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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING SUBSIDIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that approximately ten  
2 per cent of the State's teachers switch schools, relocate, or  
3 leave the profession each year. Fewer than sixty per cent have  
4 been employed at their current school for more than five years.  
5 Chronic turnovers force the department of education to rely on  
6 emergency hires and substitute teachers to fill vacancies.

7           The legislature further finds that teacher recruitment and  
8 retention is especially difficult in disadvantaged communities.  
9 The department of education's 2015 report, *Equitable Access to*  
10 *Excellent Educators*, found that 21.48 per cent of teachers in  
11 high-poverty schools are inexperienced, unqualified, or teaching  
12 outside of their fields, compared with 14.48 per cent in low-  
13 poverty schools.

14           The legislature finds that Hawaii's high cost of living  
15 significantly contributes to the department of education's  
16 difficulty with teacher recruitment and retention. According to  
17 a WalletHub study, the State ranked fifty-first out of fifty



1 states and the District of Columbia for starting teacher salary  
2 and median teacher salary when adjusted for the cost of living.

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve teacher recruitment  
4 and retention by establishing a teacher home assistance program  
5 to provide housing vouchers to full-time teachers employed by  
6 the department of education, including teachers at public  
7 charter schools, who teach in hard-to-fill schools, as  
8 determined by the department of education, and whose household  
9 income does not exceed eighty per cent of the area's median  
10 income.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§201H- Teacher home assistance program. (a) There is  
15 established a teacher home assistance program to be administered  
16 by the corporation.

17 (b) The corporation shall provide housing vouchers to  
18 full-time teachers employed by the department of education,  
19 including teachers at public charter schools, who teach in hard-  
20 to-fill schools, as determined by the department of education,



1 and whose household income does not exceed eighty per cent of  
2 the area median income.

3 (c) Housing vouchers shall be provided on a first-come,  
4 first-served basis.

5 (d) Each housing voucher shall not exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in a  
6 single year.

7 (e) A housing voucher provided under the teacher home  
8 assistance program may be used for:

9 (1) Rent;

10 (2) Mortgage payments for the teacher's primary residence;

11 or

12 (3) Down payment on residential real property; provided  
13 that the residential real property shall be the  
14 teacher's primary residence and that the teacher shall  
15 not own, operate, or control any other residential  
16 real property.

17 (f) The corporation shall:

18 (1) Develop an application procedure;

19 (2) Develop the processes, procedures, and forms necessary  
20 to implement and maintain the program; and



1        (3) Cooperate with the department of education and state  
 2            public charter school system to develop a process to  
 3            verify an applicant's status as a full-time teacher  
 4            employed at a hard-to-fill school.

5        (g) Any housing voucher provided pursuant to this section  
 6            shall be renewable for one additional year without further  
 7            application or verification by the corporation or the department  
 8            of education.

9        (h) The corporation shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
 10           91 for the purposes of this section."

11        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
 13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 15 2020-2021 to provide housing vouchers through the teacher home  
 16 assistance program established by this Act.

17        The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
 18 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of  
 19 this Act.

20        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

21        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

HHFDC; Teacher Home Assistance Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the teacher home assistance program within HHFDC to provide housing vouchers to full-time DOE teachers (including public charter school teachers) who teach in hard-to-fill schools and whose household income does not exceed eighty percent of the area's median income. (HB649 HD1)

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

