

**SB 881**

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Jo-An C. Goss [gossj002@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2009 5:56 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB881 on 3/4/2009 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB 881 Relating to Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association Trusts

Senator Kim and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, my name is Jo-An Goss, a retired teacher and member of the HSTA-R Legislative Action Team, and I oppose SB 811. We still have one year left of the HSTA VEBA pilot, and the study on the effectiveness of the VEBA has not been done. Although it was funded, the Governor has not released the monies. Yet, we know that HSTA has returned any overage to the State.

My husband and I have personally benefited from VEBA. The premiums and prices for medications have been lower than we saw with EUTF. Additionally, VEBA has sought out the carriers with new and better services for its members. Many HSTA active and retirees have expressed the similar information as I have attended meetings and made school visits.

I urge the Committee to hold off on SB 881, let the HSTA VEBA Pilot continue, and give the auditor time to complete the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jo-An Goss,  
HSTA-R Legislative Action Team member