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TITLE: HSTA Recommends Senator Roz Baker for reelection

Honolulu, HI – After careful consideration and discussion, the HSTA Board of Directors is recommending the reelection of Senator Roz Baker in November. Senator Baker is one of just 5 state legislators receiving an early recommendation from Hawaii’s public school teachers.

“When it comes to public schools, every decision is a political decision, so it’s important that we elect legislators who will consistently fight for public schools,” said HSTA President Roger Takabayashi. “We need politicians who will go to bat for schools every time, not just at election time, and that’s why we chose Senator Baker for early recommendations. Senator Baker is a staunch advocate for public schools and public school teachers. We need to keep her in office so she can continue her good work.”

To receive an early recommendation, the incumbent must complete a questionnaire and go through an interview with HSTA’s Political Action Committee. Additionally, the candidate is expected to have a difficult primary or general election and is a candidate that Hawaii’s public school children can ill-afford to lose.

“Senator Baker is always there when we need her,” said Rowena Dagdag, Wailuku Elementary School teacher. “She’s bright, understands our issues, and goes beyond the call to improve teaching and learning conditions. Our concerns become her concerns and she fights with a doggedness that has to be admired. Maui schools need her in the legislature.”

Senator Baker’s track record for education is impeccable. Throughout the years, she has introduced bills that would reduce class size, provide more funding for construction and repair, and more funding for school programs. Additionally, she co-introduced a bill that would have re-established teachers’ access to increased health benefits at lower costs.

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HSTA also announced the following early recommendations:

State Senate/House of Representatives

Senator Melodie Aduja

Senator Roz Baker

Senator Gary Hooser

Senator Cal Kawamoto

Representative Tommy Waters

United States Senate/House of Representatives

Senator Dan Inouye

Congressman Neil Abercrombie

Congressman Ed Case

The full HSTA recommendation process is currently underway for the remaining races. The recommendation process includes a review of the candidate's track record, responses to an HSTA questionnaire, and performance during an interview with HSTA members who volunteer to sit on the interview committees. The full list of HSTA-recommended candidates will be released in September just prior to the Primary Election.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association is the exclusive representative of more than 13,000 public school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.6-million member National Education Association, HSTA assists teachers with collective bargaining, legislative, and professional development issues.

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