



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 24, 2023

**TO:** Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 941 S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES  
AUTHORITY  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** Conference Room 211

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support**

EOEL supports S.B. No. 941 S.D. 1 and defers to the School Facilities Authority.

Hawaii continues to be plagued by a shortage of licensed teachers, particularly in rural and remote and hard-to-fill areas. Affordable teacher housing is a well-established solution to address barriers to teacher recruitment and retention efforts. Pre-kindergarten teachers that serve some of Hawai'i's youngest children may benefit from this bill.

We thank the Legislature for their commitment to support initiatives that address workforce barriers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.