



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRIORITIES

2023

## INVEST WISELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO MEET PUBLIC SCHOOL NEEDS

- Create an additional dedicated, sustainable funding source for our public schools.
- Revise Act 51 to change per-pupil funding ratios in rural district schools to fulfill essential necessities, including adequate staffing, curriculum, and supplies.
- Fully fund special education for teaching and support staff positions to meet student needs.
- Fully fund and support English Learners (EL), teachers, and programs.
- Fully fund and support Hawaiian education.
- Advocate for the needs of our BU05 public charter school members and fully fund facilities.
- Create equitable access to free and timely transportation for all students to get to and from school.

## PROMOTE QUALITY STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Support authentic assessments and parental rights to refuse high-stakes standardized testing.
- Reduce class sizes to improve student learning environments, safety, and opportunities.
- Expand funding for public preschool.
- Provide high-quality physical education and nutritional programs.
- Provide access to mental health education and services, including suicide prevention and awareness, high-quality sexual health education, and substance abuse education.

## CREATE AN OPTIMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS

- Fund school facility and technology upgrades, including bandwidth.
- Fund and maintain classroom climate control, air quality, and water quality.

## ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS TO HAWAII'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Advocate for non-negotiated alternatives to stabilize educators' financial security.
- Increase funding for public education to attract and retain qualified teachers.
- Provide professional assistance, including mentoring, professional development, and a supportive, rather than a punitive, teacher evaluation system collaboratively created under the flexibility of ESSA.
- Pass legislation to support a paid family leave act and provide a separate bank of funding for maternity and paternity leave.
- Provide teachers with access to affordable rentals and homeownership.

## SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND UNIONIZATION

- Establish a public school teacher (BU05) member on the Board of Education.
- Advocate for an elected Board of Education.
- Support legislation that will protect and strengthen unions and employee rights.



## TOP GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRIORITIES

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4. Expand funding for public preschool.
5. Provide teachers with access to affordable rentals and homeownership.

### HSTA LOBBYING TEAM

**Osa Tui, Jr.**

HSTA President  
otui@hsta.org

**Ann Mahi**

HSTA Executive Director  
amahi@hsta.org

**Mitzie Higa**

HSTA Government Relations Specialist  
mhiga@hsta.org

**Hope McKeen**

HSTA Government Relations Committee Chair  
pualanimckeen@gmail.com

**Laverne Moore**

HSTA Teacher Lobbyist  
laverne.moorehi@gmail.com

### HSTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Hope McKeen, Chair**

**Kori Harvey Oros, Vice Chair**

**Naomi Calistro, Secretary**

Hilo Chapter

Central Chapter

Hilo Chapter

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Kona Chapter

Lanai Chapter

Leeward Chapter

**TBD**

**Uluhani Waialeale**

**Jamie Stidger**

**TBD**

**John Fitzpatrick**

**Hillary Watt**

**Sharon Saronitman**

**Tom Perry**

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Windward Chapter

Maui Chapter

Maui Chapter

Kauai Chapter

HSTA-Retired