

# Star Bulletin

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## **Teachers putting themselves first**

Now we're faced with Furlough Fridays.

What more is it going to take to convince the public of the pressing need to transform our schools into student-based institutions, rather than the labor-based cesspools they've become in recent years?

We've learned that the Hawaii State Teachers Association is pushing the idea of a four-day school week, with unpaid Furlough Fridays so cash-strapped school districts can avoid teacher layoffs. In other words, teachers are willing to sacrifice one-fifth of their students' educations to keep the paychecks rolling in.

The concept of Furlough Fridays is hard evidence that teachers unions put their needs before the needs of students. That's a major fundamental flaw in our education system, and it has to be addressed.

Teachers who are willing to walk away from their students one day per week just to avoid some layoffs are not really teachers at all. They lack dedication to their profession and don't belong in the presence of our children.

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