

**Date:** 01/30/2008

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2693 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes an affordable housing program for public school teachers and a second mortgage revolving fund. Appropriates funds for: (1) the repair and maintenance of teacher housing; and (2) second mortgage loans for public school teachers. Provides for a report on the effectiveness of housing availability in increasing teacher recruitment.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education supports this bill with amendments. The Department recommends the bill be amended by placing the second mortgage loan program in the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and by expanding the program to include other professional school level staff. There are other ancillary professional services providers who provide direct services to students and who also need access to affordable housing. The Department of Education does not have staff with the training or expertise required to manage a second mortgage loan program.