

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LATE



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/06/2020
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 225
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Housing

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2255 RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to assist the department of education in developing teacher housing projects and contract or sponsor with any state department or agency. Appropriates funds for deposit into the dwelling unit revolving fund. Requires the department of education to lease land and contract with private entities for the development, management, maintenance, or revitalization of teacher housing. Permits a project owner to lease teacher housing to other eligible tenants if occupancy of teacher housing falls below 95 per cent.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2255, which seeks to authorize the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to assist the Department in developing teacher housing on public school lands.

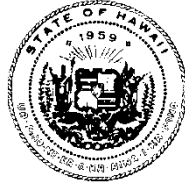
The Department recognizes the value of developing cost-effective teacher housing in an effort to recruit and retain qualified teachers and offsetting costs by providing state lands for this project. The high cost of living and lack of affordable housing have been long-standing issues that the Department has faced in the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers. Creating affordable teacher housing, especially in areas of high need, will help to provide equitable access to quality education for all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
INTERIM 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
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

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

February 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

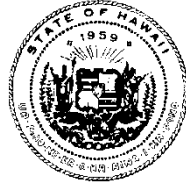
In consideration of
S.B. 2255
RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING.

HHFDC *supports the intent* of S.B. 2255, provided that it does not adversely impact priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

S.B. 2255 amends §201H-12, HRS to expand HHFDC's authority to develop mixed-use housing projects, to include rental housing for teachers, in conjunction with the Department of Education. HHFDC is willing to assist the Department in developing rental housing for teachers subject to the availability of funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

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

**Thursday, February 6, 2020
2:00 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of
SB 2255
RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING

Honorable Chair Kidani, Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2255, relating to teacher rental housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** SB 2255, which authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation (HHFDC) to assist the department of education in developing teacher housing projects and contract or sponsor with any state department or agency. Appropriates funds for deposit into the dwelling unit revolving fund. Requires the department of education to lease land and contract with private entities for the development, management, maintenance, or revitalization of teacher housing. Permits a project owner to lease teacher housing to other eligible tenants if occupancy of teacher housing falls below 95 per cent.

The HPHA fully supports the creation of teacher rental housing and has the expertise to develop, manage and work with the Department of Education and the HHFDC in creating communities that will attract and retain qualified public-school teachers. The HPHA stands ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be a part of the overall solution needed to address all housing related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2255. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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

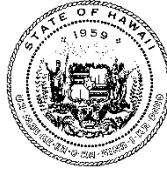
FOR: SB 2255 Relating to Teacher Rental Housing
DATE: February 6, 2020
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Housing
ROOM: Conference Room 225
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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 2255**, which provides funding for the development of affordable rental housing for teachers. The Commission is grateful for the inclusion of public charter schools in this measure as there are about 800 teachers currently in the charter school system.

The Commission further appreciates the Legislature’s efforts and willingness to address teacher recruitment and retention through multiple options and approaches. 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 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

February 6, 2020

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2255, RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING

SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

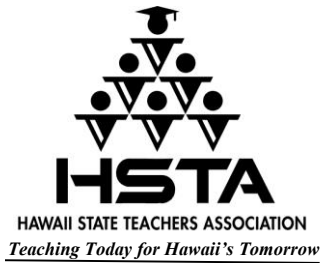
Chairs Kidani and Chang, Vice Chairs Kim and Kanuha, and Members of the Senate Committees on Education and Housing:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB 2255 to authorize the housing finance and development corporation to assist the department of education in developing teacher housing projects.

Making affordable housing available to teachers should contribute not only to the recruitment but also more importantly to the retention of qualified teachers in Hawaii public schools. If teachers are provided quality, affordable housing in Hawaii, they and their families will benefit and be able to continue their careers in our state. Students will be also be supported by a stable school faculty, ensuring continuity throughout the public school experience from PK through grade twelve.

The HTSB thanks the Senate Committee on Education for introducing and hearing this bill to support Hawaii teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION and HOUSING

RE: SB 2255 - RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

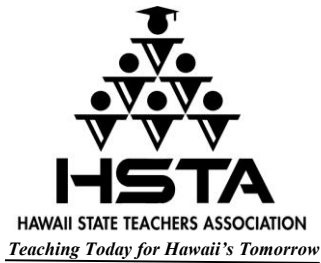
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2255**, relating to teacher rental housing.

This bill authorizes the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to assist the department of education in developing teacher housing projects and contract or sponsor with any state department or agency. It appropriates funds for deposit into the dwelling unit revolving fund and requires the department of education to lease land and contract with private entities for the development, management, maintenance, or revitalization of teacher housing. It permits a project owner to lease teacher housing to other eligible tenants if occupancy of teacher housing falls below 95 per cent.

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers. In 2018-2019 we saw yet another increase in SATEP vacancies of 1,029 teachers. As we have noted to the Board of Education and previous legislative hearings, SPED teacher attrition has led to a situation in which 1 out of every 6 SPED teachers have not completed a state-sanctioned teacher training program. Our teacher shortage problem is further clarified in the DOE's 2016-2017 Employment Report, which shows that teacher resignations increased from 781 in 2015-2016 to 850 in 2016-2017 and 1,114 in 2018-2019, with only 294 due to retirement. Similarly in-state SATEP hires decreased from 404 to 387 from 2016-2018, while out-of-state SATEP hires increased from 508 to 572. Teacher attrition is worse in high-poverty areas. In the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area, for example, an astounding 18 out of 19 SPED teachers hired for the 2017-2018 school year did not have a special education license.



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Financial incentives and affordable options for teacher housing are a key strategy for the recruitment and retention 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 HIDOE 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. Establishing a teacher rental housing program is a good first step. 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 attending 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.

Thus, a teacher rental housing program will, as long as it is affordable for teachers, will assist them in attaining sustainable and stable residency, while staving off crushing debt burdens. It would also make the teaching profession more attractive by increasing educators' ability to find affordable housing that won't take their whole paycheck.

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

SB-2255

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:55:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/6/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this effort to make living in Hawaii more affordable for Teachers. Our public schools, teachers and families, need all the help they can get.

Mahalo, Ann S. Freed

Mililani resident

SB-2255

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 3:52:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/6/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

If there are any ways at all that educators can be assisted with housing rentals, it will be appreciated. I know that for me, it would have helped just to have an introduction to some units. Sometimes, there were 20 other people looking at the apartment with me when I first came to Hawai'i. In addition, people just starting out or in education, could probably use help with security deposits and initial costs. Seems it would benefit us all if our educators had safe and pocket-friendly rental options.