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TESTIMONY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

RE: III. A. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION - SCHOOL LEVEL STAFF COMPENSATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT - HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Barcarse and members of the committee,

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the modification of the Board of Education 2022 Legislative Policy Positions to add that the board supports proposed legislation that "increases the compensation of school-level employees in public schools."

As you are aware, the ongoing pandemic, and most recently the omicron variant, have laid bare the dire staffing shortages throughout our public school system that ultimately have a negative effect on providing the education that our keiki deserve. Ensuring that personnel can be recruited and retained for all positions is vital to the proper functioning of our public schools.

Your support and support from the Hawaii Department of Education is appreciated as we work towards seeing bills successfully make it through the Legislature to address these critical issues.