



2013 HSTA-Retired Legislative Priorities

Retirement Issues

- Support legislation to allow the pensions of public employees to keep up with the cost of living
- Support preservation of current level of retiree benefits
 - ▶ **Oppose taxing all retiree pensions**
 - ▶ **Oppose eliminating reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums**
- Support the improvement of retiree benefits
- Support the repeal of two Social Security provisions:
 - ▶ Government Pension Offset (1977)
 - ▶ Windfall Elimination Provisions (1983)
- Support the preservation of Social Security and Medicare
 - ▶ **Oppose the privatization of Social Security**
 - ▶ **Oppose the privatization of Medicare premium offset plans.**
- Support proposals for long range state and national energy policies to reduce dependence on foreign sources of energy
- Support working on a long range plan toward eliminating the unfunded liability of the Employee Retirement System and the Employees Union Trust Fund Health Benefits

Health Care Issues

- Support legislation to allow bargaining Unit 5 members and retirees to participate in a VEBA trust
- Support the preservation and improvement of health care benefits for retired public employees
- Support proposals to lower the cost of prescription drugs and ease of delivery
- Support state and national health reform legislation to make affordable health care available to all Americans
- Support proposals which will allow approved drugs to be imported under federal supervision

Education Issues

- Support legislation to adequately fund Hawaii's public schools
- Support HSTA and its commitment to the improvement of public education
- Support NEA's recommendations for the ESEA reauthorization

News You Can Use

HSTA-Retired latest Membership count is 5,190 members. There are about 7000 retired teachers in the State of Hawaii. Non-members are everywhere. They are your relatives, your friends, and some are even in your lunch groups. Please find them, educate them, and tell them that our Pension and Health Benefits are not safe. Large memberships influence public officials who seek our votes. Download the application from the website: www.hstaretired.org. Mail to: HSTA-R, 1200 Ala Kapuna Street, Honolulu, HI 96819. "No task is too big when done together."

The VEBA Trust number has changed to 808-440-6940 or toll free 1-800-637-4926. If you have the VEBA Long Term Insurance and Life Insurance, you must remain a member of the unified membership of HSTA-R and NEA-R or the benefits will be dropped. Please advise potential retirees that upon retirement they must join the unity membership or lose the two benefits.

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President's Message

The campaign signs have been removed from yards, phone banks are silent, friend-to-friend cards are put in storage, and the canvassing shoes are again used to help keep us healthy and exercising.

Those were the activities that kept many of our HSTA-Retired members very busy. Now comes the hard part, keeping track of the bills that will undoubtedly be introduced when the legislature convenes in January; like taxing retirees' pensions, non-reimbursement of the Medicare Part B premiums, and possibly even having retirees pay a portion of their health premiums.

Retirees have always felt that their pensions and health benefits were sacrosanct and would NEVER be affected. However, your HSTA-Retired leadership knows that we must be vigilant because bills that would have affected us were introduced in the past and will be introduced again. This may sound like I'm repeating myself, but teachers know that repetition is necessary to drive home important messages.

Please check HSTA-Retired website after the legislature convenes. Your HSTA-Retired Executive Committee, Legislative Action Team (LAT) and Retirement Issues Committee (RIC), will post information on the website whenever we feel that YOU must take action. The HSTA-Retired web address is: www.hstaretired.org.

Here's hoping that you have a healthy and stress free holiday season. Have fun, take care of yourselves, and try not to make too many New Years resolutions!!

Vaughn Tokashiki

Hawaii State Retired Teachers Association

1200 Ala Kapuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-2711

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Hawaii State Retired Teachers Association - Retired

HSTA-RETIRED OFFICERS

President:	Vaughn Tokashiki
First V. President:	Yvonne (Linda) Tavares
Second V. President:	Jeanne Fukuoka
Secretary:	Glenn Dave Fernandez
Treasurer:	Beverly Gotelli

COLA and YOU

Aloha, and "Best to All for a great Holiday Season-2012!" Make it super special among holidays you enjoy daily.

This is the last in a series of 41 articles published over 12 years. Your COLA Fairness Committee (CFC) will sunset officially after years of work bringing enlightenment to many quarters regarding a costly, major flaw in your Post Retirement Allowance (PRA) benefit. Indeed it bodes well for HSTA-R bringing the issue "out of the closet" and working further through the RIC and LAT committees to link PRA closer with inflation. (CFC had also introduced legislative proposals previously.) The PRTA program exists, under law, to aid all public retirees cope with inflation during retirement.

I humbly take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to all CFC members past and present for committing devotion and work over many years on this major endeavor. People working together is truly the greatest force in the Universe. Let us continue to collaborate with the ERS and others to attain HSTA-R's goal of a more equitable PRA for all public retirees. Please continue your support. Mahalo!

- Y. "Joe" Tanaka, Chair
HSTA-R CFC

Molokai Community Club

On September 4, 2012 at Molokai Burgers, we held our Council meeting. We made final plans for our General Membership meeting that will be on November 13, 2012. Heather Greenwood of the UH Manoa Cooperative Extension Intergenerational and Aging Programs will give a presentation on the Tutu's Quilt Program.

We also discussed our spring election in which all officers' position and one Council Representative position will be open. We also discussed the nomination for the Delegate Assembly alternate. Both of these topics will be brought up at the General Assembly.

Sheldeen Takeo gave a report on the 2012 Delegate Assembly. Since she is unable to attend the General Assembly, her report will be distributed.

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New; You Can Use

Here are a few remedies to cure your OOPHS!

Feeling tired in the afternoon, it takes a lot of work to do nothing, put down your caffeinated soda and pick up a . . . cucumber. Cucumbers are a good source of vitamin B and carbohydrates that can provide that quick pick-me-up that can last for hours. Oh! You can't just hold it . . . You need to chew and swallow it.

Want to avoid a hangover or terrible headache? Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free. Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B vitamins and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache! Or if you don't like the taste of cucumbers, pour the liquor down the drain and get rid of the annoying person.

Are your legs feeling hairy and rough? Use hair conditioner to shave your legs . . . not you, guys. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth.

CBR Deadlines

2013 Delegate Assembly

The deadline for proposed amendments to the 2013 Delegate Assembly is February 15, 2013. Any proposed amendment submitted to the committee less than 60 days prior to the convening of the Delegate Assembly shall require a two-thirds vote of the Delegate Assembly before it is accepted for consideration.

2013 HSTA Convention

On-time amendments, resolutions, and NBI are to be postmarked by January 25, 2013. Late amendments will not be accepted.



www.hstaretired.org

 Visit the new Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired website. See the latest news and information about your association, the districts, and the community clubs with links to:

- Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA)
- HSTA Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association Trust (VEBA)
- National Education Association - Retired (NEA-R)
- Social Security Administration
- State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System (ERS)
- Hawaii Employers-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF)

Government Relations Notes

Another election season is over and I believe that many of the State and National Legislators, whom we supported did get elected. I do wish to have you acknowledge their "win" with a congratulatory letter and reminder of being their constituent.

Please mail them a letter or an e-mail with a reminder of your concerns of retaining your earned pension and health benefits.

If you are uncomfortable with the use of the internet program, I would like to encourage you to have a family member help you with establishing an e-mail address, requesting your legislator to provide you with their legislative e-mail address.

I do hope that you will feel comfortable in keeping up with legislative bills that impact your pension and other senior issues. That, further contacts with your legislators be possible and timely through the use of the e-mail system. If not, a telephone call or a personal letter, early on during the legislative session be sent as a matter of record, of your concerns.

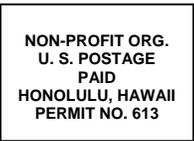
We need to develop a network of retirees willing to submit testimonies regarding issues that affect retirees. So, if you are comfortable with sharing your e-mail address with HSTA-R, please send your e-mail address to me at:

stephenono@hotmail.com

In the meantime, I will be working on a communication program that would update you on legislative bills affecting seniors and retirees.

P. S.

If you do send me your e-mail address, expect a "trial" response, so verify your correct e-mail address. Thank you!!!



2013 HSTA-R Elections



Wanted:

10 Delegates to HSTA Convention
5 Delegates to NEA-R and NEA Conventions



The 2013 HSTA Convention will be held on April 13-14, 2013 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. HSTA-R is entitled to 11 delegates, including the HSTA-R President. Ten (10) additional delegates will be elected to the HSTA-R delegation. In this election, the top 10 candidates will become delegates, and the next 10 will be alternates. Air and ground transportation, hotel, and meals for delegates will be provided by HSTA-R.

The NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly will be held from June 27 to July 6, 2013 in Atlanta, GA. HSTA-R will have six delegates, including the HSTA-R President. In this election five (5) delegates and a like number of alternates will be elected. Partial funding for expenses will be provided by HSTA-R to delegates who attend both meetings.

Candidates for election as delegates to either meeting (HSTA or NEA) must be members of HSTA-R and NEA-R.

For more information concerning these elections, contact Haunani Kauahi (808) 536-7831, Sandra Low (808) 395-9039, or Justin Wong (808) 395-9717.

Elections Timeline

December, 2012	Notification of elections
January 11, 2013	Nominations deadline
January 25, 2013	Ballots mailed
February 15, 2013	Ballots return deadline
February 20, 2013	Ballots counted
March 6, 2013	HSTA-R Executive Committee certifies election report

2013 HSTA-R Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Member making nomination: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Check below the election(s) for which the person is nominated)

HSTA Convention Delegate

NEA-R Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly Delegate

Mail this form to:

**HSTA-Retired Elections Committee
1200 Ala Kapuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96819**

Nominations must be received in the HSTA office via mail or fax (808-839-7106) by **4:00 p.m., January 11, 2013.**

Please include a biographical sketch (75 words or less).