

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that with an overall  
2 shortage of teachers and other educational staff members,  
3 including administrators and related service professionals, many  
4 schools are hard-pressed to keep staff from accepting positions  
5 in other schools or leaving the profession altogether. The cost  
6 and availability of housing can greatly impact the recruitment  
7 and retention of teachers, especially in geographically isolated  
8 communities and in schools plagued with hard-to-fill vacancies.  
9 In addition, the high cost of housing in Hawaii creates added  
10 economic stress on younger teachers who are among those most  
11 likely to leave the profession. The legislature further finds  
12 that there is a critical need to provide housing assistance for  
13 the recruitment and retention of teachers in hard-to-fill  
14 positions and geographically isolated public schools, as  
15 determined by the department of education.

16           The legislature is also aware that the current condition of  
17 state-owned teacher housing mandates that units undergo



1 extensive repair and renovation, and will require a consistent  
2 maintenance program and dedicated oversight and support  
3 personnel when the program is transferred from the Hawaii  
4 housing finance and development corporation to the department of  
5 education.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish a teacher housing  
7 allowance program to provide housing assistance to teachers  
8 employed in public schools in geographically isolated  
9 communities and public schools plagued with hard-to-fill  
10 vacancies. This Act also appropriates funds for the repair and  
11 maintenance of existing teacher housing and requires the  
12 department of education to report to the legislature on  
13 alternative programs or options for addressing the teacher  
14 housing needs in the State.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:

18 "§302A- Teacher housing allowance program. (a) The  
19 department shall establish a teacher housing allowance program  
20 to provide housing allowances to teachers employed to teach at  
21 public schools in the State.



1        (b) The amount of the housing allowance shall be equal to  
2 the teacher's full-time equivalence multiplied by the difference  
3 between the statewide median cost of housing minus the lesser of  
4 either the cost of housing in the school district where the  
5 teacher is employed or the cost of housing in the school  
6 district in which the teacher resides. For purposes of this  
7 section, the difference between the school district's cost of  
8 housing and the statewide median shall not exceed fifty per cent  
9 of the median.

10       (c) The cost of housing for each school district and the  
11 statewide median shall be determined every four years based on a  
12 standard set of housing specifications and on data reported for  
13 the most recent annual period for which data are available. A  
14 nationally recognized entity that collects statistically valid  
15 housing cost data for federal government agencies and businesses  
16 shall be selected by the superintendent, subject to approval by  
17 the board, to collect the data. The department shall contract  
18 with the entity selected under this subsection for this purpose.  
19 For the purposes of this section, the "statewide median cost of  
20 housing" means the cost at which there is an equal number of  
21 districts with higher housing costs and with lower housing  
22 costs.



1        (d) The department shall administer the teacher housing  
2 allowance program and shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
3 necessary for the program's implementation."

4        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 for  
7 the teacher housing allowance program established under this  
8 Act.

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

11        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 to  
14 the department of education for management of the teacher  
15 housing program and for renovation, repair, and maintenance  
16 costs necessary to bring existing units to acceptable levels of  
17 condition.

18        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
19 education for the purposes of this Act.

20        SECTION 5. The department of education shall report to the  
21 legislature on various programs and options, including  
22 information on the costs, feasibility, and benefits of each

1 program or option for addressing the teacher housing needs  
2 within the State, no later than twenty days prior to the  
3 convening of the regular session of 2010. The programs or  
4 options examined shall include but not be limited to a second  
5 mortgage loan program or other home loan guarantee programs.

6 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
8 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be effective on July 1,  
9 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Norman Sakemph



**Report Title:**

DOE; Teacher Housing Allowance Program; Teacher Housing Repair and Maintenance; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes 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 and appropriates funds for repair and maintenance of existing teacher housing. Requires the department of education to report to the legislature on teacher housing options.

