

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The department of agriculture shall
2 establish an agricultural workforce housing working group to
3 address the shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce
4 housing in the State.

5 (b) The working group shall comprise the following members
6 or their designees:

7 (1) The governor;

8 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, who shall
9 serve as co-chair of the working group;

10 (3) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission;

11 (4) The chairperson of the agribusiness development
12 corporation, who shall serve as co-chair of the
13 working group;

14 (5) The executive director of the Hawaii housing finance
15 and development corporation;

16 (6) The executive director of the Hawaii public housing
17 authority;



- 1 (7) The chairperson of the land use commission;
- 2 (8) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
- 3 development;
- 4 (9) The chief engineer of the engineering division of the
- 5 department of land and natural resources;
- 6 (10) The mayor of each county;
- 7 (11) The director of each county planning department;
- 8 (12) The director of each county housing department; and
- 9 (13) The chief engineer of each county board of water
- 10 supply.

11 (c) The co-chairs of the working group shall invite one
12 representative from each of the following organizations to
13 participate as a member of the working group:

- 14 (1) Hawaii Agricultural Foundation;
- 15 (2) Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;
- 16 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau; and
- 17 (4) Hawaii Farmers Union United.

18 (d) The co-chairs of the working group may invite other
19 individuals with relevant knowledge and expertise to serve as
20 working group members.



1 (e) No member shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation
3 as a member of the working group.

4 (f) The department of agriculture is requested to provide
5 administrative support to the working group.

6 (g) The working group shall:

7 (1) Determine:

8 (A) The specific housing needs of each agricultural
9 workforce within each county; and

10 (B) Existing government resources available for
11 adaptive reuse into agricultural workforce
12 housing;

13 (2) Assess existing laws, policies, and procedures that
14 would allow the construction of workforce housing:

15 (A) Near agricultural zones; or

16 (B) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
17 developmental zones;

18 (3) Consider any revisions necessary to existing zoning
19 and land use policies that would allow the
20 construction of workforce housing:

21 (A) Near agricultural zones; or



- 1 (B) With agricultural facilities in mixed-use
2 developmental zones;
- 3 (4) Explore partnerships with private and public entities
4 to construct agricultural workforce housing projects;
- 5 (5) Identify any financial incentives, such as tax credit
6 programs for agricultural employers who invest in
7 housing solutions for their workforce, that would
8 support the construction of agricultural workforce
9 housing projects in the State; and
- 10 (6) Study the feasibility of implementing a state income
11 tax credit to investors who incur costs to construct,
12 install, acquire, or rehabilitate agricultural
13 workforce housing in the State.
- 14 (h) The working group shall submit an interim report of
15 its progress, including any proposed legislation, to the
16 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 the regular session of 2027, and submit a final report of its
18 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular session of 2028.
- 21 (i) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2028.



S.B. NO. 498

1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2026-2027 for the agricultural workforce housing working group
6 established in section I of this Act to gather the necessary
7 data and prepare the required reports, including any
8 consultation fees and related expenses.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

12

INTRODUCED BY: *Robert M. Rector* *SR*



S.B. NO. 498

Report Title:

DOA; Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group; Report; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish an Agricultural Workforce Housing Working Group to address the shortage and challenges of agricultural workforce housing in the State. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

