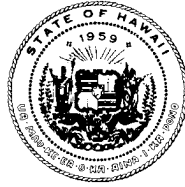


HB 1016

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

In consideration of
H.B. 1016
RELATING TO HOUSING VOUCHERS.

The HHFDC **supports the intent** of H.B. 1016, but defers to the Department of Education on the extent of the demand for the proposed housing voucher program and the fiscal impact on the Department's operating budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1016, RELATING TO TEACHERS

House Committee on Housing
Hon. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Hon. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Monday, February 9, 2015, 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Hashem and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 300 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 1016, relating to teachers.

Highly effective teachers are the key to student success. Unfortunately, our schools have been plagued by the nation's highest teacher turnover rate, which exceeds 50 percent turnover every five years. Hawai'i's high cost of living, sadly, undermines the retention of highly effective teachers, while simultaneously suppressing purchasing power. Thus, we must find creative ways of incentivizing professional development to keep our best educators in the classroom, especially in impoverished communities. Providing a housing voucher to full-time classroom teachers will help to offset the high cost of living that sends our teachers overseas. That said, **we note that this measure would be less exigent if teachers were fairly compensated, rather than lagging at the bottom of national cost of living studies.** Hawai'i's cities have the highest ACCRA values in the country, typically hovering between 160 and 170. Unsurprisingly, our state is ranked last, year after year, in teacher salaries adjusted for cost of living, with the average teacher earning a COL-adjusted income of roughly \$32,000 per year, \$4,000 below the next-to-last state on the list (Maine), according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau. Put simply, our teachers should be paid what they're worth, a policy for which there is no substitute.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance