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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 offers 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. For example, "hempcrete", developed from  
10 industrial hemp, can substitute for building blocks, while  
11 "biocements", produced from cyanobacteria (blue-green algae or  
12 "pond scum"), can substitute for Portland cement.

13       The legislature further finds that these and other plant-  
14 based building materials could also attract green agricultural  
15 jobs to Hawaii. The legislature also finds that the use of  
16 plant-based building materials could help the State meet its net  
17 negative carbon and greenhouse gas emission goals because they



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

4 Therefore, the legislature finds that this issue is a  
5 matter of statewide concern and the purpose of this Act is to  
6 establish and appropriate funds for a working group to study and  
7 report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-based  
8 building materials in Hawaii.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the university  
10 of Hawaii at Manoa college of tropical agriculture and human  
11 resilience a plant-based building materials working group to  
12 study and report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-  
13 based building materials in Hawaii, including for the provision  
14 of green agricultural jobs in Hawaii and the sequestration of  
15 carbon and greenhouse gases to help the State meet its net  
16 negative carbon and greenhouse gas goals.

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

19 (1) The dean and director for research and cooperative  
20 extension of the university of Hawaii, or the dean and



1 director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson of  
2 the working group;

3 (2) The director of the university of Hawaii at Hilo  
4 college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource  
5 management, or the director's designee;

6 (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
7 chairperson's designee;

8 (4) The coordinator of the Hawaii climate change  
9 mitigation and adaptation commission;

10 (5) Four individuals who have expertise in growing or  
11 producing plant-based building materials, to be  
12 invited by the chairperson of the working group;

13 (6) An expert in building materials, to be invited by the  
14 chairperson of the working group, in consultation with  
15 the General Contractors Association of Hawaii; and

16 (7) Additional members with appropriate specialized  
17 expertise, as recommended by the members of the  
18 working group and at the discretion of and to be  
19 invited by the chairperson of the working group.

20 (c) The members of the working group shall serve without  
21 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,



1 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their  
2 duties.

3 (d) The working group shall submit to the legislature:

4 (1) An interim report regarding the progress of its work  
5 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
6 the regular session of 2026; and

7 (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations,  
8 including any proposed legislation, no later than  
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
10 session of 2027.

11 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2027.

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 2025-2026 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2026-2027 to support the work of the plant-based building  
17 materials working group established pursuant to section 2 of  
18 this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

UHCTAHR; Plant-based Building Materials Working Group;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Plant-based Building Materials Working Group to study and report on how best to grow plants and develop plant-based building materials in Hawaii. 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.*

