

Charlene Hosokawa, teacher  
Moanalua High School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

LATE TESTIMONY

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene Hosokawa and I am a teacher at Moanalua High School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it benefits my colleagues and myself by providing health benefits to us in the teaching profession at competitive cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

James Bray, Teacher, Waianae Elementary School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

I am James Bray and I have taught at Waianae Elementary School since moving to Hawaii in 2002. I support the intent of SB 2262, SD1 extending the study period to five years but as one who has benefited from the VEBA trust I would appreciate keeping VEBA indefinitely. I ask that you amend SB2262, SD1 with the following:

Insert HB 2481, which makes VEBA permanent, as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

As a member of HSTA and a VEBA subscriber, I support the HSTA VEBA Trust. My family and I have benefited from increased medical coverage and a reduction in monthly medical expense because of this health coverage. Please make VEBA permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

James Bray, Waianae

Gail Kono, Teacher, Kalei'opu'u Elementary School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

LATE TESTIMONY

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Kono and I am a teacher at Kalei'opu'u Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it has provided me and my family the benefits needed to keep healthy. When I was a part of the EUTF program, my prescription would cost me over \$300 a month and I was paying more "out of pocket" expenses for doctor visits and treatments. Due to my bout of cancer and other medical conditions, I was spending money that ate away at my salary. Had this continued, I would have less money to use for other necessities which would eventually cause a hardship for my family.

Please consider amending SB2262 SD1 with HB 2481 content as a SD2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Gail Kono-Teacher

Kalei'opu'u Elementary School

[konog002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:konog002@hawaii.rr.com)

Annette Oda, teacher , Wilcox Elementary School  
House Committee on Labor &Public Employment  
Tues., March 11, 2008

9a.m.

SB 2262SD1

Dear Mr. Chairman Sonson, and members of the Committee

My name is Annette Oda and I am a teacher at Wilcox Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262SD1 with the following amendments.

1. Insert HB2481 contents a SD2 without a defective date, but as of July 1, 2008 .
- 2, I support HSTA VEBA TRUST because VEBA has been very responsible and have been looking out for the teachers for a long time. As they have been building and protecting the Trust in the past, it has given me peace of mind knowing that they have our best interest in mind. They have been able to establish many useful products for their members to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Annette



**SB 2262, SD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Chairperson Sonson and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment:**

**My name is Laverne Fernandes Moore and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I am speaking on behalf of my teachers at McKinley High School and we are in support of Senate Bill 2262 with the following amendment:**

- 1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008**

**McKinley High School teachers believe the HSTA VEBA Trust is one means of recruiting and maintaining teachers in the State of Hawaii. Second, teachers want the legislators to make VEBA permanent. Third, VEBA saves the State money and enhances health benefits for our members.**

**Mahalo to the opportunity to testify.**

Carl Ramsey, Counselor, Honaunau School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carl Ramsey and I am the Counselor at Honaunau School.  
I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it helps cut cost and provides security for DOE employees like me and my wife.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Name of Testifier, Teacher, Name of School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ginny Hori and I am a teacher at Waimea High School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because (list your reasons or why you want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To... [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Cc...

[Bcc..mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)

Wade Hondo  
Teacher  
Baldwin High School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 22, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wade Hondo and I am a teacher at Baldwin High School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it has provided teachers, myself included, with excellent health coverage at a reasonable rate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Name of Testifier, Teacher, Name of School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Deborah Duda and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC  
EMPLOYMENT  
RE: SB 2262 SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
March 11, 2008

Laurie Yoneda, Teacher  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Alex Sonson, Vice Chair Bob Nakasone and Members of the Committee

I am asking for your support to repeal the sunset date of the VEBA Trust  
Pilot addressed in SB 2262 SD1.

As a single parent of school-aged children, every savings I can have in cost  
to medicine, doctors' visits orthodontic charges, medical insurance premiums,  
etc. help tremendously in my family budget.

Thanks you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,  
Laurie K. Yoneda  
HSTA - Hilo Chapter  
P.O. Box 213  
Honomu, HI 96728  
808-963-6356

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC  
EMPLOYMENT

RE: SB 2262 SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH

March 9, 2008

Valerie Jean De Corte, Teacher  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and Members of the  
Committee

This bill SB2262 is supported by HSTA, and I am a member of this fine  
organization of teachers who also fully wants this to become law.

HSTA has provided both me and my family wonderful medical coverage for  
over 20 years. The coverage we've had has always been better than other  
organizations.

I feel if HSTA can provide the coverage for less and it is saving the State a  
lot of money, this is the way to go.

Vote yes and support something which assists teachers.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Jean De Corte  
Hilo High School  
974-4021 X2292

Felicia Friend-Betlach, Honokaa Elementary School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 22, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Felicia Friend-Betlach and I am a teacher at Honokaa Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it has allowed me to have more affordable health care for myself and my daughter. As a single parent it is important for me to be able to provide quality healthcare for the two of us at an affordable rate. VEBA has allowed this to occur. Please support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC  
EMPLOYMENT  
RE: SB 2262 SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
March 9, 2008

Angie Miyashiro, Teacher, Hilo High School  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and Members of the  
Committee

As a teacher I support SB 2262 which repeals the sunset date of Act 245  
SLH 2005 as amended that provides for the permanent establishment of  
VEBA to offer health benefits for my co-workers and myself.

I believe that the VEBA trust provides an effective means of containing  
health care costs for its members and the State of Hawaii. I respectfully  
request your favorable consideration of SB 2262 SD1.

Sincerely,  
Angie Miyashiro

Louise Cayetano, Teacher, Fern Elementary School House Committee on  
Labor & Public Employment Tuesday, March 22, 2008 9:00 a.m.  
SB2262, SD1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Louise Cayetano and I am a teacher at Fern Elementary  
School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following  
amendments: Insert HB2481 contents as a SD2 without a defective date  
but as of July 1, 2008.

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because the medical premiums have been  
lower for teachers and chiropractic coverage is provided as well, unlike  
the EUTF plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony.

Lori Kwock, Teacher, Maui Waena Intermediate School  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lori Kwock and I am a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008.

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it has saved me a lot of money that I previously spent on medical coverage. I also carry coverage for my spouse and my child. With the money I saved, I can spend it on necessities such as food, clothing and shelter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Representative Alex Sonson, Chair  
415 South Beretania Street  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
Conference Room 309  
9:00 a.m.

Chair Sonson and members of the House Committee on Labor and  
Public Employment,

My name is Roberta Mangca. I am a retired teacher. Please accept my testimony in SUPPORT of the ORIGINAL language of SB2262 SD1, which would have REMOVED the sunset for the HSTA VEBA. VEBA is providing better service to us with lower copayments and it is returning money to the state. I ask you to please remove the sunset for the HSTA VEBA as is in the ORIGINAL language of SB2262 SD1 so we can continue to have better service, pay less in copayments, and return money to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roberta Mangca

E. Alexis Van Gorder, Lanikai Elementary PC School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 22, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is E. Alexis Van Gorder and I am a teacher at Lanikai School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because (list your reasons or why you want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
E. Alexis Van Gorder

March 8, 2008

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

Testimony Submitted by Amy Downard, Teacher, Honolulu District Office

Dear Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Downard and I am a Visual Impairment teacher from Honolulu District Office. I am writing in support of SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because I feel it is a better health plan for teachers than the EUTF. I was very unhappy when I was forced to move from our old VEBA Trust to the EUTF. My healthcare contribution increased, even though the coverage was not as good. I was encouraged when teachers were able to return to the VEBA Trust to review the cost savings to the state. Money saved from the VEBA Trust has been returned to the state this year. Our VEBA trust provides better benefits to our teachers while saving the state money. Please support the repeal or extension of the VEBA sunset date so that our teachers can continue to enjoy better benefits in our teacher package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amy Downard

Visual Impairment teacher

Honolulu District Office

Home address:

1655 Makaloa St. #2508, Honolulu, HI 96814

[adownard@gmail.com](mailto:adownard@gmail.com)

Valerie T. Inouye, Teacher, Kapa`a Elementary School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Valerie T. Inouye and I am a teacher at Kapa`a Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it provides affordable health care for teachers. My co-pay for certain services and medications is less than what it would be on the EUTF [State] plan. As a single parent with a dependent having special medication needs, the HSTA VEBA Trust enabled me to provide quality health care for my child at affordable costs. Like many other teachers, as is natural in the course of aging, I find myself visiting the doctor more often for health maintenance as well as preventive reasons. It is for these reasons that I want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Karen Shimomura, Teacher, Wahiawa Middle School  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Shimomura and I am a teacher at Wahiawa Middle School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because the benefits that I receive from it is better than what I can receive from the state plan with the same investment (premium).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Karen Shimomua



Testimony to the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

**RE: Senate Bill 2262, SD1**

March 9, 2008

Carol Jones-Clark, Department Head, Language Arts, Social Studies  
Laupahoehoe High & Elementary School  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman Alex Sonson and Members of the Committee:

Please repeal the sunset date of Act 245, SLH 2005 and provide for permanent establishment of the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA) trust.

I have a personal account of difference between the EUTF and the HSTA VEBA benefits. In 2005, while DOE employees were mandatory participants in EUTF, I had to have foot surgery. My co-payments for anesthesia, physician care and surgery were more than \$300 more than they would have been under the VEBA system.

This may seem like a small amount compared to the employer's total contribution, but \$300 is still a sizable piece of my semi-monthly take-home pay.

Please support the VEBA trust because it saves money for all of us in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Carol Jones-Clark

Carol E. Seielstad, Special Education Teacher, Hanalei School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 22, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carol Seielstad and I am a teacher at Hanalei School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it:

- provides great benefit to myself and other teachers.
- is accountable to the Federal government for its expenditures.
- requires full disclosure on how the trust funds are used.
- it creates a smaller pool of members to allow a number of health insurance carriers to submit bids to be the carrier. The competition will allow for the VEBA Trust to negotiate a better premium and better benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Carol E. Seielstad  
3676 Kaweonui Rd.  
Princeville, HI 96722

From: Justin Carvalho, Teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School  
on Kauai

To:

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Carvalho and I am a teacher at Chiefess  
Kamakehelei Middle School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with  
the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but  
as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because (list your reasons or why you  
want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Justin Carvalho

**Lawrence Denis III**  
**Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School, Hilo**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lawrence Denis III and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

Please insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008.

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it offers substantial savings to teachers. For example, when I had to have surgery, VEBA paid 100% of my bill. I had no co-pay. Also, my monthly prescription co-pays are never more than \$15.00 each. Under EUTF, my co-pays would be \$30 for some of the name brand medicines I take. It's also cheaper for the state to offer HSTA VEBA rather than EUTF.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,  
Lawrence

Dear Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Lief and I am a counselor at Pu'ohala Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because it gives me superior benefits to the State health plan at a lesser cost to me, while simultaneously saving the State as well as the Taxpayers of Hawaii a large amount of money that can be utilized for other State purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Lief

Please send in testimony to [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) on SB 2262-Relating to Health

To... [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Cc...all senators and house reps.

<mailto:Bcc..mmorita@hsta.org>

Name of Testifier, Teacher, Name of School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 22, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is \_\_\_\_Carlo Marchetti and I am a teacher at Kamalii Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because (list your reasons or why you want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Faith Tomoyasu, Lehua Elementary  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
SB2262, SD 1

Chair Sonson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Faith Tomoyasu and I am a teacher at Lehua Elementary School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because the plan is very comprehensive with a cost that I can afford. I am very healthy but, it is a comfort to know that I have a well plan health package in case I do fall ill. A good example was a sudden appendectomy last Fall. It hit without warning and I needed emergency surgery. The cost of this emergency was staggering. If I had not had the health coverage I don't think I couldn't afforded the procedure. The HSTA VEBA health coverage covered almost 100% of the bill and I am convinced that this was the best plan for me. Please let the HSTA VEBA Trust continue.

Thank for the opportunity to testify.

Toni A. Hall, Teacher, Honoka'a Intermediate and High School

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 a.m.

SB 2262, SD 1

Chair Person and Members of the Committee:

My name is Toni A. Hall and I am a teacher at Honoka'a Intermediate and High School. I would like to support SB 2262, SD1 with the following amendments:

1. Insert HB 2481 contents as a SD 2 without a defective date but as of July 1, 2008

I support the HSTA VEBA Trust because (list your reasons or why you want the HSTA VEBA Trust to continue)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.