

LATE TESTIMONY

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2918, Relating to teachers

Purpose: Establishes the classroom teacher program to guarantee home loans for qualified public school teachers.

Department's Position: The Department of Education highly supports S.B. 2918. A major barrier to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers is the availability of affordable housing. The establishment of the classroom teacher loan program, which would guarantee up to 100 percent of the principal balance of a loan made to a classroom teacher, could significantly increase the pool of teacher applicants. The Department does not have the staffing nor expertise to administer a teacher loan housing program. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.