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# 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 Hawaii's climate,  
2 with a year-round growing season and ample rain in many areas,  
3 has several potential advantages for growing plant-based  
4 materials that can be processed into structural building  
5 materials. For example, there are types of clumping bamboo that  
6 can grow very rapidly with sufficient water; be processed into  
7 building materials that are stronger, more flexible, and lighter  
8 than timber or steel; and be made more fire and termite-  
9 resistant than wood. "Hempcrete" developed from industrial hemp  
10 can substitute for building blocks, and "biocements" produced  
11 from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae or "pond scum") can  
12 substitute for Portland cement. The legislature further finds  
13 that these plant-based materials and others could bring green  
14 agriculture jobs to Hawaii.

15           The legislature further finds that these plant-based  
16 materials could also help Hawaii meet its net negative carbon  
17 and greenhouse gas goals because they sequester carbon, whereas



1 production of traditional building materials, such as timber,  
2 steel, and cement, emit very large amounts of greenhouse gases.

3 The legislature finds that the development of plant-based  
4 building materials in the State is a matter of statewide  
5 concern.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate  
7 funds for a working group to report on how best to grow plants  
8 and develop plant-based building materials in Hawaii and provide  
9 green jobs, while sequestering carbon and greenhouse gases to  
10 help reach the State's climate target.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a plant-based  
12 building materials working group to study how best to grow  
13 plants for development of plant-based building materials in  
14 Hawaii and provide green agricultural jobs, while sequestering  
15 carbon and greenhouse gases to help achieve the State's climate  
16 target.

17 (b) The working group shall consist of the following:

18 (1) The dean and director of the university of Hawaii at  
19 Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human  
20 resources or the dean and director's designee, who  
21 shall serve as chairperson;



- 1           (2) Four individuals who have expertise in growing or  
2           producing plant-based building materials, to be  
3           invited by the dean and director of the university of  
4           Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human  
5           resources;
- 6           (3) The director of the university of Hawaii at Hilo  
7           college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource  
8           management, or the director's designee;
- 9           (4) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
10          chairperson's designee;
- 11          (5) The coordinator of the Hawaii climate change  
12          mitigation and adaptation commission;
- 13          (6) The state sustainability coordinator;
- 14          (7) The president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau;
- 15          (8) An expert in building materials, who the chairperson,  
16          in consultation with the General Contractors  
17          Association of Hawaii, shall invite; and
- 18          (9) Additional members with appropriate specialized  
19          expertise, as recommended by the members of the  
20          working group, at the discretion of the chairperson.



1 (c) Members of the working group shall serve without  
2 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses  
3 incurred, including travel expenses. No member of the working  
4 group shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, solely because of that member's participation as a  
6 member of the working group.

7 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its  
8 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
9 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
10 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

11 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2026.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to  
15 assist the plant-based building materials working group in its  
16 study for the development of plant-based building materials in  
17 the State.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
19 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
21 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,



1 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
 2 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
 3 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
 4 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
 5 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
 6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 7 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
 8 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 9 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 10 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
 11 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
 12 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 13 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- 14 serve the public interest; and
- 15 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 16 addressed by this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Plant-Based Building Materials Working Group; Report;  
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Establishes a Plant-Based Building Materials Working Group to report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-based building materials in Hawaii and provide economic development and green jobs while sequestering greenhouse gases to help achieve the State's climate target. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

