

# CHAPTER NEWS:

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ISLAND DIVISION OFFICE TO RSVP AND MAKE SURE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELLED OR RESCHEDULED.

## KAUAI CHAPTER:

- February 21, 2023 – Movie Day at 10 AM
- March 13, 2023 – General Membership Meeting & Chapter Elections. Please RSVP to Timmy or call Joni at the HGEA office at 808-245-6751.

## MAUI CHAPTER:

- February 28, 2023 – Hanafuda at 5 PM in the HGEA conference room. Please RSVP (limited seating).
- March 14, 2023 – General Membership Meeting & Chapter Elections. Please call Steve at 808-280-1526 or the HGEA office at 808-244-5508 by February 28, 2023.
- March 21, 2023 – Movie Day in the small HGEA conference room.
- May 16, 2023 – Movie Day in the small HGEA conference room.

## HAWAII CHAPTER:

Accepting donations for rummage sale until February 10, 2023. Sale will be on February 20, 2023.

- March 15, 2023 – General Membership Meeting & Chapter Elections. New Year Luncheon is on the same day at the Hilo Veteran's Center, 351 Haihai Street. Payments due by February 16, 2023. No refunds after the deadline.
- March 19, 2023 – Help with registration at the Big Island International Marathon.
- March/April 2023 – Ti leaf prep for Memorial Day (Date TBD)
- April 2023 – BILA Hawaii Special Olympics (Date TBD)
- April 2023 – County of Hawaii Easter Celebration (Date TBD)
- April 9-15, 2023 – Preparing food for the Merrie Monarch Festival.

## OAHU CHAPTER:

Accepting donations for rummage sale until February 28, 2023. Sale will be in March, date TBD.

- March 1 & 15, 2023 – Ukulele
- March 3, 2023 – Bingo
- March 7 & 21, 2023 – Tai Chi
- March 8 & 22, 2023 – Line Dance
- March 14, 23, & 28, 2023 – Mahjong
- March 16, 2023 – General Membership Meeting & Chapter Elections
- March 30, 2023 – Craft
- April 4 & 18, 2023 – Tai Chi
- April 5 & 19, 2023 – Ukulele
- April 6, 11, 20, & 25, 2023 – Mahjong
- April 12 & 26, 2023 – Line Dance
- April 13, 2023 – Bingo
- April 27, 2023 – Craft



Hawaii Government Employees Association  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO  
P.O. Box 2930  
Honolulu, HI 96802-2930

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Retirees Unit Fundraising at the HGEA Craft Fair in December 2022!  
Left to Right: Jean Arakaki, Ava Kridler, Mel Wang, Eliza Martin, and Ethel Fleming with HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira.

## WORDFIND

Search for Congressional Delegates and Governors since Statehood!

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Abercrombie | Ige       |
| Akaka       | Inouye    |
| Ariyoshi    | Kahele    |
| Burns       | Lingle    |
| Case        | Long      |
| Cayetano    | Matsunaga |
| Djou        | Quinn     |
| Fong        | Schatz    |
| Gabbard     | Takai     |
| Green       | Tokuda    |
| Hanabusa    | Waihee    |
| Hirono      |           |

L L O N G E X E J A D O C O U U P T  
 U S A A F B I E G I K H E S A C I E  
 A B E R C R O M B I E A R Y N L L U  
 Q J M A G A B B A R D N K L U G C O  
 U E W A C W B X I G S A S A N O X J  
 I E X A T U D X L C H B R I Q H N D  
 N H O G R S G W H C E U L I I P H I  
 N I I N R N U A A Q A S Q R K E J J  
 Y A S Q O E T N I D F A O A O L T W  
 J W C F R Z E B A B U N T P X E U G  
 O I A K A T L N T G O K L E E H A U  
 I N G L F Q G Q E R A A O O D A R E  
 F V A C S O Q U T K A R O T H K I P  
 K I I T Q G R X J P T D D J R W Y P  
 X H B M E Q J C C A I N M J F A O I  
 Y K T I Z Y F K F G N L M W L N S F  
 B F N A T H A Q M U W X J Y P C H C  
 Q W U Y H C W C F X L Z J I N Z I X

# HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

### IN THIS ISSUE

- A Message from Your Administrator
- 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Assembly Convention Announcement
- Better Choices, Better Health Workshop
- Excursion to Hawaii Japanese Center's New Exhibit
- Hawaii | Maui | Oahu | Kauai Island Chapter News
- Word Find: Congressional Delegates and Governors

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## HO`OLAHA

01 | 02.23

Volume 46 No 1

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



## Hauoli

Makahiki Hou! Happy 2023 and greetings to everyone near and far!

With much anticipation of exciting adventures for this new year, your Board of Directors planned to start the year off strong with presentations from the Alzheimer's Association in January, gathering in Waimea for the Cherry Blossom Festival in February, and rounding out the first quarter with Chapter Board Elections in March.

Every chapter seat from directors to officers along with the state director seats will be open for any member in good standing to run for office. If you are interested in running, you must call the HGEA Retiree Office to obtain a nomination form and submit your completed form by February 28, 2023.

Why should you run? Serving as a representative of your island board chapter means planning events and activities, and supporting the union in political matters. While meetings are only held quarterly, elected officers are also expected to dedicate time to attend monthly events. The Retirees Unit needs strong leaders and many of you have that experience from your years of public service. Please consider running to make a difference in the lives of your fellow retirees! For more information on running for your chapter and the Retirees Unit State Board of Directors, please call the HGEA Retiree Office at 808-543-0090 or 808-543-0054.

President Ethel Fleming and Convention Co-Chairs, Evelyn Togashi and Ruth Walker, have begun planning the 25th Biennial Assembly Convention which will take place at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel on June 6-7, 2023. Convention business will include the Election of the Officers for the State Board of Directors, any bylaw amendments submitted by the February 6, 2023 deadline, and installation of the Chapter Board of Directors. This year's Convention theme is "All Together" to celebrate gathering together after the years spent apart during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also mirrors the theme used at the July AFSCME convention in Philadelphia. For more information on important deadlines for bylaw amendments and general resolutions, see the official Convention announcement on the next page.

As a reminder, Chapter Presidents need help with activity ideas and planning. Please contact your respective island division office or Chapter President directly if you have suggestions or want to get involved. Additionally, if you are interested in sharing your hobby or hosting a "talk story" session with fellow retiree members, please contact me to schedule your session.

The Retirees Unit is always recruiting new members, so please let your former coworkers, family, and friends know about the benefits of membership. I am available to do a short presentation if you would like to request one for a group of potential members. Member dues are \$6 and will not only provide opportunities to participate in retiree activities, but access to the HGEA Makana Perks and Discounts program with 100+ discount partners.

On the political side, we celebrated the 94th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16, 2023. An important quote from Dr. King which is relevant to this day is: "So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote I do not possess myself." As Dr. King stated, "a right delayed is a right denied."

As we watched the GOP congressional members make a disaster of their Speaker election, it was a pleasure to see Congresswomen Jill Tokuda sworn in. Always a voice of reason, she is ready to tackle the work in what she refers to as "the People's house." We should all be proud of how she represents her Hawaii constituents.

In Hawaii, the 2023 Legislative Session convened on January 18, 2023. I do not expect bills with major impacts to retirees, but will remain vigilant while reviewing them. Nationally, with your support of the PEOPLE campaign, AFSCME continues to push for the passage of voting rights along with President Biden's initiatives, which includes the Build Back Better, Rescue, and Infrastructure Acts that passed with bipartisan support. We expect these initiatives to lay a positive foundation for a successful 2024 campaign.

We encourage you to stay informed on issues such as the Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid legislation. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono along with other lawmakers are looking to expand Social Security. Senator John Larson's bill added two more senators as sponsors, but Republican support is critical for passage.

The 2023 standard Medicare Part B premium is down \$5.20 from the \$170.10 in 2022 to \$164.90 in 2023. As a reminder, if you are paying higher than the standard premium, you must submit a copy of your letter from the Social Security Administration to the EUTF in order to be reimbursed for the higher premium amount. Send your letter to EUTF, 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Thank you for your continued support of the HGEA Retirees Unit!

*Mahie*

## 25<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The HGEA Retirees Unit will convene the 25th Biennial Assembly on June 6-7, 2023 at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel in Hilo, Hawaii.

Bylaw amendments must be submitted in writing to the Retirees Unit Administrator by February 6, 2023. General resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Retirees Unit Administrator by March 6, 2023. Please refer to your respective Chapter Presidents for chapter convention delegate selections.

*\*As stated in Article VIII Biennial Assembly, Section 1. Notice of Date of Biennial Assembly of the Retiree Unit Bylaws: "Notice of the date of the Biennial Assembly shall be given not less than forty-five (45) days prior thereto..." Section 2. (a) Bylaw Amendments states, "Amendments to the bylaws of the Retirees Unit shall not be considered unless submitted in writing and filed with the Retirees Unit Administrator at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the opening..." Section 5. (c) Delegate Selection states, "delegates may be required to meet qualification requirements as established by each chapter..."*



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**REGISTER FOR EXCURSION TO HAWAII  
JAPANESE CENTER'S NEW EXHIBIT**

**HAWAII JAPANESE CENTER  
751 KANOEHUA AVENUE, HILO, HAWAII 96720  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023  
11 AM - 1 PM (LUNCH INCLUDED)**

Call 808-543-0054 for any questions or  
to inquire about availability.

**CUT & RETURN THE BELOW**

**HAWAII JAPANESE CENTER EXCURSION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION:**

Mail this completed form and a \$15 non-refundable check made payable to "HGEA" to HGEA, 888 Mililani Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813.