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First new HGEA bargaining unit created in 34 years

For the first time in 34 years, the Hawaii Government Employees Association has a new collective bargaining unit to add to the seven units it already represents. The Senate bill, which was signed into law on June 21 and becomes effective July 1, 2013, establishes Bargaining Unit 14 to represent state law enforcement officers and state and county ocean safety and water safety officers.

“Over time, the functions and structure of government must change to meet current challenges and to best address the needs of its employees,” said HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira. “We believe creating this new bargaining unit recognizes the specialized needs of law enforcement, ocean safety and water safety officers, and provides for the most effective and efficient representation of them as essential employees.”

Approximately 700 members, who currently belong to HGEA’s Bargaining Unit 3 (white collar, non-supervisory employees) and Bargaining Unit 4 (white collar supervisors), will be affected by this change. HGEA is now seeking the approval of the Hawaii Labor Relations Board regarding the composition of Bargaining Unit 14.

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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 42,000 members. HGEA represents state and county employees in seven bargaining units. HGEA also serves a large associate membership composed primarily of retirees, other state and county employees and officials, and federal and private sector employees.