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

10           The legislature additionally finds that Hawaii's high cost  
11 of living is a significant contributing factor in the department  
12 of education'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:

4 (1) The department of education and commits to teach at a  
5 hard-to-staff school, as determined by the department;

6 or

7 (2) A charter school and commits to teach at a charter  
8 school.

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

12 "§302A- Teacher housing assistance program. (a) There  
13 is established a teacher housing assistance program to be  
14 administered by the department to provide housing vouchers to  
15 eligible teachers. If the number of applications exceeds the  
16 number of available housing vouchers, housing vouchers shall be  
17 provided to eligible teachers through a lottery process.

18 (b) A housing voucher provided under this section shall be  
19 used for:

20 (1) Rent for the eligible teacher's primary residence;



1       (2) Mortgage payments for the eligible teacher's primary  
2       residence; or

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

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

11       (d) Upon the establishment of the teacher housing  
12       assistance program, the department shall develop an application  
13       procedure and processes, procedures, and forms necessary to  
14       implement and maintain the program. The department shall work  
15       with the state public charter school commission to develop a  
16       process to verify that an eligible teacher satisfies the  
17       criteria listed in subsection (g).

18       (e) Applications for vouchers shall be made to the  
19       department and contain the information as shall be required by  
20       rules adopted thereunder. At a minimum, the applicant shall:

21       (1) Be an eligible teacher as defined in subsection (g);



- 1        (2) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes  
2                    of the program;
- 3        (3) Indicate capability to properly use the voucher for  
4                    the purpose of the program;
- 5        (4) Comply with other requirements as the department may  
6                    prescribe;
- 7        (5) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county  
8                    statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- 9        (6) Agree to indemnify and save harmless the State and its  
10                   officers, agents, and employees from and against any  
11                   and all claims arising out of or resulting from the  
12                   use of vouchers for this program, and procure  
13                   sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification  
14                   if requested to do so by the department; and
- 15        (7) Agree to make available to the department all records  
16                   the applicant may have relating to the voucher, to  
17                   allow state agencies to monitor the applicant's  
18                   compliance with this section.
- 19        (f) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
20                   to effectuate the purpose of this section.



- 1        (g) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible  
2 teacher" means a person who:
- 3        (1) Is a full-time teacher;  
4        (2) Has taught at a public school in the State for at  
5        least one year prior to the application date;  
6        (3) Is employed by the department of education or a  
7        charter school;  
8        (4) Commits to teach at a hard-to-staff school, as  
9        determined by the department of education, or a public  
10       charter school for no less than five consecutive  
11       years;  
12       (5) Resides in the State;  
13       (6) Does not own, operate, rent, or control any  
14       residential real property in addition to the eligible  
15       teacher's primary residence for which the housing  
16       voucher is sought; and  
17       (7) Has a household income below        per cent of the area  
18       median income."

19       SECTION 3. Section 302A-833, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:





**1** SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Teacher Housing Assistance Program; Teacher Recruitment and Retention; Teachers' Housing Revolving Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Teacher Housing Assistance Program to provide housing vouchers to certain eligible teachers. Appropriates funds out of the Teachers' Housing Revolving Fund. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

