

RESOLUTION NO. 3

OPPOSING THE EFFORTS OF THE FREEDOM FOUNDATION IN TARGETING HGEA MEMBERS TO DROP UNION MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, labor unions are integral institutions that promote the welfare and dignity of workers by fighting for higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces via collectively bargaining; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the critical role labor unions play, Article XII, Section 2 of the Hawaii State Constitution in 1950 provided that persons in public employment have the right to organize and to present and make known their grievances and proposals to the State or any political subdivision, and was further amended to provide that persons in public employment shall have the right to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining as prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, in a critical threat to collective bargaining rights for public employees, the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018 ruled in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* that no public-sector employees who have refused membership may be compelled to pay union dues to said unions because of the benefits they may receive from their collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to the ruling in *Janus*, efforts by the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) ensured that the union maintained solidarity among members, protected members' rights and benefits, and achieved salary increases for its members; and

WHEREAS, despite the numerous successes made by HGEA to protect and preserve the rights and benefits of its membership under collective bargaining, efforts are still being made to undermine the strength of the union and the government workers HGEA represents; and

WHEREAS, most recently HGEA members have been the subject of a multi-pronged attack campaign by the Freedom Foundation, a mainland-based organization funded in part by the Koch Brothers and the Devos Foundation whereby the Freedom Foundation boasts over 122,000 membership opt-outs in the United States and over 1,000 opt-outs in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Freedom Foundation has advocated to oppose pay increases for government employees, eliminate public services, support the privatization of public sector jobs, end public employee pensions, and destroy public sector unions; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the 2022 HGEA General Assembly that HGEA condemns the actions to undermine the union by mainland, dark money organizations like the Freedom Foundation and that all member leaders of our union will organize to stand together in solidarity.

SUBMITTED BY: HGEA State Board of Directors

Charter, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommends adoption

Yes ☒ No ☐

General Assembly adoption

Yes ☐ No ☐