

**testimony**

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:22 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 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

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Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

Re: SB2262 SD1

February 21, 2008

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

My name is Twylla-Dawn Steer and I am a science teacher at Aiea High school.

I write in favor of the intent of SB2262 SD1 with one exception, which is to repeal the sunset for the VEBA Trust. This bill like the HB 2481 version will allow present retirees in the EUTF one more opportunity to join the VEBA Trust. Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee the VEBA Trust does save the State money by charging a lower rate and returns the State's portion of the unused funds. Extending the sunset, is not necessary as the current data provide ample evidence of the savings

The VEBA trust through the administrative staff of the HSTA-Member Benefits Corporation negotiates excellent coverage at competitive rates. The amount the state is being reimbursed for its portion of the negotiated benefit may be an indicator that the fees being charged by carriers is excessive or their rate schedule is based on faulty data.

Moreover, the practice of returning the portion of the negotiated benefit back to the state penalizes teachers because they have good people working diligently, effectively and efficiently on their behalf. Why are teacher negotiated benefits reduced because of the MBC staff efficacy?

I strongly urge the passage of SB2262 SD1 and ask you to work with the house to repeal the VEBA sunset.

Thank you Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Twylla-Dawn Steer

Science Department Chairperson

Aiea High School

[tdsteer@pixi.com](mailto:tdsteer@pixi.com)



Attorneys at Law • A Law Corporation

LATE

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 1001 Bishop Street  
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 65-1230 Mamalaha Highway  
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MEMORANDUM

FAX: 586-6071

TO: Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
 Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
 Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: February 21, 2008

FROM: James K. Tam

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James K. Tam". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

RE: SB 2262 SD1

I am legal counsel to the HSTA VEBA Trust, which has been providing and continues to provide health benefits to teachers and their families. This memo is sent to you because of my understanding that SD1 proposes to extend the sunset only for another 2 years to 2011.

I am in favor of the intent of SB 2262 SD1 to repeal the sunset date for the HSTA VEBA Trust in light of its proven record of efficient performance. I am hoping your actions will reflect the desire the Trust's participants and beneficiaries to have a permanent program.

Thank you.

LATE

or

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB2262 SD1

February 21, 2008

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

My name is Twylla-Dawn Steer and I am a science teacher at Aiea High school.

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Moreover, the practice of returning the portion of the negotiated benefit back to the state penalizes teachers because they have good people working diligently, effectively and efficiently on their behalf. Why are teacher negotiated benefits reduced because of the MBC staff efficacy?

I strongly urge the passage of SB2262 SD1 and ask you to work with the house to repeal the VEBA sunset.

Thank you Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Twylla-Dawn Steer

Science Department Chairperson

Aiea High School

[tdsteer@pixi.com](mailto:tdsteer@pixi.com)

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 10:54 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 2008

LATE

KIM SPRINGER, TEACHER  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2262 (VEBA Trusts; Bargaining Unit 5; Repeal Sunset)

I saved lots of money having my medical insurance through the HSTA VEBA Trust. When we went back to the EUTF, I spent more out of pocket than before for co-pays. Then I was able to get back into the HSTA VEBA Trust. Wonderful!! I save on my monthly premium payments, save on doctor visit co-pays, and save on prescription co-pays. When I call our Member Benefits office, I get to speak with a live person, and my questions are answered promptly. I have also had excellent service through our Member Benefits office.

I understand that my colleagues also rejoice in the savings they enjoy because of their enrollment in the HSTA VEBA Trust. The savings teachers receive goes right back into the state's economy. This Trust has saved the state money.

I am humbly asking for your support to get the sunset provision to ACT 245 removed this year.

Sincerely,  
Kim Springer  
1722 Kaiao Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
959-2116

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2/22/2008

**testimony**

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:03 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 2008

Theresa V. DeMello, Special Education Teacher  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

I would like to have your favorable consideration to support SB 2262 to provide the permanent establishment of a VEBA Trust to offer health benefits for teachers. The HSTA VEBA has saved \$2.1 million for the State.

Please continue to provide the effective means of containing health care costs. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Theresa V. DeMello

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**testimony**

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:14 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 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.

Sincerely,  
Angie Miyashiro

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**testimony**

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:28 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 2008

Laurie Yoneda, Teacher  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui 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

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2/22/2008

**testimony**

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**From:** Kim Springer [kimkeiko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2008 11:42 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Before the Senate WAM Committee, RE: SB2262

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RE: SB 2262 - RELATING TO HEALTH  
February 22, 2008

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

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui 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

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2/22/2008