



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2016
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2510 RELATING TO HOUSING VOUCHERS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to establish a housing voucher program for full-time classroom teachers employed by the Department of Education, including classroom teachers at public charter schools.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports HB 2510. There is a need for affordable housing for teachers given the high cost of living in Hawaii.

However, it is important to note that since public charter school teachers are not employed by the Department of Education, the Department would not be able to verify the status of all public charter school teachers who apply for the voucher program. The Department recommends revising the language of proposed subsection (b) to include the Public Charter School Commission in the employment verification process.

We respectfully defer to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation as to the appropriate implementation of this housing voucher program.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 8, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

In consideration of
H.B. 2510
RELATING TO HOUSING VOUCHERS.

HHFDC *supports the intent* of H.B. 2510, but defers to the Department of Education on the extent of the demand for the proposed housing voucher program and the fiscal impact on the Department's operating budget with respect to funding for the vouchers and administration of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB2510 Relating to Housing Vouchers
DATE: Monday, February 8, 2016
TIME: 2:00 PM
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of the intent of HB2510

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the intent House Bill 2510, "Relating to Housing Vouchers."

The Commission is grateful to the sponsors of this bill for their continued support of our classroom teachers and specifically the inclusion of public charter schools in this program that would provide our teachers with needed support to continue working in our public schools and improving the schools' ability to attract and retain the best teachers for our public school students. Teacher recruitment and retention present if anything even greater challenges for charter schools than for Department of Education schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 8, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta

Dr. Tammy Bopp

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman

Ms. Annette Cooper

Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent

Ms. Gabriele Finn

Mr. Sage Goto

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Ms. Dale Matsuura

Ms. Stacey Oshio

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Dr. Patricia Sheehey

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Dr. Todd Takahashi

Dr. Daniel Ulrich

Dr. Amy Wiech

Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff

Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair

House Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2510 - Relating to Housing Vouchers

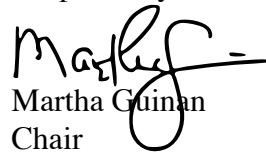
Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HB 2510 that establishes a housing voucher program for full-time public school classroom teachers.

SEAC and others have supported additional incentives for special education teachers to help recruit and retain these critically needed personnel. Accordingly, SEAC offers a suggestion to this Committee that the housing vouchers, if funded, be given out with a priority for teachers filling shortage categories.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
Chair



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Corey Rosenlee
President

Justin Hughey
Vice President

Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 2510 - RELATING TO HOUSING VOUCHERS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 2510, relating to housing vouchers.

In the islands, teacher turnover is rife. Approximately 10 percent of Hawaii's teachers switch schools, relocate, or leave the profession each year. Only 50 to 60 percent of current teachers have been at their school for five years or more. Chronic teacher turnover, in turn, forces the department of education to rely on emergency hires and long-term substitute teachers to fill vacancies.

Teacher recruitment and retention is especially difficult for poor and hard-to-staff communities, where as few as 56 percent of teachers are highly qualified. Comparatively, 93 per cent of teachers statewide are highly qualified. Nationwide, 56 per cent of teachers have an advanced degree, while only 36 per cent of Hawaii's teachers have an advanced degree.

Hawaii's high cost of living serves as the primary catalyst for our state's lackluster teacher recruitment and retention results. Year after year, studies, such the annual WalltHub salary comparison, rank Hawai'i fifty-first out of fifty states and the District of Columbia for starting and median teacher salary adjusted for cost of living.



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To recruit and retain effective educators, policymakers must find ways to lessen the financial burden of being a public school teacher. Establishing a housing voucher program is a good first step. In the islands, where new housing rarely becomes available, the percentage of renters who face cost burdens—financial handicaps incurred by people spending over 30 percent of their income on housing—rose from 53 percent in 2007 to nearly 58 percent in 2014, according to an analysis performed by the website ApartmentList.

Many of those cash-strapped renters are state educators, who are chronically underpaid. On a state-by-state basis, Hawaii's average annual teacher salaries are 19 percent less than California, 20 percent less than Massachusetts, and 25 percent less than New York *before* cost of living adjustments are made. To make ends meet, many teachers are forced to pick up second and third jobs, live in cramped studio apartments, and cut back on necessities like medical care. Thus, a housing voucher program would assist teachers in attaining sustainable and stable residency, while staving off crushing debt burdens. It would also make the teaching profession more attractive by increasing educators' purchasing power through the subsidization of rent and mortgages in the state with the nation's highest housing costs.

We must do more to boost our state teachers' quality of life. Accordingly, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to support this bill.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:44 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2510 on Feb 8, 2016 14:00PM

HB2510

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Supporting but would like to hear a bit more about this. I would have loved to have some assistance for renting or buying when I worked for the DOE. Now that I am retired, I could still use assistance. It might be a great incentive to keep and to bring in local people to teach again.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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