

**FAQs:
Supplemental Dwelling Units (SDU)
Proposed Administrative Rules**

What is an “SDU”?

SDU stands for “supplemental dwelling unit.” It’s a second dwelling built on your lot and is smaller than your existing house.

Who can have an SDU on their lot?

For the first 5 years, the program will be a pilot project available only to residential lessees on Oahu and Hawaii who are in good standing, and live on a lot that is big enough and meets county requirements for building another dwelling. The program will be evaluated after 3 years and if it is found to be successful, the program may be expanded to other islands.

What is the process to get approval for an SDU?

You would need to submit a Request for Improvements with an SDU application to the Department, which includes obtaining the necessary county approvals and permits. Once your application is complete and approved, the Department would bring it forward for final approval by the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Construction can begin only after approval from the HHC.

Who can live in the SDU?

There are several options:

- A native Hawaiian, as defined by the HHCA, can rent the SDU;
- ‘Ohana qualified under section 209(a) of the HHCA, can live in the SDU;
- You can live in the SDU and a native Hawaiian can rent or qualified ‘ohana can live in the primary dwelling.

What are the county requirements?

Please refer to information provided by the City and County of Honolulu and Hawaii County. The City and County has published FAQs about their ADU requirements, which can be found online: http://www.honoluludpp.org/Portals/0/pdfs/construction/ADU_FAQ_Final.pdf. Hawaii County has information on their website: <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/pw-building-guidelines/>.