

JAN 24 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER HOUSING.

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. Only fifty to sixty per cent of
4 current teachers have been at their school for five years or
5 more. Chronic teacher turnover forces the department of
6 education to rely on emergency hires and substitute teachers to
7 fill vacancies.

8 The legislature further finds that teacher recruitment and
9 retention is especially difficult at hard-to-staff schools.

10 The legislature additionally finds that Hawaii's high cost
11 of living is a significant contributing factor in the
12 department's teacher recruitment and retention efforts.

13 According to a WalletHub study, Hawaii ranked fifty-first out of
14 fifty states and the District of Columbia for starting teacher
15 salary and median teacher salary, adjusted for cost of living.

16 The purpose of this Act is to alleviate the financial
17 burden on teachers and improve teacher recruitment and retention



1 by establishing a teacher housing assistance program to provide
2 housing vouchers to qualified full-time teachers who are
3 employed by the department of education and teach at a
4 hard-to-fill school, as determined by the department, including
5 public charter schools.

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

9 "§201H- Teacher housing assistance program. (a) There
10 is established a teacher housing assistance program to be
11 administered by the corporation to provide housing vouchers to
12 eligible teachers. If the number of applications exceeds the
13 number of available housing vouchers, housing vouchers shall be
14 provided to eligible teachers through a lottery process.

15 (b) A housing voucher provided under this section shall be
16 used for:

- 17 (1) Rent for the eligible teacher's primary residence;
18 (2) Mortgage payments for the eligible teacher's primary
19 residence; or



1 (3) Down payment on residential real property; provided
2 that the property shall be the eligible teacher's
3 primary residence.

4 (c) A housing voucher shall not exceed \$500 per month or
5 the eligible teacher's monthly rent or mortgage payment,
6 whichever is less. A housing voucher granted pursuant to this
7 section shall be applicable for one year. The voucher shall be
8 renewable for one additional year.

9 (d) Upon the establishment of the teacher home assistance
10 program, the corporation shall develop an application procedure
11 and processes, procedures, and forms necessary to implement and
12 maintain the program. The corporation shall also work with the
13 department of education and state public charter school
14 commission to develop a process to verify that a housing voucher
15 applicant satisfies the criteria listed in subsection (f).

16 (e) The corporation may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
17 to effectuate the purpose of this section.

18 (f) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible
19 teacher" means a person who:

20 (1) Is a full-time teacher;



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- 1 (2) Has taught at a school in Hawaii for at least one year
- 2 prior to the application date;
- 3 (3) Is employed by the department of education;
- 4 (4) Commits to teach at a hard-to-fill school, including a
- 5 public charter school, as determined by the department
- 6 of education, for no less than five consecutive years;
- 7 (5) Resides in this State;
- 8 (6) Does not own, operate, rent, or control any
- 9 residential real property in addition to the eligible
- 10 teacher's primary residence for which the housing
- 11 voucher is sought; and
- 12 (7) Has a household income below _____ per cent of the
- 13 state median income."

14 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of

15 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and

16 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined

17 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the

18 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025

19 to be exceeded by \$ _____, or _____ per cent. The

20 reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are

21 that the appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve



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1 the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this
2 Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
6 the provision of housing vouchers through the teacher home
7 assistance program established by this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
9 housing finance and development corporation for the purposes of
10 this Act.

11 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

13

INTRODUCED BY: Lynn DeCotte



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Report Title:

Teacher Home Assistance Program; Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Teacher Recruitment and Retention; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Establishes the Teacher Home Assistance Program to be administered by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to provide housing vouchers to certain teachers who are employed by the Department of Education and commit to teach at hard-to-fill schools and charter schools for no less than 5 years. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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

