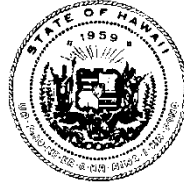


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 1, 2021
9:30 AM - Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 525, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 525, HD2, SD1, relating to teacher housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** HB 525, HD2, SD1, which clarifies that DOE, in partnership with the Hawaii public housing authority, Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, and the school facilities agency, may construct housing for teachers on a public school campus. Requires that housing units constructed or acquired on a school campus after 6/30/2021, be rented at an affordable cost to new teachers or teachers teaching in a rural or hard-to-staff location, with priority given to teachers employed full-time at the school where the housing unit is located.

The HPHA fully supports the creation of teacher housing and has the expertise to develop, manage and work with the Department of Education and the HHFDC in creating communities that will attract and retain qualified public-school teachers.

The HPHA stands ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be a part of the overall solution needed to address all housing related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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

Date: 04/01/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0525, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that DOE, in partnership with the Hawaii public housing authority, Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, and the school facilities agency, may construct housing for teachers on a public school campus. Requires that housing units constructed or acquired on a school campus after 6/30/2021, be rented at an affordable cost to new teachers or teachers teaching in a rural or hard-to-staff location, with priority given to teachers employed full-time at the school where the housing unit is located. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 525, HB 2, SD 1.

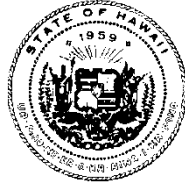
From a recruitment and retention standpoint, the Department supports more opportunities to increase low-cost or no-cost teacher housing options statewide.

A January 2020 compensation study contracted by the Department revealed that 78 percent of survey respondents indicated that the lack of housing availability negatively impacted teacher retention in Hawaii. Additionally, a December 2020 comparator and competitor report developed for the Department on teacher recruitment revealed that similarly situated school districts in other states provide greater opportunities for low-cost or no-cost teacher housing for full-time employees. Furthermore, this report reveals that focus groups of current and former Department teachers echoed the need for not only more affordable housing opportunities, but inventory both in geographically isolated areas and in higher priced rental locations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 525, HD 2, SD 1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
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
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
H.B. 525, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

The HHFDC **supports** H.B. 525, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which authorizes the Department of Education to partner with HHFDC to create housing for teachers on school campuses. We recognize that a good education is a pathway out of poverty and that there is a shortage of teachers in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
The Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 1, 2021

H.B. 525, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 — Relating To Teacher Housing

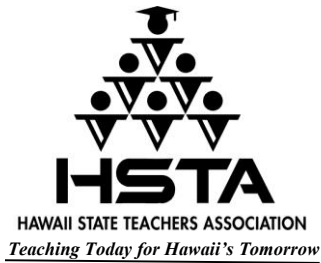
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on H.B. 525, H.D. 2, which proposes to establish a teachers' housing program administered by the Hawaii Department of Education, in partnership with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation, and the School Facilities Agency. It also proposes to establish a teachers' housing revolving fund and allow the department to construct a teacher housing facility on any campus of a public school.

The HGEA represents thousands of employees who work for the DOE and make less than a starting Hawaii teacher's salary. Some of these employees also work in rural or hard-to-staff locations. They, too, should benefit from a housing program being administered by the department for which they work and deserve to be considered for affordable rental housing. If affordable rental housing will be made available for teachers, then the legislature should also consider providing "workforce housing" for other government employees regardless of jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on H.B. 525, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

RE: HB 525, HD2, SD1- RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

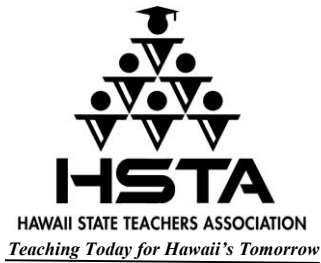
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 525, HD2, SD1**, relating to teacher housing. This bill clarifies that DOE, in partnership with the Hawaii public housing authority, Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, and the school facilities agency, may construct housing for teachers on a public school campus. It also requires that housing units constructed or acquired on a school campus after 6/30/2021, be rented at an affordable cost to new teachers or teachers teaching in a rural or hard-to-staff location, with priority given to teachers employed full-time at the school where the housing unit is located. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers. Financial incentives and affordable options for teacher housing are key strategies 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. Housing is a big portion of each teacher's paycheck.

IF we concentrate on retaining our teachers, the Department 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. Building more teacher housing, especially for our new teachers, and establishing affordable teacher rental housing is helpful. 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



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Executive Director

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 attention 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, building more teacher housing, as long as it is affordable for teachers, will assist them in attaining sustainable and stable residency, while staving off crushing debt burdens. It would also make the teaching profession more attractive by increasing educators' ability to find affordable housing that won't take their whole paycheck.

To take care of the needs of our hardworking public school educators in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

HB-525-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:04:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John D. Smith | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support

March 29, 2021

To: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Debbie Drummondo
MSW Candidate 2021
Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health
University of Hawaii- Manoa

HB 0525 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that the Department of Education may construct teachers' housing on a public school campus. Requires that teachers' housing units constructed or acquired on a school campus after 6/30/2021, be rented at a low cost or no cost to new teachers employed full-time at that school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 0525 Relating to teacher housing.

The state of Hawaii continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers. As a social work student, a mother, and a community advocate, I believed that a housing opportunity for Hawaii public school teachers is a great opportunity and a long-overdue incentive. With the increasing standard of living in our state, every day is a struggle for all. Our education system is at stake when our system is not recruiting the licensed teachers needed to fill our school system gaps.

Our teachers are the backbone of our society. Thus, housing opportunities for them are significant to achieve retention and recruitment of teachers in Hawaii. I greatly appreciate the committee's initiative in looking after our public school teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.