

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 28, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: **SB 2278, SD1, Relating to Teacher Housing**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2278, SD1, relating to teacher housing, which establishes the teacher home assistance program to be administered by the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to provide housing vouchers to full-time teachers employed by the department of education, including teachers at public charter schools, who teach in a hard-to-fill school, as determined by the department of education, and whose household income does not exceed eighty per cent of the area median income. It also appropriates funds. This bill is an important step toward addressing Hawai'i's teacher shortage and providing much needed housing solutions for public education teachers.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.