

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2657, Relating to teachers

Purpose: To establish the teacher housing allowance program to provide housing assistance to teachers employed in schools in geographically isolated areas or hard-to-fill positions within the State. Appropriates funds for the program.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. 2657 which provides housing assistance to teachers employed in schools in hard-to-fill positions within the State. The establishment of a housing allowance will assist the Department in recruitment efforts as an additional incentive to offer potential teachers to teach in these geographic isolated or hard-to-fill areas.

The Department will need additional funding for support staff to implement and monitor this program. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.