
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER RENTAL HOUSING.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe
3 shortage of qualified teachers in public-school classrooms
4 throughout the State. Each year, the department of education
5 looks for approximately one thousand two hundred teachers to
6 fill vacancies. For the 2018-2019 school year, there were one
7 thousand twenty-nine vacancies throughout the State, up from one
8 thousand eleven during the 2017-2018 school year, and nine
9 hundred twenty during the 2016-2017 school year. While there
10 are teachers to fill all public-school classrooms, about six
11 hundred of those classrooms are staffed by long-term
12 substitutes, rather than full-time teachers.

13 The legislature further finds that the high cost of living
14 and a lack of affordable housing in Hawaii are some of the
15 factors contributing to teachers leaving the profession or
16 leaving the State entirely. According to the Employment Report
17 published by the department of education, in the 2017-2018



1 school year, 51.8 per cent of teachers who resigned cited
2 "leaving Hawaii" as their primary reason for resigning, while
3 fourteen per cent resigned for a non-teaching or non-education
4 related job.

5 The high cost of living in Hawaii coupled with a lack of
6 affordable housing makes recruiting and retaining qualified
7 teachers one of the most pressing matters of the State.
8 Providing financial incentives such as affordable housing for
9 teachers is a means for the department of education and public
10 charter schools to recruit and retain qualified teachers by
11 lessening the financial burden many teachers are experiencing in
12 the State.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Authorize the Hawaii public housing authority and
15 Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to
16 provide affordable rental housing for teachers
17 employed by the department of education and public
18 charter schools;
- 19 (2) Authorize the Hawaii housing finance and development
20 corporation to contract or sponsor with any state or
21 county agency for such housing;



1 government; provided that not less than fifty per cent
2 of available units shall be for applicants without
3 preference and up to fifty per cent of available units
4 shall be for applicants with preference;

5 (2) Within the priorities established by the authority
6 recognizing need, veterans with a permanent disability
7 of ten per cent or more, as certified by the United
8 States Department of Veterans Affairs, and their
9 dependent parents, if any. The deceased veteran's
10 widow or widower shall be given first preference.
11 Parents of veterans shall not use the veteran status
12 of their adult child as a basis for preference; ~~and~~

13 (3) The authority may provide rental housing for teachers
14 employed by the department of education and public
15 charter schools; and

16 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Subject to any limitations set by federal law or
17 regulation, the authority shall not select as a
18 tenant, and may terminate the tenancy of, any person
19 if the person or any household member owns or acquires
20 a home within the State."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
4 purposes of this Act.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
6 housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

7 PART III

8 SECTION 4. Section 201H-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

11 "(a) The corporation, in its own behalf or on behalf of
12 any federal, state, or county agency, may:

- 13 (1) Clear, improve, and rehabilitate property;
- 14 (2) Plan, develop, construct, and finance housing
15 projects, including mixed-use developments; and
- 16 (3) In cooperation with any state or county department or
17 agency, including the department of education and
18 department of accounting and general services, plan
19 facilities and rental housing projects for teachers
20 employed by the department of education and public
21 charter schools and related infrastructure as an



1 integral part of its housing projects, including
2 mixed-use developments, using all its innovative
3 powers toward achieving that end expeditiously and
4 economically; provided that facilities developed in
5 cooperation with the department of education comply
6 with the department of education's educational
7 objectives and requirements.

8 For purposes of this subsection, "mixed-use developments" means
9 a development that contains affordable residential dwelling
10 units that may be combined with governmental, educational,
11 commercial, cultural, institutional, or industrial uses; is
12 approved by the county in which the project is located; and is
13 subject to: chapter 104; title 40 United States Code sections
14 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3146, and 3147; or a project labor
15 agreement by law or contract in the construction of the
16 project."

17 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

18 "(e) The corporation may contract or sponsor with any
19 [~~county,~~] state or county department or agency, housing
20 authority, or person, subject to the availability of funds, an
21 experimental or demonstration housing project designed to meet



1 the needs of elders; the disabled; displaced or homeless
2 persons; low- and moderate-income persons; teachers or other
3 government employees; or university and college students and
4 faculty."

5 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be
8 deposited into the dwelling unit revolving fund.

9 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the dwelling unit
10 revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may
11 be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the development of
12 rental housing for teachers pursuant to section 302A- , Hawaii
13 Revised Statutes; provided that if the department of education
14 does not identify and approve land for the development of rental
15 housing for teachers by December 31, 2020, the sum appropriated
16 may be expended for the purposes of section 201H-191, Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes.

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

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1 PART IV

2 SECTION 7. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding a new section to subpart E of part III to be
4 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

5 "§302A- Teachers' housing; leasing and occupancy; rules.

6 (a) The department shall lease land and contract with private
7 entities for the development, management, maintenance, or
8 revitalization of housing for teachers employed by the
9 department or public charter schools as necessary to effectuate
10 this subpart.

11 (b) If the occupancy of teacher housing units by teachers
12 falls below ninety-five per cent of total units in a project,
13 the project owner may rent the available units to eligible non-
14 teacher tenants.

15 (c) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to
16 chapter 91 for the purposes of this section.

17 (d) For the purposes of this section "project owner" means
18 any private entity who enters into a contract to lease land for
19 teacher housing pursuant to this section."

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1 PART V

2 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
3 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
5 provided that section 3 and section 4 of this Act shall take
6 effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Department of Education; Public Charter Schools; Teacher Housing; Appropriations

Description:

Authorizes the Hawaii public housing authority and Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to provide rental housing projects for teachers employed by the department of education and public charter schools. Appropriates funds for the Hawaii public housing authority. 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 ninety five per cent. (SD1)

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