;
- 4 (4) The chairperson of the land use commission or the
- 5 chairperson's designee;
- 6 (5) One representative member from each of the city and
- 7 county of Honolulu, Maui county, Hawaii county, and
- 8 Kauai county zoning and planning departments;
- 9 (6) One representative member from the Hawaii Farm Bureau;
- 10 (7) One representative member from the Hawaii Farmers
- 11 Union United; and
- 12 (8) One representative member appointed by the speaker of
- 13 the house of representatives from a public interest
- 14 organization with a focus on housing issues.
- 15 (c) Members of the agricultural housing task force shall
- 16 be exempt from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and shall
- 17 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for
- 18 reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their
- 19 duties, including travel expenses.
- 20 (d) The agricultural housing task force shall:



- 1 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and
2 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
3 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
4 the convening of the regular session of 2021; provided
5 that the preliminary report shall discuss the issues
6 listed in subsection (a);
- 7 (2) Prepare a draft guide for the public's understanding
8 and benefit explaining the existing process for, and
9 the laws and rules relating to, approval of
10 residential housing and workforce housing in
11 agricultural districts across the State, including
12 county and local ordinances that pertain to each
13 locality, no later than twenty days prior to the
14 convening of the regular session of 2022; and
- 15 (3) Submit a final report of its findings and
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
17 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
18 the convening of the regular session of 2025.
- 19 (e) The office of planning shall provide administrative
20 and clerical support required by the agricultural housing task
21 force.



1 (f) The agricultural housing task force shall cease to
2 exist on June 30, 2025.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2020-2021 for the purposes of this Act.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
9 planning for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2150.



Report Title:

Agricultural Housing Task Force; On-farm Workforce Housing;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Agricultural Housing Task Force to study existing county and state laws and processes relating to on-farm workforce housing units within agricultural districts to identify barriers to construction, propose one master use application process, and report to the Legislature. (HB1101 HD1)

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