

Joan lee Husted retired as the Hawaii State Teachers Association's Executive Director and Chief Negotiator in December, 2007 ending a career that began in 1971. HSTA, an affiliate of the National Education Association, represents 13,600 public school teachers in the State of Hawaii.

During her tenure with HSTA, she served as the teacher negotiator for the first statewide teacher collective bargaining agreement in the United States. She was the first public sector union negotiator to work with Med-Arb with legendary mediator/arbitrator Sam Kagel.

As a staff member, she negotiated fifteen teacher collective bargaining agreements and guided the Association through three strikes and one walkout. Prior to becoming HSTA's Executive Director, Joan was the Deputy Executive Director with responsibilities for supervising field staff, legal cases, research activities and negotiations.

Her collective bargaining agreements broke new ground for teachers including the use of sick leave for pregnancy, sick leave sharing and a sick leave bank as well as job sharing for tenured teachers, a student code of conduct and twelve month contracts for selected groups of teachers. She negotiated with the Employer to give temporary employees full benefits including health benefits and retirement benefits. When the teacher shortage expanded, she negotiated for retired teachers to returned to teaching without the loss of retirement benefits.

Innovations such as two tiered bargaining allowing individual schools to make adjustments to the master collective bargaining agreement and a performance based salary schedule were met with resistance in the Department of Education and were the memorandums of agreement were subsequently ended.

Governor George Ariyoshi appointed Miss Husted to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and she ultimately served as its chair. Governor John Waihee appointed her to the Tax Review Commission and A Commission on Excellence. She also served as a Commissioner on the Ad Hoc Commission on Comparable Worth.

Currently, she is a member of the Hawaii chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Association. In 2006 she was elected to the 134-year-old Social Science Association which is composed of the 50 notable leaders of Hawaii. She serves as a board member of the Education Institute of Hawaii, an education think tank and Governor Abercrombie appointed Joan as a Commissioner of e Education

Commission of the States, a national organization doing education research in lower and higher education. Joan enjoyed a long relationship with PBS Hawaii, serving on both their Board and Capitol Campaign Committee.

Joan had a good relationship with Aloha United Way, serving on its board for 19 years. For nine years she was the labor participation of the AUW's labor office campaign. For a number of years, she was the Labor Co-chair of the AFL-CIO Golf Tournament to raise money for AUW. In 2009, she received AUW's Norman Ahakuelo Labor Award for outstanding service to the community.

During her career, Joan received the YWCA Outstanding Leader in Labor Award and was recognized by the Honolulu Star Bulletin's Pacemaker of the Pacific. In 1986, television station KGMB identified her as one of the outstanding women of Hawaii. In the early 1990s, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority awarded her the Distinguished Public Service award for the Far West Region for her work supporting women. In 2005, the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs gave her their Leadership Award for Labor. In 2015, Joan received the Labor Education Relations Association's Lifetime Achievement in Labor Award at their national convention in Pittsburgh. In 2016, Joan chaired the YWCA's annual Leader Luncheon honoring four outstanding women leaders.

In 2015, Joan was invited to make a presentation at Japan's Municipal University of Miyasaki on the impact of the Great Recession on Hawaii's workers. Her presentation titled, "The Impact of the Collapse Lehman Brothers on Hawaii's Workers," will be published in the University of Miyasaki's journal later this year.

Miss Husted holds a baccalaureate degree from Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. She began her teaching career in Michigan and came to Hawaii in 1966 to be a school counselor at the State Department of Education's Samuel Wilder King Intermediate on Oahu. Her position before joining HSTA was as a District Resource Teacher in the Department of Education's Windward District.