



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 01/29/2019  
**Time:** 01:20 PM  
**Location:** 225  
**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Housing

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0012 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to develop and implement a housing voucher program for full-time teachers employed by the department of education or at a public charter school.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 114, with comments.

SB 12 aligns with Goal 2 of the Department's Strategic Plan of focusing on increasing the pipeline of new teachers entering the education profession and increasing teacher retention rates.

Housing subsidy vouchers can be a tool to increase the Department's teacher retention, especially in hard-to-fill geographic areas. According to a 2016 report by the Learning Policy Institute, housing incentives was one factor for teachers who left the profession in their consideration in returning to the field of education. The financial assistance provided through the voucher program may help to ease some of the financial burden, magnified by high cost of living in Hawaii.

The Department also notes that hard-to-fill schools may also employ half-time teachers. Based on the proposed language, only those individuals working as full-time (1.0 FTE) teachers would be eligible for the home assistance program. Further, should the committee proceed with this measure, the Department requests consideration for a blank appropriation at this time, to further discuss the funding that may be necessary for a housing voucher program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan

which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Craig K. Hirai**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

January 29, 2019 at 1:20 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of  
**S.B. 12**  
**RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.**

HHFDC does not have the appropriate staff and expertise to administer a housing voucher program of this nature, and therefore opposes S.B. 12.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: SB 12 Relating to Teacher Housing  
DATE: January 29, 2019  
TIME: 1:20 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Housing  
ROOM: Conference Room 225  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

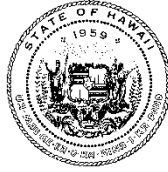
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Chair Kidani, Chair Chang, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 12**, which provides a housing voucher program to provide housing vouchers to full-time teachers who are employed by the Department of Education and in public charter schools. The Commission is grateful for the inclusion of public charter schools in this measure.

The Commission further appreciates the Legislature’s efforts and willingness to address teacher recruitment and retention in the public school system, particularly in public charter schools. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committees, other affected stakeholders, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 28, 2019

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND EDUCATION**

**PERSON TESTIFYING:** Lynn Hammonds, for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019

**TIME:** 1:20 pm

**LOCATION:** State Capitol Conference Room 225

**TITLE OF BILL:** SB12 RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

**PURPOSE OF BILL:**

Authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to develop and implement a housing voucher program for full-time teachers employed by the department of education or at a public charter school.

Chairs Kidani and Chang, Vice Chairs Mercado Kim and Kanuha, and Members of the Committees on Education and Housing:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board supports the intent of a \$500 housing voucher program for full-time teachers in Hawaii public schools, to be used for their primary residence rent or mortgage payments. The HTSB greatly appreciates the intent of this bill, but hopes that the amount may be increased to cover more of a teacher's housing expense and encourage teachers to remain in Hawaii and remain in the teaching profession in Hawaii public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
**1010 Richards Street, Room 118**  
**Honolulu, HI 96813**  
**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**  
**email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov**

January 29, 2019

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice  
Chair*  
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Ms. Virginia Beringer  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Mr. Motu Finau  
Mr. Sage Goto  
Ms. Lindsay Heller  
Dr. Kurt Humphrey  
Ms. Tina King  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Kaili Murbach  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
Ms. Carrie Pisciotto  
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos  
Ms. Rosie Rowe  
Mr. James Street  
Mr. Francis Taele  
Mr. Steven Vannatta  
Dr. Amy Wiech  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Cara Tanimura, *liaison  
to the Superintendent*  
Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to  
the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 12 - RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING

Dear Chairs Kidani and Chang and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports the intent of S.B. 12 which creates a housing voucher program for full time teachers.


As you know, Hawaii suffers from a chronic shortage of qualified teachers for our public school students. The shortage is most acute for special education teachers who teach some of our most vulnerable students. This school year, only 84% of special education teaching positions were filled by individuals who had completed a state approved teacher education program. Of those teachers, a fair percentage have only general education training.

Retention of qualified teachers is also a growing problem. Last school year saw the most common reason cited by exiting teachers (38%) was moving out of state. We know from exit surveys that the high cost of living (and in particular, housing) was a major factor in the decision to leave Hawaii.

Given the critical personnel shortage to adequately serve the needs of special education students, we ask that your committees consider designing the voucher program to prioritize hard-to-fill teaching positions.

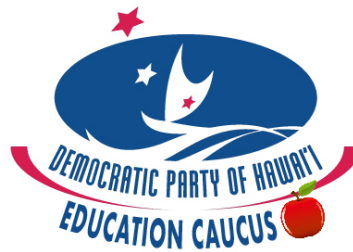
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair

*Mandated by the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act***



## **SENATE BILL 12, RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING**

JANUARY 29, 2019 · SENATE EDUCATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI AND SEN. STANLEY CHANG

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 12, relating to teacher housing, which authorizes the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to develop and implement a housing voucher program for full-time teachers employed by the department of education or at a public charter school.

Currently, Hawai'i teachers experience the lowest salaries for their profession in the nation, when those salaries are adjusted for the cost of living. At the same time, island housing and rental prices are continuing to skyrocket. According to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, the median single-family home price in Honolulu hit a record \$812,500 in September of 2018, for example, while an analysis of rental values performed by ATTOM Data Solutions released earlier this year found that Honolulu's rentals are the second-least affordable in the country relative to wages.

The average Hawai'i public school teacher earns approximately \$58,000, which, on O'ahu qualifies as "low income", per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Until teacher pay is significantly increased—as it should be—we believe housing assistance may help curb Hawai'i's teacher shortage crisis, which now stands at 1,029 positions statewide.





## **O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2019  
TIME: 1:20 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225 State Capitol

RE: SB 12 Relating to Teacher Housing

Aloha mai kakou Members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Education:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 12 relating to Teacher Housing.**

SB 12 authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to develop and implement a housing voucher program for full-time teachers employed by the department of education or at a public charter school.

DPH believes that the future of our State as well as our Country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. DPH supports the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living. DPH supports hiring the most qualified

teachers, administrators and specialists for our educational system. DPH also supports partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide practicum support and or access. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 2, ln. 50-52, p.3, ln. 1-10.*

Given that this measure provides vouchers for teacher housing, OCCLP supports this measure as teacher housing may be considered as part of teachers' competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living

**For these reasons, the OCCLP supports and urges the passage of SB 12 out of the Committee on Education and the Committee on Housing.**

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 4:09:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
L.M. Holmes	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

After working as a tutor at Ka'iulani Elementary School in Honolulu for 3 years and seeing firsthand how hard the teachers work for how little money, and the problems with teacher retention, I am very much in favor of giving them housing support. Please do this and whatever else you can to improve the conditions of teachers in Hawai'i.

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 5:20:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support all actions that will help our teachers.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Member of Education Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:42:19 PM  
Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Logue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:17:07 PM  
Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:09:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn Golojuch	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Public School teachers are under paid and need as much support as possible. This is one way to assist the Educators in Hawai'i that would give them some assistance in a state that has some of the highest Housing Rates in the nation. If we value the Educators of our state, Please pass this measure ASAP. I personally have no vested interest other than wanting to give my full support and the support of Rainbow Family 808 which works for the improvement of the families in our state.

Thank you for your consideration for this Blue Wave measure!

**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 4:44:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Who is the "corporation?" Why is this voucher program being implemented? Where are the funds coming from (though we know ultimately it comes from the tax payer and/or property owner). Is the \$500 a one-time payment, monthly, yearly? Frequency is not specified.



**SB-12**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:39:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/29/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

While I am in total support of assisting educators and feel that this is an integral part of allowing teachers to have more stability economically, I am not clear who will determine or how it will be determined who will qualify? Educators already jump through so many hoops for so many things. In addition, how will this be kept fair and accessible to all? As a retired DOE educator, I can tell you that having assistance with housing here would have made a great deal of difference in the level of my ability to sustain here on the islands.