

RESOLUTION NO. 7

RELATING TO ENCOURAGING HGEA TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE 99%

WHEREAS, there is a vast problem of income and wealth inequality in the United States. Across the country, the income gap continues to grow, with the richest 1 percent of households taking 93 percent of the income gains in the first year of recovery from the Great Recession, while the bottom 99 percent have to share what is left. Here in Hawaii, this trend proves true as inequality grows rapidly due to the huge increase in the share of income received by the top one percent; and

WHEREAS, growing inequality in incomes and wealth are not forces of nature. They are the direct result of political and policy choices that have weakened labor unions, created a global race to the bottom as companies outsource good jobs, reduced the progressivity of taxes, diluted the value of the minimum wage and allowed companies to shirk obligations for their workers' benefits; and

WHEREAS, wealth and income inequality make it more difficult for working people to achieve a decent standard of living for themselves, create opportunities for their children and prepare for a secure retirement. Inequality and a lack of opportunity make it more difficult to educate and train our young people for the future. Inequality distorts the political process to serve the interests of a wealthy few. More than simply being unfair, this massive divide between the rich and poor is, in fact, incompatible with democracy; and

WHEREAS, massive inequality is also bad for the economy. Since the early 1980s, our economy has grown considerably slower than it had in the postwar period and, even in the expansion of the early 2000s, real income for the middle class declined; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that HGEA will continue to fight for policies that promote a fairer distribution of income and wealth, including stronger labor unions and workplace rights. We will fight for livable wages; more secure benefits; a stronger public sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the middle class is the foundation of our nation and our local economy. We must support policies and fight to restore the strength of a solid, more thriving middle class here in Hawaii.

Introduced by: Greg Morimoto, Unit 13 Hawaii Island

Charter, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommends adoption      Yes   X        No       

General Assembly adoption      Yes   X        No