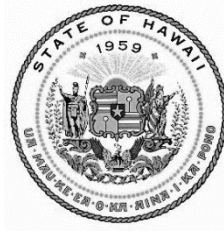


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. FARIAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

February 24, 2023

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB497 HD1
RELATING TO HOUSING**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 02/24/2023

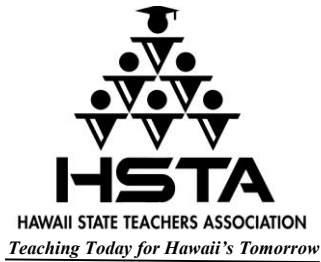
Room Number 308

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **strongly supports** H.B. 497 HD1, which requires the SFA to conduct a feasibility study for the development of teacher and workforce housing at the former Queen Liliuokalani elementary school property.

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 shortage issue in our State.

The SFA appreciates the consideration of an appropriation to cover the costs associated with conducting a feasibility study. The SFA does not have the in-house capacity or expertise to conduct a feasibility study and would require an outside contract to manage this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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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: HB 497, HD1 - RELATING TO HOUSING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 497 HD1** relating to housing. This bill will require the school facilities authority to conduct a feasibility study for the development of teacher and workforce housing at the Queen Liliuokalani elementary school property.

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a severe shortage of licensed teachers. Financial incentives and affordable options for teacher housing can be an important strategy for the recruitment and retention of teachers, particularly given that teachers' salaries in Hawai'i continue to trail the nation when adjusted for cost of living, even more so now with the recent inflation. Housing is a big portion of each teacher's paycheck.

If we concentrate on retaining our teachers, the Hawaii Department of Education 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.** 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 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.

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



Housing Hawaii's Future
PO Box 3043
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

February 23, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Finance Committee members,

On behalf of Housing Hawai'i's Future, I write in support of HB497, requiring the school facilities authority to conduct a feasibility study for the development of teacher and workforce housing at the Queen Liliuokalani elementary school property.

We support the building of workforce housing, meeting the needs of the gap group of families earning between 80%-140% AMI.

This gap group includes teachers and other members of our hard working middle class.

We support a fee development model, where land provision, entitlements, infrastructure, and financing are the responsibility of state, county, or land trusts. This defrays costs, minimizes risk, and shortens timelines to incentivize developers to build more housing.

In this case, the Liliuokalani elementary school property is ideal for workforce housing. The state should assess entitlements, infrastructure and financing and develop workforce housing, following the highly successful model of Hale Kalele (<https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hhfdc/hale-kalele/>).

Please support HB497!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sterling Higa".

Sterling Higa
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future

sterling@hawaiisfuture.org

+1 (808) 782-7868

hawaiisfuture.org

HB-497-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:29:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 497, HD 1 this legislative session. It is an excellent proposal on the feasibility of re-purposing state land/facilities to address the housing shortage issue to retain and recruit teachers to teach in Hawaii.

HB-497-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:29:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl Burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill and look forward to seeing its progress to assist our educators.