



# LATE TESTIMONY

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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

RE: HB 546, HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH  
BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports the intent of HB 546, HD 2,** which establishes the Hawaii Employer- Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Task Force within the Department of Budget and Finance to examine the unfunded liability of the Hawaii-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 12,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate, of the 2.2 million member National Education Association, HSTA recognizes the escalating cost of health care of employees and former employees.

While we support the intent of this bill, we recognize and suggest that it is not in the best interest of employees or retiree's to include the state's chief negotiator, or the chief negotiator designee as a member of the task force.

We respectfully ask that a retired state public employee be included as part of the Hawaii Employer- Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Task Force within the Department of Budget and Finance for administrative purposes. By including a retiree as a stakeholder reinforces and protects future plans and benefits of state employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.