

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nareit Hawaii Donates \$100,000 to Fund HSTA Program Supporting Public School Teachers Statewide

HONOLULU – Sept. 28, 2020 – Nareit Hawaii has donated \$100,000 to fund a program that provides Hawaii public school teachers with information, guidance, and resources to support their opportunities with owning or renting a home while dealing with the impacts of COVID-19.

The program, presented by the Hawai'i HomeOwnership Center, launches Oct. 7 with a series of workshops that are being provided free of charge to all Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) members statewide. The workshops cover a range of topics vital for teachers to maintain a healthy and happy home life, including homeownership, rental counseling, and foreclosure prevention. HSTA members will receive self-help tools, guided support, and individual coaching to address issues specific to their home situation. Visit www.hsta.org/hihomeownership for more information on this program.

A focus of the workshops is how COVID-19 is impacting the household income of teachers and their ability to own or rent a home, and what can be done to cope with this situation. Supporting educators during the pandemic was the impetus for Nareit Hawaii to contact HSTA.

Gladys Quinto Marrone, executive director for Nareit Hawaii, said, "It is an honor for Nareit Hawaii to collaborate with HSTA on this program as public school teachers are the backbone of Hawaii's strength as a society, both today and for future generations. We know how much of a strain COVID-19 is putting on teachers and we wanted to show our support with a program designed to help them at home. The more we can do to help teachers, the stronger Hawaii will be in overcoming COVID-19."

"Our educators are struggling financially and emotionally. They're worried about their health, families, students, and the communities that they live and work in," said Gayle Enriquez, state chair of HSTA's Membership Services Committee. "We believe this resource can provide them with support, knowledge, and hope during these difficult times."

"Having a safe and stable home is the foundation for success for all families. We appreciate Nareit Hawaii's investment in supporting public school teachers having that home stability through our programs," said Reina Miyamoto, executive director for the Hawaii HomeOwnership Center. "Our experience has found that education and individual support can make a significant difference for families to navigate our challenging housing market."

About Nareit Hawaii

Nareit Hawaii is the local office of Nareit, the worldwide representative voice for real estate investment trusts (REITs) and publicly traded real estate companies with an interest in U.S. real estate and capital markets. Nareit Hawaii represents the interests of REITs in Hawaii and their participation in civic, community, and policy initiatives to benefit residents statewide, while also supporting community and charitable organizations that address social issues of importance. For more information about Nareit Hawaii and REITs in Hawaii, please visit www.nareithawaii.com.

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About HSTA

The Hawaii State Teachers Association is the exclusive representative of 13,700 public school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3-million member National Education Association, HSTA represents and supports teachers in collective bargaining, as well as with legislative and professional development issues. Visit www.hsta.org for more information.

About the Hawai'i HomeOwnership Center

The Hawai'i HomeOwnership Center's mission is to provide education, information and support to create successful first-time homeowners in Hawai'i. By addressing barriers and increasing rates of home ownership, the HomeOwnership Center aims to build stronger families and communities throughout the state of Hawai'i. Services are available to anyone regardless of their income. In 2009-2016 HHOC offered Foreclosure Prevention Counseling to provide support to distressed homeowners during the recession and brought back the program in response to COVID-19. To learn more, visit www.hihomeownership.org.

Media Contacts:

Nareit Hawaii
Patrick Dugan, Anthology Group
E: Patrick.Dugan@AnthologyGroup.com
M: (808) 741-2712

Hawaii State Teachers Association
Keoki Kerr, Director of Communications
E: kkerr@hsta.org
M: (808) 226-2908

Hawai'i HomeOwnership Center
Reina Miyamoto
E: reina@hihomeownership.org
P: (808) 523-8116