



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2024

**Statement From HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira
STATE SENATORS, STOP DENIGRATING STATE EMPLOYEES WHO TELEWORK**

While their official line is that they support telework, recent snipes from senators suggest that they would rather have government workers operating like it's 1984. Meanwhile, their workforce — and the younger generation of workers who government so desperately needs to recruit in its worsening vacancy crisis — are living in 2024.

I find it unconscionable that they are questioning the integrity of the workforce. Our members work extraordinarily hard at a time when offices may be understaffed by as much as 50%. They shouldn't be criticized when they happen to work remotely a few days a week.

Some of the ridiculous management suggestions brought up by senators during committee hearings will only hinder productivity, demoralize employees, and waste taxpayer money. The public will not get better service from us paying millions for monitoring systems that do not work and surprising remote workers with home visits. I don't have to knock on the doors of my employees to know if they're meeting deadlines. Any good manager knows that you focus on whether the work gets done, not where it's being done.

I certainly hope the senate gets off this nonsense and accepts the reality that they have a hardworking workforce that deserves better treatment. Lawmakers should stick to their jobs — surely there are more pressing issues for them to address than micromanaging the work of directors and supervisors.

[WATCH VIDEO STATEMENT FROM RANDY PERREIRA](#)

[DOWNLOAD VIDEO STATEMENT MP4 FILE](#)

Media Contacts:

Malulani Moreno
Communications Manager

(808) 543-0047
mmoreno@hgea.org

Kristina Lum
Senior Communications Specialist
(808) 543-0063
klum@hgea.org

###

About HGEA: HGEA was founded in 1934 to ensure fair and equitable representation for government employees. HGEA is the largest labor union in Hawaii, with more than 37,000 members. HGEA represents state and county employees in eight bargaining units. HGEA also serves a large associate membership of retirees, other state and county employees and officials, and federal and private sector employees.

H A W A I I G O V E R N M E N T E M P L O Y E E S A S S O C I A T I O N