



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

April 5, 2023

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 941 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Time: 1:55 pm
Location: Conference Room 308

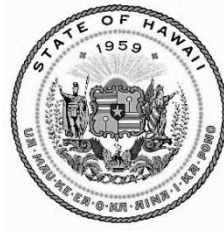
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

EOEL supports S.B. No. 941 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 and defers to the School Facilities Authority.

Hawaii continues to be plagued by a shortage of licensed teachers, particularly in rural and remote and hard-to-fill areas. Affordable teacher housing is a well-established solution to address barriers to teacher recruitment and retention efforts, particularly as the State prioritizes expansion of public pre-k options for children and families. Pre-kindergarten teachers that serve some of Hawai'i's youngest children may benefit from this bill.

We thank the Legislature for their commitment to support initiatives that address workforce barriers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. FARIAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

April 05, 2023

**Testimony providing SUPPORT of SB941 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 04/05/2023

Room Number 308

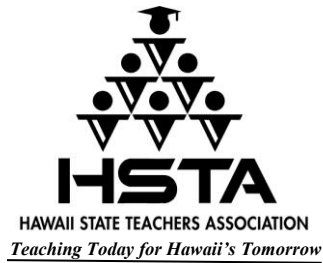
The School Facilities Authority (SFA) is in **support** of S.B. 941 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY.

The SFA appreciates the Legislature's continued support and commitment to creating new teacher housing for our educator workforce. We also appreciate that the Legislature has acknowledged that housing our educators has the dual opportunity of addressing our lack of affordable housing and our chronic teacher shortage in one project. We look forward to working with the Legislature, the DOE, and our State development partners to deliver teacher housing in the coming years.

The SFA supports the amendments made by the Housing and Education committees in the HD1 of this bill to provide the flexibility for who is eligible for the educator housing as well as where this housing can be located. We also request consideration of additional staff positions as found in GM05 to support this type of educator housing.

The SFA looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to deliver affordable housing for our educator workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 941 SD2 HD1- RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

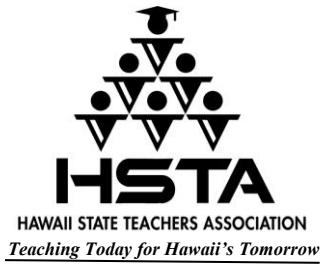
OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 941 SD2, HD1**, relating to the school facilities authority. The bill authorizes the School Facilities Authority to partner with public and private agencies to develop teacher and educator housing. Authorizes the School Facilities Authority to transfer appropriated funds to partner state agencies for the development of teacher and educator housing. Appropriates funds to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of teacher and educator housing and classrooms. Specifies Nanakuli High School, Waipahu High School, and Mililani High School as initial locations for the construction.

Hawai'i continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers with over 1000 vacancies each year. Affordable options for teacher housing is one key strategy for the recruiting and retaining of teachers, particularly given that Hawai'i's teacher salaries continue to trail the nation, when adjusted for cost of living. Housing is a big portion of each teacher's paycheck.

IF we concentrate on retaining our teachers, the 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.



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Executive Director

Authorizing the SFA to partner with public and private agencies to develop teacher and educator housing could help alleviate the financial burden of housing felt by so many of our public teachers.

To take care of our hardworking teachers in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representative
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 5, 2023

S.B. 941, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – Relating to the School Facilities Authority

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 941, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which proposes to authorize the School Facilities Authority to partner with public and private agencies to develop housing for teachers, educators, and staff.

The HGEA represents thousands of employees who work for the DOE and make less than a starting Hawaii teacher's salary. They work in critical positions to support teachers, face vacancies that are also hard to fill, and deal with the same high cost of living. We appreciate the inclusion of 'DOE staff' to be considered for affordable housing being developed by the SFA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 941. S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-941-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:54:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Teacher recruiting and retention is a huge challenge for Hawaii schools, and finding affordable housing is a key component of that. I support SB941, which proposes the construction of teacher and educator housing and classrooms on two public high school campuses. I am especially excited to endorse the selection of Mililani High School as one of the two pilot schools for this project, given its innovative leadership, high-achieving student body, and ideal central Oahu location. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-941-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:58:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB941 SD2 HD1.

SB-941-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 1:38:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Disa Hauge	Nanakuli Waianae Complex Area DOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita and Vice-Chair Kitagawa,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB 941 regarding the development of teacher and educator housing.

As you know, both the high cost of living in Hawaii and the shortage of rental units contribute to a significant challenge with being able to fully staff and retain teachers in our public schools. This public-private initiative has the potential to significantly support the stabilization of our schools' staff. When teacher turnover is low, students benefit tremendously and the community can trust the consistency of the educational program. Resultant student achievement is enhanced and the social fabric of our community is strengthened.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Disa Hauge

Nānākuli-wai'anae Interim Complex Area Superintendent