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Osa Tui, Jr.
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March 1, 2024

Senator Mazie Hirono
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Jill Tokuda
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ed Case
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Senators Hirono and Schatz, and Honorable Representatives Tokuda and Case,

I write to you today on behalf of over 13,000 educators of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association who serve in the public schools across our beautiful state educating our keiki for the future ahead of them. It is with the safety and wellbeing of children worldwide that I am reaching out to you, particularly with regards to Palestinian children whose lives are being either upended or extinguished at alarming rates since the Israel-Hamas conflict began on October 7, 2023.

As an affiliate of the National Education Association, the HSTA reiterates the call to action made plain by the NEA:

The Board of Directors of the National Education Association reaffirms NEA's calls for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the release of hostages, as well as immediate and full humanitarian aid to Gaza.

As part of the call to action, NEA also encourage members to:

... advocate our support for a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel, provide increased U.S. and international aid that effectively meets the scale of the humanitarian crisis for those in Gaza and those displaced from Gaza as a result of this war, a release of Israeli, American, and other hostages, and diplomacy measures that support a two-state solution where both Israelis and Palestinians can each have safe places to call home.

NEA's president, Becky Pringle, has said, "All people, no matter their religion, the language they speak, or their place of birth, have a fundamental right to live free of violence and war. As

educators, we believe strongly in our professional and moral responsibility to teach and model inclusion and respect for differences, and we must speak out against injustices and violence towards innocent people, especially children. Many educators feel a deep connection to the children in Israel and Palestine. We know that our children are watching, hurting, and in need of a lasting peace.”

As our representatives in Congress, the HSTA implores you to do everything in your power to bring about an end to this conflict and ensure that humanitarian aid makes it to the children and families whose communities continue to be turned into rubble.

Please let us know how you are addressing this humanitarian crisis and continue to do what you can to bring about a ceasefire during this continuing tragedy.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Osa Tui, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Osa Tui, Jr.
President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association