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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO TEACHER WORKFORCE HOUSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that teachers are  
2       fundamental to shaping the future of Hawaii's keiki and  
3       communities. However, areas in the State with schools that are  
4       hard to staff still face significant challenges in attracting  
5       and retaining qualified educators due to limited affordable  
6       housing options and the State's high cost of living.

7       The legislature further finds that challenges with teacher  
8       retention have resulted in a growing reliance on emergency hires  
9       and long-term substitutes, which can negatively affect the  
10      quality of education for students and place additional financial  
11      strain on the department of education. Addressing teacher  
12      retention is critical to reducing educational disparities and  
13      ensuring equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities  
14      for all students in public and charter schools.

15      The legislature therefore finds that providing financial  
16      assistance for housing through a teacher workforce housing  
17      stipend program would support teacher retention in communities



1 with schools that are hard to staff. Additionally, a stipend  
2 program would help alleviate economic burdens and encourage  
3 educators to make long-term commitments to teaching in  
4 communities with schools designated as hard-to-staff.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
6 teacher workforce housing stipend program to support teacher  
7 retention at any public school and charter school designated as  
8 hard-to-staff, which will strengthen the teaching profession,  
9 support educational equity, and invest in the success of  
10 Hawaii's students and schools.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to subpart E of part III to be  
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 **"§302A- Teacher workforce housing stipend program;**  
15 **hard-to-staff schools.** (a) There is established a teacher  
16 workforce housing stipend program to be administered by the  
17 department to support teacher retention at any public school and  
18 charter school designated as hard-to-staff.

19 (b) An individual shall be eligible for stipend  
20 consideration if the individual:



1       (1) Is employed full-time in a public school or charter  
2       school in an area designated as hard-to-staff; and

3       (2) Does not own a residence.

4       (c) Stipend recipients shall receive \$                    per  
5       month; provided that stipends awarded shall be used only for  
6       rent or utilities. Stipend recipients shall submit annual  
7       documentation to the department verifying the stipend was used  
8       only for the purposes allowed pursuant to this subsection.

9       (d) Immediately following an award of a stipend, the  
10      recipient shall commit to teaching at a school in an area  
11      designated as hard-to-staff for a minimum of three years. A  
12      stipend recipient may continue to receive a stipend pursuant to  
13      this section following the completion of the designated number  
14      of years; provided that the recipient continues to meet  
15      eligibility requirements pursuant to subsection (b).

16      (e) If the recipient fails to satisfy the work  
17      requirements in accordance with subsection (d), the recipient  
18      shall repay the total amount of the stipend received as a loan  
19      repayable to the department. The repayment shall be subject to  
20      terms and conditions set by the department, including  
21      circumstances under which recipients may be eligible for



1 deferment or forgiveness due to hardship or inability to secure  
2 employment, as well as potential fees for the collection of  
3 delinquent repayment.

4 (f) Stipends repaid by a stipend recipient pursuant to  
5 subsection (e) shall be deposited into the teachers' housing  
6 revolving fund established pursuant to section 302A-833.

7 (g) The department may accept federal funds to support the  
8 teacher workforce housing stipend program.

9 (h) In accordance with chapter 103D, the department may  
10 enter into written contracts with collection agencies to collect  
11 delinquent repayment of stipends owed to the department pursuant  
12 to subsection (e). A collection agency that enters into a  
13 written contract with the department to collect delinquent  
14 stipend repayments pursuant to this subsection may collect a fee  
15 from the debtor in accordance with the terms of, and up to the  
16 amounts authorized in, the written contract.

17 (i) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
18 to implement and administer the stipend program, including the  
19 terms of repayment pursuant to subsection (e).

20 (j) The department shall submit a report of its findings  
21 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature on the stipend program no later than twenty days  
2 prior to the convening of the regular session for every odd-  
3 numbered year, beginning with the regular session of 2027."

4 SECTION 3. Section 302A-833, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

6 "(a) There is established in the state treasury a  
7 revolving fund to be known as the teachers' housing revolving  
8 fund to be administered by the department of education. The  
9 director of finance shall transfer any moneys appropriated for  
10 the purposes of teacher housing to the teachers' housing  
11 revolving fund. All unexpended balances of appropriations,  
12 allocations, allotments, special revolving funds, or other funds  
13 heretofore created and made available for the purposes of  
14 developing or administering teachers' housing projects shall be  
15 transferred to the teachers' housing revolving fund.  
16 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all moneys, including  
17 refunds, reimbursements, and rentals, for housing from teacher  
18 tenants, and all moneys received by the department pursuant to  
19 302A- (f) shall be deposited in the revolving fund.



1 (b) The revolving fund may be used by the department of  
2 education for any and all of the purposes of teachers' housing,  
3 including ~~[the]~~:

4 (1) The planning, construction, maintenance, and operation  
5 of teachers' housing~~[, as well as for the]~~;

6 (2) The salaries of the necessary personnel in charge  
7 thereof~~[.]; and~~

8 (3) The teacher workforce housing stipend program  
9 established pursuant to section 302A- ."

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and administration of the  
15 teacher workforce housing stipend program established pursuant  
16 to section 2 of this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of education for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



**1** SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DOE; Teacher Workforce Housing Stipend Program; Workforce Housing; Reports; Teachers' Housing Revolving Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Teacher Workforce Housing Stipend Program to support teacher retention at public and charter schools classified as hard-to-staff. Requires reports to the Legislature. Amends the purpose and uses of the Teachers' Housing Revolving Fund. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

