



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2782 - RELATING TO TEACHERS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports** SB 2782, relating to teachers, **with suggested amendments**.

Hawai'i faces a five-year teacher turnover rate of approximately 50 percent, owing to our state's exorbitant cost of living and the deprofessionalization of classroom instruction. Educational Assistants (EAs) are the perfect candidates for teacher licensure, as they provide supportive, student-centered assistance to educators. This bill would provide financial support for tuition costs to EAs who have already obtained their Associate of Arts Degree (AA), worked in a hard-to-fill area for at least two years, and been recommended by their school principal. In order to receive support, according to the proposal, EAs must remain teachers for three consecutive years after receiving their teaching degrees, ensuring that assistance provided by the state facilitates student learning growth.

That said, we are unclear about whether or not the program envisioned in this measure includes educational assistants working at charter schools. We **urge lawmakers to amend this measure, prior to final passage, to clarify that charter schools EAs working in hard-to-fill areas will qualify for the incentive program, too.**

To lessen Hawai'i's teacher turnover crisis, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2782 on Feb 26, 2016 09:40AM*
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:53:24 PM

SB2782

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2016 09:40AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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