
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 "(b) The revolving fund may be used by the department of
2 education for any and all of the purposes of teachers' housing,
3 including the ~~[planning,]~~:

4 (1) Planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of
5 teachers' housing~~[, as well as for the salaries];~~

6 (2) Teacher housing assistance program pursuant to section
7 302A- ; and

8 (3) Salaries of the necessary personnel in charge
9 thereof."

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the teachers'
11 housing revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
12 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum
13 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027
14 for the provision of housing vouchers through the teacher
15 housing assistance program established by this Act.

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

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



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.

