

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

January 29, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of  
**S.B. 114**  
**RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.**

HHFDC does not have the appropriate staff and expertise to administer a housing voucher program of this nature, and therefore opposes S.B. 114.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
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

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FOR: SB 114 Relating to Teacher Housing  
DATE: January 29, 2019  
TIME: 1:15 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Housing  
ROOM: Conference Room 225  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Kidani, Chair Chang, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 114**, which provides a teacher home assistance program to provide housing vouchers to full-time teachers who teach in a hard-to-fill area and are employed by the Department of Education and in public charter schools. The Commission is grateful for the inclusion of public charter schools in this measure.

The Commission further appreciates the Legislature’s efforts and willingness to address teacher recruitment and retention, especially in the hard-to-fill areas of the state. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committees, other affected stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 01/29/2019  
**Time:** 01:15 PM  
**Location:** 225  
**Committee:** Senate Housing  
Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0114 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the teacher home assistance program to be administered by the Hawaii 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. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 114, with comments.

SB 114 aligns with Goal 2 of the Department's Strategic Plan of focusing on increasing the pipeline of new teachers entering the education profession and increasing teacher retention rates.

Housing subsidy vouchers can be a tool to increase the Department's teacher retention, especially in hard-to-fill geographic areas. According to a 2016 report by the Learning Policy Institute, housing incentives was one factor for teachers who left the profession in their consideration in returning to the field of education. The financial assistance provided through the voucher program may help to ease some of the financial burden, magnified by high cost of living in Hawaii.

The Department also notes that hard-to-fill schools may also employ half-time teachers. Based on the proposed language, only those individuals working as full-time (1.0 FTE) teachers would be eligible for the home assistance program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan

which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
**1010 Richards Street, Room 118**  
**Honolulu, HI 96813**  
**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**  
**email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov**

January 29, 2019

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice  
Chair*  
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Ms. Virginia Beringer  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Mr. Motu Finau  
Mr. Sage Goto  
Ms. Lindsay Heller  
Dr. Kurt Humphrey  
Ms. Tina King  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Kaili Murbach  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
Ms. Carrie Pisciotto  
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos  
Ms. Rosie Rowe  
Mr. James Street  
Mr. Francis Tael  
Mr. Steven Vannatta  
Dr. Amy Wiech  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Cara Tanimura, *liaison  
to the Superintendent*  
Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to  
the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 114 - RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

Dear Chairs Kidani and Chang and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports the intent of S.B. 114 which creates a housing voucher program for full time teachers who teach in a hard-to-fill school.


As you know, Hawaii suffers from a chronic shortage of qualified teachers for our public school students. The shortage is most acute for special education teachers who teach some of our most vulnerable students. This school year, only 84% of special education teaching positions were filled by individuals who had completed a state approved teacher education program. Of those teachers, a fair percentage have only general education training.

Retention of qualified teachers is also a growing problem. Last school year saw the most common reason cited by exiting teachers (38%) was moving out of state. We know from exit surveys that the high cost of living (and in particular, housing) was a major factor in the decision to leave Hawaii.

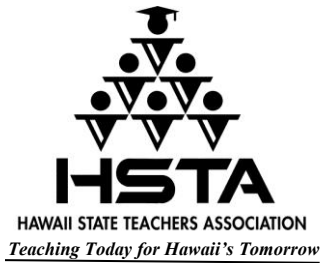
Given the critical personnel shortage to adequately serve the needs of special education students, we ask that your committees consider adding hard-to-fill teaching *positions* as a criteria for voucher eligibility.

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

Sincerely,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
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Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING and EDUCATION

RE: SB 114 - RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Chang, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

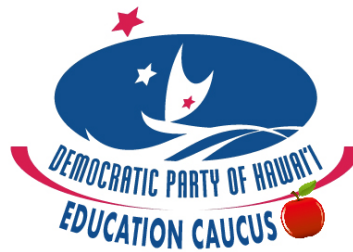
The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 114**, relating to teacher housing.

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a shortage of qualified teachers. According to the DOE's STRIVE HI accountability reports, for the 2017-2018 school year, the state saw 1,011 SATEP vacancies, up from 920 SATEP vacancies in 2016-2017, including a slight increase in SPED SATEP vacancies, from 290 in 2016-2017 to 311 in 2017-2018, and now 352 SPED SATEP vacancies for 2018-2019 as report to the BOE by the HIDOE. Last year in 2018-2019 we saw yet another increase in SATEP vacancies of 1,029 teachers. As we have noted to the Board of Education at previous hearings, SPED teacher attrition has led to a situation in which 1 out of every 6 SPED teachers have not completed a state-sanctioned teacher training program. Our teacher shortage problem is further clarified in the DOE's 2016-2017 Employment Report, which shows that teacher resignations increased from 781 in 2015-2016 to 850 in 2016-2017 and 1,114 in 2018-2019, with only 294 due to retirement. Similarly in-state SATEP hires decreased from 404 to 387 from 2016-2018, while out-of-state SATEP hires increased from 508 to 572. Teacher attrition is worse in high-poverty areas. In the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area, for example, an astounding 18 out of 19 SPED teachers hired for the 2017-2018 school year did not have a special education license.

Financial incentives are a key strategy for the recruitment and retention of teachers, particularly given that Hawai'i's teacher salaries continue to trail the nation when adjusted for cost of living. IF we concentrate on retaining our

teachers, the HIDOE would not have to focus so much on the recruitment of teachers. 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—is roughly 57 percent, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Many of those cash-strapped renters are state educators, who are chronically underpaid. 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 and dental care. Thus they cannot devote their full attending to their students and the preparation of lessons and grading that they usually complete after school once their students have left for the day. Instead, they are rushing off to their second or even third jobs when they would much rather concentrate on their teaching duties and their students. **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.**

To take care of the needs of Hawaii's hardworking teachers, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



## **SENATE BILL 114, RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING**

JANUARY 29, 2019 · SENATE HOUSING AND  
EDUCATION COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. STANLEY  
CHANG AND SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 114, relating to teacher housing, which establishes a teacher home assistance program to provide housing vouchers to full-time teachers, who teach in a hard-to-fill school and have a household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income.

Currently, Hawai'i teachers experience the lowest salaries for their profession in the nation, when those salaries are adjusted for the cost of living. At the same time, island housing and rental prices are continuing to skyrocket. According to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, the median single-family home price in Honolulu hit a record \$812,500 in September of 2018, for example, while an analysis of rental values performed by ATTOM Data Solutions released earlier this year found that Honolulu's rentals are the second-least affordable in the country relative to wages.

The average Hawai'i public school teacher earns approximately \$58,000, which, on O'ahu qualifies as "low income", per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Until teacher pay is significantly increased—as it should be—we believe housing assistance may help curb Hawai'i's teacher shortage crisis, which now stands at 1,029 positions statewide.





## **O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)**

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225 State Capitol

RE: SB 114 Relating to Teacher Housing

Aloha mai kakou Members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Education:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 114 relating to Teacher Housing.**

SB 114 establishes the teacher home assistance program to be administered by the Hawaii 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. SB 114 also appropriates funds toward this program.

DPH believes that the future of our State as well as our Country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. DPH supports the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living. DPH supports hiring the most qualified teachers, administrators and specialists for our educational system. DPH also supports partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide practicum support and or access. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 2, ln. 50-52, p.3, ln. 1-10.*

Given that this measure provides vouchers for teacher housing, OCCLP supports this measure as teacher housing may be considered as part of teachers' competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living

**For these reasons, the OCCLP supports and urges the passage of HB 114 out of the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Education.**

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

**SB-114**

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 3:54:11 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-114**

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 10:38:25 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The teachers need all the support they can get. Please pass this housing initiative.

Michael Golojuch, Sr.

**SB-114**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:44:23 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

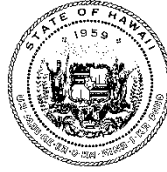
My name is Shane Albritton, I'm a public school teacher in Honolulu, and a proud member of HSTA and the Education Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

I am in strong support of SB114 because my current rent, in a house that I share with four other people, is roughly HALF of my net income.

To address Hawaii's chronic teacher shortage, we need to give teachers the opportunity to make a living.

Mahalo,

Shane Albritton



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 28, 2019

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND EDUCATION**

**PERSON TESTIFYING:** Lynn Hammonds, as an individual

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019

**TIME:** 1:15 pm

**LOCATION:** State Capitol Conference Room 225

**TITLE OF BILL:** SB114 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

**PURPOSE OF BILL:** Establishes the teacher home assistance program to be administered by the Hawaii 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. Appropriates funds.

Chairs Kidani and Chang, Vice Chairs Mercado Kim and Kanuha, and Members of the Committees on Education and Housing:

I support SB114 to provide housing vouchers for public school teachers to supplement their rent, mortgage, or down payment for a home in Hawaii. This voucher would serve as an incentive for those in hard-to-fill schools and help make the profession of teaching more attractive to new and prospective teachers, especially to current Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB-114**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:17:33 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: