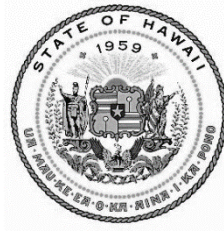


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. FARIAS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

February 14, 2023

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB497 HD1  
RELATING TO HOUSING**

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN WOODDSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: 02/14/2023

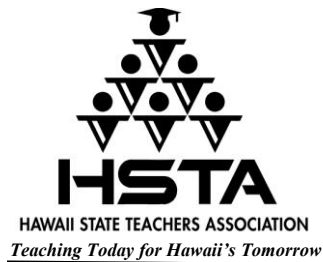
Room Number 309

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **strongly supports** H.B. 497 HD1, 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.



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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 497, HD1 - RELATING TO HOUSING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 497 HD1** 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-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:01:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tricia Dang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I strongly support HB 497 for all the reasons stated within the bill. The teacher shortage is massive and it will not improve without new opportunities and benefits that appeal to existing and future educators. Based on salary alone, quality housing is unobtainable for teachers unless they receive financial support from others.

In addition, I applaud this effort to seriously consider converting land originally designated for uses that have since evolved or changed (i.e. student enrollment continues to decline and sprawling campuses are a thing of the past) to address specific community needs (i.e. teacher housing).

The report is necessary and yes, it can be made feasible just like any other workforce housing project. This just happens to be the **ONLY** workforce housing that is specifically for the most deserving people in our community - **TEACHERS!**

I kindly ask that the selected researchers approach this with an open mind, reflective of the variety of well-designed and planned housing around the world....housing that is not just a small roof over a teachers head, but housing that a teacher wants to come home to and a mixed use community with support services such as a preschool and daycare for their babies and toddlers, senior daycare space for their aging parents who may live with them, open space to breath, play areas for the community and their children, and small commercial spaces that support the needs of people who work Monday to Friday, 7 am to 4 pm.

By creating space to support teacher housing, you will (hopefully) satisfy the population that is still annoyed that the school closed, and by creating mixed use on the site, (hopefully) satisfy those that believe the site should host other uses.

I strongly support this bill and the future teacher housing that will go on this site.

Thank you!

Tricia Dang

