

RESOLUTION NO. 3

RELATING TO THE REQUEST FOR ALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ATTENDEES TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT HGEA'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES BY PARTICIPATING IN HGEA-COORDINATED POLITICAL ACTION ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, our elected officials have the final say on our collective bargaining contracts, pass budgets that affect our jobs and positions, can make adverse changes to collective bargaining, civil service, retirement and health care benefits, and enact laws that affect our families, communities and way of life; and

WHEREAS, public sector employees can "vote for their boss" and determine their employers with an effective political action program; and

WHEREAS, our history of legislative milestones proves what can be accomplished when supportive lawmakers are elected into office, including the five-day work week (1941), retirement credit for unused sick leave (1975), deferred compensation plan (1981), fully paid children's dental and group life insurance (1991), and the creation of a new bargaining unit for ocean safety & law enforcement officers (2012); and

WHEREAS, HGEA currently boasts over 42,700 active, retiree and associate members, with a potential network of 90,000+ votes when household members are considered, thereby creating an enormous voting bloc; and

WHEREAS, your Political Action Committees, which are composed of members statewide, representing every bargaining unit, managerial & confidential unit, and retiree unit, complete a rigorous endorsement process to select the candidates who we know will support and fight for working families and who will protect government jobs, benefits, wages and retirement; and

WHEREAS, there are two main ways in which we can achieve political clout, with money and people power via actively participating in campaign activities, which makes HGEA's endorsement one of the most respected and highly coveted endorsements in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, a strong political action program with high member participation strengthens our endorsement, increases our visibility, relevance, and effectiveness, and helps to get our endorsed candidates elected; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that all General Assembly Delegates and member leaders actively support our endorsed candidates by participating in HGEA-sponsored political activities (including but not limited to sign waving, neighborhood canvassing, friend-to-friend mailing, and phone banking); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member on the Board of Directors, Unit Board of Directors and Island Division Chairs to express our dedication and commitment to strengthening the Political Action Program.

Introduced by: Diane Nakashima, State PAC Chairperson
Ka'aina Hull, Vice Chairperson
Rachael Alices, Hawaii PAC Chair
Veronica Tarleton, Hawaii At-Large
Susan Watanabe, Maui PAC Chair
Arnold Abe, Maui At-Large
Jon Gasper, Oahu PAC Chair
Wade Hiraishi, Oahu PAC Vice-Chair
Priscilla Badua, Kauai PAC Chair
Marisa Valenciano, Kauai PAC Vice-Chair
Dennis Schwind, MCEC
Thomas Kiyojima, Retirees

Charter, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommends adoption Yes X No _____

General Assembly adoption Yes X No _____