The 2012 tumultuous elections brought hard-won successes and positive results for HGEA-endorsed candidates.

Although we experienced a few losses, we saw momentous victories in the primary and general elections – including Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senate; Colleen Hanabusa and Tulsi Gabbard, U.S. House of Representatives; Kirk Caldwell, Honolulu Mayor; and Billy Kenoi, Hawaii County Mayor. And not the least, we had a big win with the re-election of U.S. President Barack Obama. In the State Legislature, new legislators include Russell Ruderman in the Senate and Laura Thielen, former HGEA president Richard Onishi, Nicole Lowen, Kaniela Ing, Bert Kobayashi and Takashi Ohno in the House.

In this year’s elections there were some close races, demonstrating that every vote does count. We are proud to note that HGEA members are among the many registered voters who consistently cast votes in each election.

We appreciate the many members who volunteered countless hours holding signs, canvassing neighborhoods and calling fellow members to encourage support of endorsed candidates. Thank you for making a difference!
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As one year ends and the new year begins, it is always good to reflect back on the difficulties we have faced in our lives in the past year, and look forward to with optimism and hope that the new year will be better. That is certainly as true this year as in years past, where we will gratefully leave 2012 behind and look forward to 2013.

This past year provided many reasons for optimism for 2013: an improving economy with strong tourism numbers; a successful election cycle with the re-election of Barack Obama as our President, and Democrats in the Congress; and the prospect of a new vision in our State Legislature with an anticipated reorganization of the House of Representatives.

Despite these obvious successes, however, my view is dampened for the moment because of the passing of someone I was honored to be associated with – United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye. It was an honor and a privilege for me to work with such a great man, who dedicated his life to the public service, both in war and as an elected leader. Dan Inouye embodied all that is right about Hawaii – our respect for those who don’t have a voice and those in need; our care for the environment; and our love of our country. For over 50 years Senator Inouye represented us, and he leaves a legacy of Federal support for our islands that will last well beyond his time here on Earth. A strong supporter of working people, Senator Inouye sported a voting record on Labor issues of nearly 100% – and he has stood out in support of public employees particularly in recent years when the right-wing has attacked government employees and their rights and benefits.

We will truly miss Senator Inouye, but must carry on as he would expect us to. For newly elected leaders at all levels of government, it is imperative that they carry out the vision of the Senator, and always strive to do the right thing, with honor and dignity. There are critical decisions facing us as we head into this new year, which will determine the long-term sustainability of our economy and our State government. We need strong leadership and sound decision making from those in elected office. Now more than ever we need them to act like Dan and respect the hard work done by our government work force, and honor the commitments made to those who built our state through their efforts – our retirees.

There will never be another Dan Inouye, but that doesn’t mean that we should not try to live up to the standard that he set. Our hope for a better 2013 and beyond depends on the effort we contribute. I ask that we all work to make Hawaii a better place for our children – and make Dan Inouye proud.

Randy Perreira
HGEA Executive Director
2013 Legislative Priorities

Looking forward to the 2013 Legislative Session, your State Committee on Political Action, chaired by Unit 3 Director Jon Gasper, anticipates continued revenue challenges and potential adverse changes to employee benefits. After careful review and deliberation, they recommended the following, which was approved by the Board of Directors as the organization’s 2013 Legislative Priorities:

- **Maintain civil service under Chapter 76, HRS and preserve collective bargaining under Chapter 89, HRS.**
- **Protect retirement benefits for current and future retirees.** Promises made to employees upon hire should be kept.
- **Preserve public services.** Actively seek ways to generate additional state revenues.
- **Reform the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.** The current system is broken and not cost-effective for employees or employers. Allow unions to negotiate benefits and premium contributions like the private sector, which will result in more affordable premiums.

Other priorities may be added during the legislative session.

HGEA ON THE GO!

Have questions about your contract or a workplace issue? Want to buy discounted movie tickets or learn about other HGEA members only discounts? Need information about the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship? Want to sign up for upcoming Community Action events or the HGEA eBulletin? Or maybe you’re retiring soon and want to stay involved.

HGEA is on the go and coming to you! This program is currently only on Oahu but will also be implemented on the neighbor islands. Look out for the next *HGEA on the Go!* session near you. Union agents and other HGEA staff will be on hand to answer all your questions, sign you up for events, sell you movie tickets, and more. You may even have a chance to win some prizes.

For more information about *HGEA on the Go!* call 543-0000.

Hilo “vampire” members help to eliminate energy suckers

On Oct. 25, 2012, the Hawaii Island Committee on Community Action, together with University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College, partnered with the Student Energy Ambassador Development (SEAD) program and participated in a training session of energy awareness. The training included hands-on activities to measure, monitor and track plug-load, lighting and temperature. With the training and tools provided by the six SEAD trainers, they audited building offices, classrooms and common areas for three weeks. The goal was to help the UH system identify energy concerns and give suggestions on conservation and/or techniques.

As a Halloween-themed vampire event, on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, while the students held their haunted house, students, faculty and HGEA members roamed one building – in the dark – to identify equipment that were energy suckers.

If each classroom, each office and each person would make a little effort to unplug and change out a light bulb or two, the cost savings would be immense. The students, faculty and HGEA volunteers learned a lot about wasted energy. Everyone walked away with new insight that they took home with them. Unit 3 and Unit 8 members came out in force. Thank you to all the departments and staff who participated and made the event a success!
Dee Okahara named HGEA’s communications officer

HGEA has named Dee Okahara its new communications officer responsible for marketing, advertising and external communications, as well as member benefits and internal communications to the union’s 42,000-plus membership.

Okahara has 12 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector and more than seven years in the communications and development fields. Prior to joining HGEA, she was the executive assistant and special projects manager for Blood Bank of Hawaii. She was previously the vice president of campaign at Aloha United Way and the director of graduate admissions at Hawaii Pacific University.

Okahara has a master of arts in communications from Hawaii Pacific University and a bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Jodi Endo Chai selected as Omidyar Fellow

Congratulations to HGEA Senior Advisor Jodi Endo Chai, who was selected to participate in the inaugural class of the Omidyar Fellows program.

This prestigious program was developed to inspire and equip emerging leaders with the skills needed to affect positive, lasting change in Hawaii. Omidyar Fellows and eBay founder, Pierre Omidyar, calls the program “a long-term investment in our shared future.” He said, “Hawaii’s next generation of leaders will inherit huge challenges – some of them recent developments, some passed down from their predecessors. Effective leaders must address existing challenges and at the same time, create proactive measures that move Hawaii forward – all while operating in an increasingly fast-paced and transparent world.”

The inaugural class represents a wide range of sectors including government, nonprofit, business and labor unions, and a diversity of experiences in geography, culture and business. More than 150 candidates completed a rigorous application process, and only 13 Fellows were selected based on years of experience in both professional and community settings.

As HGEA’s senior advisor, Chai serves as the chief of staff with primary responsibility for the union’s organizational and strategic planning efforts, and oversees its communications and human resource and member services programs.

2012 Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Elyssa Correia, a recipient of the 2012 Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship!

Elyssa is the daughter of HGEA member Jena Correia (Unit 3) on the Big Island, who works in the State Department of Education. She is currently studying political science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and plans to become an attorney.

The $5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to two students who are also given the opportunity to intern at the AFSCME International Union headquarters in the Political Action department in Washington, D.C.

Deadline to apply for the Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship is April 30 of each year. Applications can be downloaded at www.afscme.org or can be requested via email (education@afscme.org).

NEXT WAVE Update

It’s been a busy few months, and Next Wave has kept the momentum going! Next Wavers recently welcomed AFSCME Secretary/Treasurer Laura Reyes with a special get-together on Oahu (see photo, right).

During this year’s intense political season, Next Wave proudly hosted its very first Meet and Greet with young HGEA-endorsed candidates. Whether it was signwaving, phone banking or canvassing, Next Wave was there! Young members statewide have gotten more involved and stepped it up – several Next Wavers were even featured on HGEA-endorsed candidate mailers and newsletters!

This fall, the Haumana Project wrapped up its pilot program on Oahu with nine motivated young leaders. Plans to launch statewide are in the works. If you’re interested in becoming a project mentor or protégé, please email nextwave@hgea.org.
REMEmBERING DANIEL K. INOUYE
1924-2012

With the unfortunate passing of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye on Dec. 17, 2012, we lost a Hawaii icon and an American hero.

Hawaii's most revered senator was the second longest-serving member in the U.S. Senate's history, representing the 50th state for 50 years. He was also the first Japanese-American to serve in the U.S. Senate as well as in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Hawaii for three years before becoming a senator. At the time of his death, Inouye was president pro tempore of the Senate, third in the line of succession to the U.S. presidency, behind the vice president and House speaker.

A World War II veteran, Inouye had served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, one of the most decorated military units in history. He lost his right arm in battle and later earned the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor.

Known for his courteous and low-key style, Senator Inouye was well-regarded by his colleagues in the Congress and by his constituents in Hawaii. As a member and then chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, he supported and worked for federal funding to promote Hawaii's economy. He was a strong supporter of and advocate for the East-West Center, and we could always count on his help in securing annual federal funding for it.

Inouye was a staunch defender of organized labor, and his AFSCME voting record was one of the best. "Over his long Senate career, during which he cast over 15,000 votes, his AFSCME voting record was 94 percent," noted AFSCME Legislative Director Chuck Loveless. "He regarded the issues of education, labor rights and support for the most vulnerable as issues that define the character of America."

In remembrance of Inouye, HGEA Executive Director Randy Pereira said, "Dan Inouye was a role model to all of us in Hawaii – as a decorated hero of World War II, a United States Senator who represented Hawaii with distinction in the Watergate and Iran Contra investigations and as a statesman who managed to transcend economic class barriers in representing Hawaii. A proud union member himself, Dan Inouye was a hero for working class people throughout Hawaii. We would easily underestimate any attempt to measure all that Sen. Inouye has done for our state; in so many ways he was as instrumental to our economy as any industry, and has assured us of long-term Federal support in so many different ways.

"On a personal level, I am forever honored to have been a friend of Senator Inouye. I am grateful for the opportunities I had to work with the Senator and will forever cherish being able to serve as the individual charged with introducing him at several events in Washington, D.C. in recent years. Mahalo, Senator, for all that you have done for working people here at home and across our country."

AFSCME President Lee Saunders recalled Inouye as "a true champion of the middle class and all working families. He will be sorely missed."

Former HGEA Executive Director Russell Okata fondly remembers Inouye: "Dan Inouye may have been diminutive in stature but stood tall in character, courage and represented our nation with the heart of a giant. The House of Labor will miss this American hero who ensured the best quality of life for working families at home, in our schools and wherever we worked. I will especially remember his courageous representation of his colleagues in the U.S. Senate who sometimes got into political trouble. While others stayed away during their urgent time of need, Dan guaranteed their fair treatment. He was the truest of friends and could always be counted on to loyalty protect our dignity during the darkest hours.

"We have witnessed an outpouring of love and accolades for Dan because he touched our lives in so many good ways. At the recent Democratic Party convention in Charlotte, N.C., I was able to thank him for his unmatched support and assistance to HGEA and AFSCME throughout our decades of friendship. I will forever treasure the privilege and honor of working with this great American. Mahalo a nui loa, Senator Inouye, for all you did for working families, our state and our country."

Aloha.
Elections for the 2013–2015 term of office for the president and board of directors will be held this year. Active members interested in running will be able to pick up a candidate packet from the HGEA offices starting Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013.

In addition to electing the president, active members will elect directors for Units 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, Hawaii-at-large, Kauai-at-large, Maui-at-large and Oahu-at-large.

Key dates in the election schedule are:

- **Friday, March 8:** Deadline to submit nomination petitions
- **Saturday, March 23–Monday, April 22:** Period for mailing ballots
- **Tuesday, May 7:** Last day to vote (Election Date). Ballots must be hand-delivered before 4:30 p.m. or postmarked before midnight.
- **Friday, May 17, 4:30 p.m.:** Deadline to receive mailed ballots postmarked by midnight, May 7.
- **Saturday, May 18, 8:00 a.m.:** Ballots counted and results certified.

The president and directors will serve from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. They are not paid for their service.

**AFSCME per capita increase deferred**

The AFSCME per capita dues increase for all HGEA bargaining units has been deferred until July 1, 2013. The increase – from $12.20 to $12.30 per month for full-time employees and from $9.15 to $9.20 per month for part-time employees – actually went into effect January 1, 2013. To assist members, HGEA is subsidizing the dues increase from January 1 through June 30, 2013.

AFSCME, our national parent union, helps to protect the interests of all workers and works hard to protect public sector jobs, pensions and Social Security, and is a leading advocate on critical labor issues, such as affordable and quality health care.

For questions or more information, call your HGEA island division office.

**2013 STATE BOARD ELECTIONS**

**Waikiki Aquarium offers a Swimmingly Special**

Get 3 months of membership free!

Waikiki Aquarium is extending their special offer of three months of free membership to HGEA members until January 31, 2013.

Sign up to become a Waikiki Aquarium member and receive special discounted rates on the following membership levels:

- **Family Plus:** $10 discount on a 1-year membership or $20 for 2-year membership
- **Family/Grandparents:** $5 discount on 1-year membership or $10 discount on a 2-year membership

Gift Memberships are also available at discounted HGEA member rates.

For more information on how to sign up, please go to: www.hgea.org/waquarium. Or contact Member Benefits at 543-0056 or email memberbenefits@hgea.org.

**2013-2014 Kendall Scholarship applications due:**

**JANUARY 18, 2013** www.hgea.org/scholarships