

STATE OF HAWAII
SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
75 AUPUNI STREET, STE. BASEMENT
HILO, HAWAII 96720

March 13, 2023

**Testimony providing SUPPORT of SB1596 SD1
RELATING TO THE SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

REPRESENTATIVE TROY HASHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing Date: 03/15/2023

Room Number 312

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) is in **support** of S.B. 1596 SD1, RELATING TO THE SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

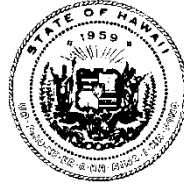
The SFA supports efforts to find the highest possible uses of our State land assets to provide the resources necessary to support our Keiki in their educational endeavors. Providing teacher and workforce housing is a critical component to addressing the long-standing teacher and educator workforce shortage issue in our State.

The SFA would appreciate the consideration of the committee for an amendment to this bill. We support that educators and staff of the two named high schools should have access to the teacher housing. However, we do believe that in order to maximize occupancy and account for the broader needs of the Central Maui complex, we respectfully suggest the committee expand who is eligible for this housing pilot to all teachers, staff, and administrators employed within the complex areas that encompass Kulanihakoi and Lahainaluna high school.

The SFA appreciates the consideration by the Legislature for an appropriation related to the establishment of the Maui campus housing pilot program. The SFA does not have existing funds that it would be able to utilize to cover the costs associated with this program. The SFA would also appreciate clarity on the expectations of the Legislature for this pilot program to better determine an appropriate funding estimate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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 Housing

9:00 a.m., March 15, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 312

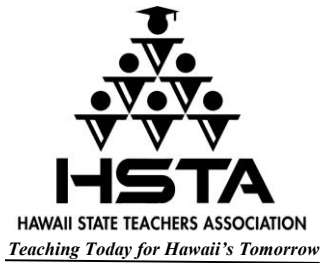
In consideration of
SB 1596, SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES

Honorable Chair Hashimoto, and members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 1596, SD1, relating to school campuses.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **support** of SB 1596, SD1. This measure establishes and appropriates moneys for a Maui campus housing pilot program, to be administered by the School Facilities Authority which shall make on-campus housing available to employees at Lahainaluna and Kulanihako'i high schools on the island of Maui, which shall be administered by the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority after the construction. Requires the School Facilities Authority and Department of Education to submit joint 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. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



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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 HOUSING

RE: SB 1596 SD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Committee:

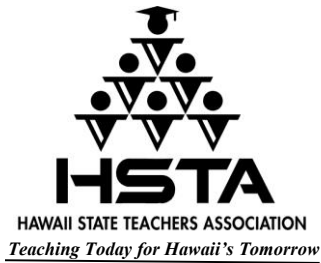
The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 1596, SD1**, relating to school campuses. The bill establishes and appropriates moneys for a Maui campus housing pilot program, to be administered by the School Facilities Authority which shall make on-campus housing available to employees at Lahainaluna and Kulanihako'i high schools on the island of Maui. It also requires the School Facilities Authority and Department of Education to submit joint 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 an on-campus housing program on Maui is a good first step. An affordable housing option on campus would not only help teachers with affordable housing, but cost of living broadly would arguably be lessened. The ability to walk to work would save both in travel time and gas. The price of which remains very high.

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 Hawaii, the median home cost in Hawaii at the end of 2021 was \$1.02 million. The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment



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in Honolulu is more than \$1,600 and a two-bedroom is \$2,180. As homes are sold, 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 campus housing pilot program on Maui may assist teachers 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 teacher 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.

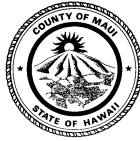
To take care of the needs of hardworking teachers in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

Council Chair
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Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 13, 2023

TO: The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1596, SD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate money for a pilot program to provide for the planning, design, and construction of on-campus housing for employees at Maui's Lahainaluna and Kulanihako'i high schools.

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. Lahainaluna and Kulanihako'i high school campuses have existing infrastructure and are located near high-traffic roads, which makes them ideal locations for the pilot project proposed by this measure.
3. Using existing infrastructure and State property to provide on-campus housing for school employees would reduce costs, construction time, and traffic congestion.
4. 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."

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