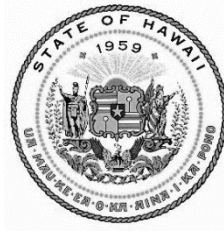


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. FARIAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

February 01, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB497
RELATING TO HOUSING

REPRESENTATIVE TROY HASHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing Date: 02/01/2023

Room Number 312

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **strongly supports** H.B. 497 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.

January 30, 2023

Dear Chair Hashimoto and Vice Chair Aiu,

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.

At Housing Hawai'i's Future, 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, and use more of our county and state land to serve the housing needs of our people.

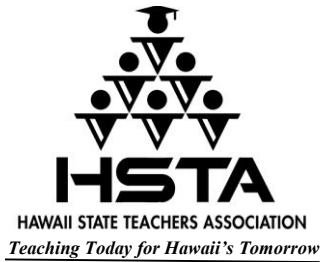
Thank you,



Sterling Higa
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future

sterling@hawaiisfuture.org

+1 (808) 782-7868



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

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita.
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

RE: HB 497 - RELATING TO HOUSING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Hashimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 497** 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.

HB 497
Teacher
Housing

CARES

LATE

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY RESEARCH EDUCATION SERVICES

to.

the House
Committee
HSG

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & the HSG Committee,

The Hawaii State
Legislature

CARES testifies in strong support of HB 497. Teachers are underpaid and many teachers are forced to pick up second & third jobs. As we improve public education and expands affordable housing, teacher housing will bring stability to our State.

from

Zhizi Xiong
(Angela
Melody
Young)
Creator

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Blessings,



ANGELA MELODY YOUNG

Zhizi Xiong

808-724-0047

alohadivinedesign@gmail.com



LATE

HB-497

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:39:32 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori K. Yamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was part of the group of concerned Kaimuki families and friends of QLS who were trying hard to save the school from closing in 2011. We were all sincerely saddened by the school's closing short of its 100th anniversary in 2012.

Ideas of the future of the school were discussed in our bi-weekly meetings, but none of which concerned teacher's housing. What we all agreed upon is that the school property should be used in the education of our keiki, as per Queen Lydia Liliuokalani blessings when she laid the cornerstone for the school in 1912.

I think that the idea of having teachers living and working in the property again would bring renewed energy to the property and to our Kaimuki community as well.

I also support having a pre-kindergarten development Think Tank and Lab School program started on the lower floor of the school because the property is perfect in the way it is structured. The lower level is fully fenced in with level playground areas to re-develop again and hopefully still have the infrastructure in place to easily restart a preschool program. (I used to work at QLS for 3 years as their PCNC before they closed so am familiar with the classrooms)

Thank you for your kind consideration and I hope you all do the right thing of making Queen Liliuokalani Elementary School an education facility again.