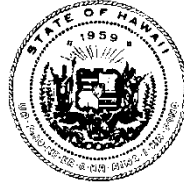


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, April 3, 2023
2:30 PM – Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 1596, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 1596, SD1, HD1, relating to school campuses.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in support of SB 1596, SD1, HD1. This measure establishes and appropriates funds for a Maui campus housing pilot program. Requires the School Facilities Authority and Department of Education to submit reports to the Legislature.

The HPHA believes in increasing housing opportunities for school employees and hopes to collaborate with the School Facilities Authority and assist in this housing pilot program. Please know that when the construction is completed, positions and funding will be needed in order for the HPHA to administer the program. The HPHA stands ready and looks forward to assisting the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be part of the overall solution needed to address all housing related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its testimony regarding HB 1596, SD1, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

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Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
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Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins




Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 2, 2023

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 3, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1596, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

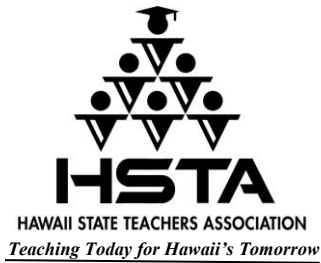
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The measure's purpose is to establish a pilot program to provide for the planning, design, and construction of housing within or near a school campus for employees at schools in the Lahainaluna and Kulanihakoi complexes on Maui.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would address Maui County's lack of attainable housing, which is a limiting factor to attracting and retaining quality, specialized school teachers, staff, and administrators.
2. Using existing infrastructure and State property to provide housing for school employees would reduce costs, construction time, and traffic congestion.
3. This measure furthers the following objective of the Maui County General Plan: "Encourage the state to attract and retain school administrators and educators of the highest quality."
4. This measure also furthers the following objective of the Maui Island Plan: "Provide a more expansive network of safe and convenient pedestrian-friendly streets . . . between neighborhoods and schools where appropriate."

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 1596 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

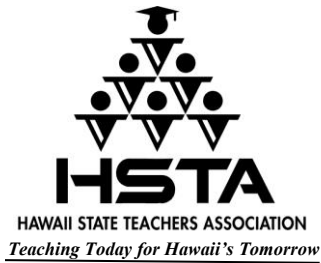
The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports SB 1596, SD1, HD1**, relating to school campuses. The bill establishes and appropriates funds for a Maui campus housing pilot program. Requires the School Facilities Authority and Department of Education to submit reports to the Legislature.

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers with over 1000 vacancies each year. Affordable options for teacher housing is one key strategy for the recruiting and retaining 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 of Education would not have to focus so much on the recruitment. **To recruit and retain effective educators, policymakers must find ways to lessen the financial burden of being a public school teacher.** Establishing a housing program that will make housing available to teachers, staff, and administrators employed at schools in the Lahainaluna and Kulanihako'i complexes on Maui is a good first step. An affordable housing option within a two mile radius of the complexes would not only help teachers and other school staff with affordable housing options, but their cost of living will arguably be lessened. The ability to walk to work would save school employees both in travel time and gas expenses.

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.

Add to these struggles the spike in inflation we've seen in the last year, and ever-rising housing costs. According to Locations Hawai'i, the median home cost in Hawai'i at the end of 2021 was \$1.02 million. The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Honolulu is more than \$1,600 and a two-bedroom is \$2,180. As homes are sold,



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teachers who rent then struggle to find affordable replacement housing. We have had teachers, born and raised in Maui, who have been forced to relocate to the continent for work because they simply could not find affordable housing on Maui, or elsewhere in the islands.

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 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. Those teachers for whom this pilot program could see significant easing of their financial burdens, as well as more time to commit to both their students and their own families.

Thus, a teacher and school staff housing pilot program on Maui may assist teachers and other school staff in attaining sustainable and stable residency, while staving off crushing debt burdens. Implementing and tracking the progress of the pilot program could point the way to more permanent affordable housing solutions for teachers and others in the future. It would also make the teaching profession more attractive by decreasing travel times and increasing educators' ability to find affordable housing that won't take their whole paycheck.

To take care of the needs of hardworking teachers and school staff in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** 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-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 3, 2023

S.B. 1596, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 – Relating to School Campuses

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO is in full support of S.B. 1596, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a Maui campus housing pilot program.

School principals, especially those on the neighbor islands, struggle with recruiting quality employees because of the lack of attainable and affordable housing. Housing can easily cost over half of an employees' monthly income. The HGEA supports the legislature's effort to find solutions to attract, recruit and retain public school employees and this pilot on-campus housing program at two of Maui's schools is a move in the right direction.

The HGEA represents thousands of school employees who work for the DOE and would greatly benefit from campus housing provided by the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 1596, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director