

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER WORKFORCE HOUSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part III, subpart E, to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Teacher workforce housing; stipend program;
5 rural and underserved schools. (a) There is established a
6 teacher workforce housing stipend program to be administered by
7 the department to support teacher retention at any public school
8 designated as rural or in an underserved area.

9 (b) An individual shall be eligible for stipend
10 consideration if the individual:

11 (1) Is employed full-time by the department in a public or
12 charter school in an area designated as rural or
13 underserved; and

14 (2) Does not own a residence within commuting distance
15 from the school at which they are employed.

16 (c) Stipend recipients shall receive \$1,000 per month;
17 provided that stipends awarded shall only be used only for rent,



1 mortgage payments, or utilities. Recipients of the teacher
2 workforce housing stipend shall submit annual documentation
3 verifying the usage of the stipend for housing purposes pursuant
4 to this subsection.

5 (d) Immediately following an award of a stipend, the
6 recipient shall commit to teaching at a school in an area
7 designated as rural or underserved for a minimum of three years.
8 A stipend recipient may continue to receive a stipend pursuant
9 to this section following the completion of the designated
10 number of years; provided that the recipient continues to meet
11 eligibility requirements pursuant to subsection (b).

12 (e) If the recipient fails to satisfy the work
13 requirements in accordance with subsection (d), the recipient
14 shall repay the total amount of the stipend funds received as a
15 loan repayable to the department. The repayment shall be
16 subject to the terms and conditions set by the department.

17 (f) The department shall submit a report of its findings
18 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session for every odd-numbered year, beginning with
21 the regular session of 2027."



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and administration of the
6 teacher workforce housing stipend program established pursuant
7 to section 1 of this Act.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of education for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 1274

Report Title:

DOE; Teacher Workforce Housing Stipend Program; Workforce Housing; Reports; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a Teacher Workforce Housing Stipend Program to support teacher retention at public and charter schools classified as rural and underserved. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

