21st BIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fighting to Protect the Public Service

Nearly 400 delegates gathered at Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel in Kamuela for the 21st Biennial General Assembly. With “Fighting to Protect the Public Service” as its theme, the convention, which was held from May 9-11, 2012, was filled with moving speeches from speakers who stirred the delegates to remain actively involved in the union and to continue to fight for their jobs, rights and benefits.

Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi opened the convention, regaling everyone with his lively stories as well as unconventional words of wisdom. On a serious note, he spoke about how the past few years have been tough for everyone and told delegates that we all have to share the responsibility of fighting to make sure our elders are taken care of, our children are safe and our communities are strong. “The only way for success to happen is everyone needs to work together,” he said. “Our children deserve to grow up in healthy, safe environments, clean communities. It’s our kuleana as parents, leaders, stewards and advocates.”

HGEA President Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto stressed the importance of political action, noting the many government workers across the country who are on the brink of losing their jobs, pay and benefits, and lawmakers who are cutting away the benefits of future workers. “Labor unions changed the direction of America to allow us to work and to have a better quality of life, but more importantly, to give ordinary people a voice in government,” she said. “We need as many HGEA members as we can get to be active in political action because that is where the battle is.”

In his State of the Union address, HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira reminded delegates about the continued attacks on public workers. “Name the state and you’re going to find public employees who are on the battlefront trying to protect government services – Indiana, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, California, and most notably, Wisconsin. From coast to coast, battles continue,” he said. “We’re not immune here in Hawaii. We continue to work for less wages and we also pay a higher percentage share of medical premiums than any public employees in the country. We’re facing furloughs and cuts, and...”
According to the HGEA member surveys we have conducted through the years, approximately 90 percent of our members are registered to vote and of them about 90 percent are consistent voters.

While it is great that HGEA members take their civic responsibility seriously, I will not take for granted that many of you will in fact vote each and every time. I realize that nowadays it’s easy NOT to vote. Our lives only continue to get busier and we either don’t have the time or we simply forget to vote. And frankly, many of our elected officials have disappointed or betrayed us to the point we begin to ask, “Why should I vote?”

As *The Public Employee* went to press, it was less than a month until Primary Election Day. Yet, it doesn’t quite feel that way. But perhaps it’s because of the delay from district reapportionment as well as the law to move up the date of the Primary Election to August 11.

Nonetheless, I cannot stress the importance of this year’s elections. I want you to be aware that there are a number of very important races in the Primary.

In the U.S. Senate, Mazie Hirono, our longtime supporter of working families, will be in a tough race against Ed Case, initiator of anti-worker issues. Mazie’s record speaks for itself – she has fought on behalf of all workers and worked hard to protect our rights and benefits. The congressional delegation must work together for the benefit of Hawaii, and Mazie has proven that she is a team player who can be trusted.

The Oahu mayor’s race is also a critically important race for us – for many reasons. Kirk Caldwell is the only candidate who has a clear vision for Oahu’s future – ensuring that there is an alternative traffic solution to enhance the quality of life for us and, more importantly, for our children and grandchildren who choose to live here. We cannot risk having both a governor and a city mayor who lack support for their employees and are unwilling to work with us during contract negotiations. It is clear that Kirk Caldwell is the only candidate who supports Hawaii’s workers.

During his years as governor, Ben Cayetano led civil service reform; reduced member benefits, including sick and vacation leave; replaced the Employee Health Fund with the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF); raided the Employees’ Retirement System; laid off public employees and refused to fund our arbitrated pay raises. He touts his actions as “tough decisions,” but he demonstrates a lack of compassion for his own employees. And there is little difference with Peter Carlisle, who not only felt a 10 percent pay cut for his employees was not enough, but to this day, continues to publicly disparage them by saying that the furloughs and supplemental time off are nothing more than vacation days.

In the Big Island Mayor’s race, we are supporting Mayor Billy Kenoi, who has accomplished much in his first term, despite facing budget challenges. He has the passion and determination to tackle the fiscal challenges of the island, and will continue to work to make the Big Island a better place to live, work and visit.

There are also key state senate and house races that will be determined in the Primary. We have included a special Elections insert in this newsletter and also have information about the elections (including candidate information and important dates) on our HGEA website.

In past elections, we have seen many races which were won by a handful of votes. So on **Saturday, August 11** – I urge you to make every effort to vote. Or if you know you’ll be spending your Saturday shuttling the kids to activities, volunteering in the community or running errands, simply vote by absentee ballot. Remember – it’s your Hawaii, it’s your vote … and EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Randy Perreira
HGEA Executive Director
we’re left to do more with less as government fails to fill vacant positions and the public demand for services increases.”

Perreira emphasized how critical this year’s elections are. “These elections are going to provide all of us at HGEA the opportunity to shape our future – a future that ensures the continuation and enhancement of the public service. We have the opportunity to help elect individuals who are going to respect workers and treat you fairly. And we can help elect folks who will come to realize that there’s no wisdom in continuing to cut the pay and benefits of public employees.”

Despite the challenges that we face, he added that our union has stood strong and is determined to regain what we have lost. “I know that we’re up to facing the challenges that we have, and we’re not going to back down. And I continue to promise that I’ll do my very best to lead us to what we deserve and what we have earned.”

Delegates had the privilege of hearing from special guest speakers Lee Saunders, newly elected AFSCME president, and Marty Beil, executive director of AFSCME Council 24 in Wisconsin. Saunders, who succeeded longtime AFSCME President Gerald McEntee, delivered a motivating message to delegates to fight back against the people who are “trying to silence our voices.”

“We have got to fight back at them for trying to silence our voices. We need an army of activists... Keep rallying and reminding fellow members of challenges that just a few activists can take on. Each one, teach one.”

Lee Saunders
AFSCME President

continued from page 1

continued on page 4
organizing, we strengthen our union,” he said. “We need an army of activists, not just for political elections. Keep rallying and reminding fellow members of challenges that just a few activists can take on. Each one, teach one.”

Beil emotionally recounted what his members in Wisconsin faced against Gov. Scott Walker, who stripped collective bargaining rights from public employees. “If it can happen in my state, it can happen in any state. It can happen in your state,” he said. Showing video coverage of more than 100,000 public workers and supporters rallying and flooding the Capitol in Madison, Beil said the solidarity movement inspired them to fight back even harder.

On the last day of the convention, U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono delivered a message via Skype from Washington, D.C.

“Those that are opposed to collective bargaining rights, those that are opposed to unions and labor rights are opposed to civil rights. We must stand together because we are the same, fighting the same causes...vote people out that are against our issues and vote in those that stand to protect our rights...”

Rev. Al Sharpton
HGEA has endorsed Hirono, strong supporter of labor and working families, for the U.S. Senate.

Rev. Al Sharpton, national civil rights activist and leader and host of MSNBC’s PoliticsNation, had been scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the convention. Due to mechanical aircraft failure severely delaying his flight to Hawaii, however, he could not make it to the convention. Fortunately, Sharpton was able to join us for a short time via a live webcast. “Those that are opposed to collective bargaining rights, those that are opposed to unions and labor rights are opposed to civil rights. We must stand together because we are the same, fighting the same causes with the same people, and we have the same enemy,” he said. “I really hope that as we go forward and as we move into this election that we vote people out that are against our issues and we vote in those that stand to protect our rights and that (are) enhancing where we need to be as a nation.”

Both Sharpton and Saunders have traveled across the country to fight against the coordinated attacks on public employees and the services they provide.

As the highest governing body of the union, the General Assembly convenes every two years. During the three-day proceedings, delegates consider amendments to the HGEA Charter & Bylaws, establish union policies and set forth direction for the organization. In addition to the guest speakers, the 2012 General Assembly also included a town hall meeting where delegates had an opportunity to ask Ferguson-Miyamoto and Perreira a variety of questions.

Live streaming was available for members who were interested in hearing the speeches and seeing the proceedings as they were happening at the convention.

To watch videos of the speakers from this year’s General Assembly, visit www.hgea.org/ga. You can also view photos of the General Assembly in the Photos section of the HGEA website.
HGEA’s first-ever Kendall Fishing Tournament reels in big fish, big fun

There were plenty of big fish and one super huge catch as more than 20 teams of fishermen and fisherwomen participated in HGEA’s first-ever Kendall Fishing Tournament on May 5, 2012. The fundraising event was held to benefit the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship and Education Fund, which provides educational benefits to HGEA members and their immediate families.

Cash prizes were given away, including a $3,000 grand prize to retiree member Calvin Haitsuka and his team for reeling in a marlin weighing 418 pounds! Congratulations to the winning teams (captains listed):

**LARGEST FISH OVERALL/MARLIN**
Boat: Bingo Too  
Captain: Calvin Haitsuka (Retiree member)

**LARGEST AHI**
Boat: Krystal Sea  
Captain: Scott Swift (Unit 2 member)

**LARGEST MAHI MAHI**
Boat: Pompooh  
Captain: Ryan Moriguchi

**LARGEST ONO**
Boat: AnyKine  
Captain: Ron Pickering

To view more pictures from the Kendall Fishing Tournament, go to the Photos section of the HGEA website.
Your vote can make a difference! The 2012 election is a critical time for Hawaii. For the first time in more than 20 years, Hawaii voters will be sending a newly-elected senator to occupy a U.S. Senate seat. Because of redistricting and reapportionment, all state legislative seats are up for election, with several seats open. Veteran legislators and new candidates alike are already geared up for an exciting election season.

HGEA has endorsed a full slate of candidates in various races. With a rigorous process of screening candidates for endorsements (see “HGEA endorsement process” on page 4), we believe we have selected a list of individuals who respect and support public employees and are willing to represent us throughout all levels of government.

“It’s important to remember and keep in mind that politicians have the final say on your contract, can change collective bargaining and pass budgets that affect your job as well as pass laws that affect your family and community,” notes Jon Gasper, State Political Action Committee Chair. “It’s not a cliché to say that every vote counts. Each vote in every election is important. In fact, some key races will be decided in the Primary Election. As a union, we can make a significant difference.”

If you haven't yet decided for whom you’ll be casting your ballot, we suggest you take a look at our recommendations. For more details on the candidates, please visit the special HGEA elections website at www.hgea.org/elections2012. Or scan this code with a mobile device.
THE HGEA VOTE

How important is your vote?
On a number of occasions in Hawaii, races were won by less than 100 votes. And in one instance, by merely two votes! That’s how important your vote – every vote – is.

Here’s another impressive figure. Approximately 93 percent of HGEA members are registered to vote. And of those registered, 92 percent consistently cast a vote in each election. As a union, we have strength in numbers and make up a significant block of voters that can change the outcome of critical races.

Come Election Day, every vote matters. And it’s particularly important to vote in the Primary Election, where key races will be decided.

Your vote is your voice
Your vote is your opportunity to be heard and to have a say in important issues that affect you, your family and your community. By voting, you help decide your future by electing legislators who may share your own views.

If you don’t agree with your elected officials, you can make your voice known with your vote. Before you cast your vote, however, do some research on the candidates you are voting on, and know their voting records and how they stand on issues important to you. To help get you started, take a look at the list of HGEA-endorsed candidates in this issue and go to www.hgea.org/elections2012 for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

PRIMARY ELECTION
Saturday, August 11, 2012

GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

(Note: An "open" endorsement means the union does not endorse a candidate. "No action taken" means candidates did not contact HGEA for endorsement consideration in a timely manner or at all. "No endorsement" means the union determines that none of the candidates are suitable for endorsement and support.)

STATE HOUSE
District 17: No Action Taken
Kalama Valley, Queen’s Gate, Hawaii Kai, Hahaione Valley

District 18: Mark Hashem*
Hahaione Valley, Kuliouou, Niu Valley; Hawaii Loa Ridge, Aina Haina, Waiulupe, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Waiauoe

District 19: Bert Kobayashi
Waialae, Kahala, Diamond Head, Kaimuki, Kapahulu

District 20: Open
Maunalani Heights, Wilhelmina Rise, Palolo Valley, St. Louis Heights, Kaimuki

District 21: Scott Nishimoto*
Kapiolani, Moiliili, McCully, Kapahulu

District 22: Tom Brower*
Waikiki, Kapahulu, Ala Moana, Kakaako

District 23: Isaac Choy*
Manoa, Punahou, University, Moiliili

District 24: Della Au Belatti*
Maiki, Tantalus, Pauoa, Punahou

District 25: Sylvia Luke*
Punchbowl, Nuuanu, Dowssett Highlands, Lower Tantalus, Pacific Heights, Pauoa

District 26: Scott Saiki*
Downtown, Ward, Kakaako

District 27: Takashi Ohno
Nuuanu, Liiha, Pauoa, Alewa Heights

District 28: John Mizuno*
Kapalama, Liiha

District 29: Karl Rhoads*
Iwilei, Palama, Kalihi

District 30: Nicole Velasco
Kapalama, Kalihi, Honolulu International Airport, Hickam Air Force Base, Ford Island

District 31: Open
Fort Shafter, Mapunapuna, Moanalua Gardens, Halawa

District 32: Linda Ichiyama*
Moanalua, Salt Lake, Alaamanu, Tripler Army Hospital

District 21: Maile Shimabukuro*
Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, Makaha

District 22: Donovan Dela Cruz*
Moiliili Mauka, Wahiawa

District 23: Clayton Hee*
Makakilo, Waianae, Maili, Makaha

District 24: Jill Tokuda*
Heeia, Kaneohe, Kaneohe Station, Kailua, Maunawili

District 25: Pohai Ryan*
Waimanalo, Kailua, Maunawili, Hawaii Kai

STATE SENATE
District 9: Kurt Lajala
Aina Haina, Kahala, Diamond Head, Hawaii Kai

District 10: Les Ihara*
Palolo, Waikiki

District 11: Brian Taniguchi*
Manoa, Punchbowl

District 12: Brickwood Galuteria*
Downtown, Waikiki, Moiliili, Makiki, Kapahulu, Ala Moana, Kakaako

District 13: Suzanne Chun Oakland*
Nuuanu, Iwilei

District 14: Open
Kaliihi, Salt Lake, Halawa

District 15: Glenn Wakai*
Hickam, Sand Island, Kaliihi, Salt Lake, Halawa

District 16: David Ige*
Waialu, Aiea, Pearl City

District 17: Alex Sonson*
Waipahu, Pearl City

District 18: Michelle Kidani*
Moiliili Town, Waikele

District 19: Will Espero*
Ewa Beach, Ewa City, Ocean Pointe, Iroquois Point

District 20: Mike Gabbard*
Makakilo, Kapolei

District 21: Maile Shimabukuro*
Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, Makaha

District 22: Donovan Dela Cruz*
Moiliili Mauka, Wahiawa

District 23: Clayton Hee*
Makalei, Waialua, Haleiwa, Waimea, Kahuku, Laie, Kahaluu

District 24: Jill Tokuda*
Heeia, Kaneohe, Kaneohe Station, Kailua, Maunawili

District 25: Pohai Ryan*
Waimanalo, Kailua, Maunawili, Hawaii Kai

STATE HOUSE
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Nuuanu, Liiha, Pauoa, Alewa Heights

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Kapalama, Liiha

District 29: Karl Rhoads*
Iwilei, Palama, Kalihi

District 30: Nicole Velasco
Kapalama, Kalihi, Honolulu International Airport, Hickam Air Force Base, Ford Island

District 31: Open
Fort Shafter, Mapunapuna, Moanalua Gardens, Halawa

District 32: Linda Ichiyama*
Moanalua, Salt Lake, Alaamanu, Tripler Army Hospital

*INCUMBENT
Retiree member and Manoa resident Jane Nakabayashi with HGEA-endorsed candidate Kirk Caldwell, Honolulu mayoral candidate.

“Before I became a public employee and an HGEA member, I never realized how important political action was. Who we elect to office and the legislation they pass definitely impacts me and my family – whether it’s if there will be enough funding to keep my job, if budgets will be cut or if benefits will be taken away. As I’ve become more active in HGEA, I’m now aware of how critical it is to help elect individuals who care about working families and who will fight to preserve our rights and benefits.” – Alicia Wilson Takaoka, Academic Program Support Specialist, University of Hawaii - West Oahu

**HAWAII**

**STATE SENATE**

District 1: Donald Ikeda
Hilo, Waiakea, Keaaukaha

District 2: Open
Puna, Kau

District 3: Josh Green*
Kona, Kau

District 4: Open
Kona, Kohala, Hamakua, Hilo

**STATE HOUSE**

District 1: Mark Nakashima*
Kukuihaele, Honokaa, Paauilo, Ookala, Laupahoehoe, Honokohau, Akaka, Honouliulu, Pepeekeo, Onomea, Papaikou, Puaika, Piiholonu, Kaumana, Hilo

District 2: Cliff Tsuji*
Hilo, Waiakea, Keaaukaha

District 3: Richard Onishi
Hilo, Keaau, Orchid Land Estate, Kurtistown, Mountain View, Glenwood, Hawaiian Acres, Volcano, Pahoa, Punalu'u, Ninole, Honopu

District 4: Faye Hanohano*
Hawaiian Acres, Pahoa, Hawaiian Paradise Park, Pohoiki, Opihikoa, Kehena, Kaimu, Kalapana

**HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL**

District 1: Valerie Poindexter
District 2: Open
District 3: Dennis “Fresh” Onishi*
District 4: Fred Blas*
District 5: Zendo Kern
District 6: Maile David or Bradley Westervelt
District 7: Dru Kanuha
District 8: Karen Eoff
District 9: Oliver “Sonny” Shimaoka

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

Lincoln Ashida

Continued on next page
Pumped up for PAC!

Participating in HGEA’s political action activities gets you involved in the union and in helping candidates who support public workers. It’s also a great way to meet fellow HGEA members. Whether it’s signwaving, canvassing or phone banking, there’s a fun activity for you.

If you are interested in volunteering for any political action activities, please contact Legislative Specialist Michele Kurihara-Klein at mkurihara@hgea.org. You’re welcome to bring a friend, too.

HGEA ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Candidates requesting HGEA endorsements are interviewed by HGEA Island Division Political Action Committee members.

Candidates are rated from “excellent” to “questionable” by HGEA Island Division PAC members.

Each HGEA Island Division PAC presents its recommended slate to the HGEA State Political Action Committee.

State PAC reviews recommendation from Island Division PACs and recommends candidates for endorsement to HGEA State Board of Directors.

HGEA State Board of Directors reviews State PAC recommendation and endorses candidates.

HGEA announces endorsed candidate slate.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2012-2013
CHARLES R. KENDALL AND RUSSELL K. OKATA
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Charles R. Kendall and Russell K. Okata Scholarships are available to HGEA members and their dependents who are attending or plan to attend a college, community college or university, or vocational, trade or other post-high school study on a full-time basis. Scholarship applications for the 2013–2014 school year will be available on the HGEA website in September.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>University of Hawaii at Hilo</td>
<td>Christine Pacheco (Unit 9)</td>
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<td>Chase P. Parongao</td>
<td>Kauai</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa</td>
<td>Vaughn Parongao (Unit 3) &amp; Iris Parongao (Unit 13)</td>
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<td>Royce M. Pasalo*</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa</td>
<td>Diane Pasalo (Unit 5)</td>
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<td>Chad I. Sakoda</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>University of Portland</td>
<td>Cindy Sakoda (Unit 3)</td>
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<td>Kiah A. Shigeta-Koizumi*</td>
<td>Kauai</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>Christy Koizumi (Unit 3)</td>
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<td>Jovana R.P. Shigetani*</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa</td>
<td>Suzanne Shigetani (Unit 3)</td>
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<td>Kelli A. Shindo</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Kapiolani Community College</td>
<td>May Shindo (Unit 3)</td>
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<td>Michelle A. Tagorda*</td>
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<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa</td>
<td>Laurence Tagorda (Unit 13)</td>
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<td>Dayna K. Takahashi</td>
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<td>Leeward Community College</td>
<td>Kevin Takahashi (Unit 13)</td>
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<td>Jacob O. Teter</td>
<td>Kauai</td>
<td>Point Loma Nazarene University</td>
<td>Danielle Teter (Unit 13)</td>
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<td>Reyna E. Teter*</td>
<td>Kauai</td>
<td>Point Loma Nazarene University</td>
<td>Danielle Teter (Unit 13)</td>
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<td>Michael J. Teves</td>
<td>Maui</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Hilo</td>
<td>Melanie Clubb (Unit 3)</td>
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<td>Kania A.A. Twyman*</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>Kent State University</td>
<td>Tanya Twyman (Associate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelli Ann K. Zakimi</td>
<td>Oahu</td>
<td>University of Hawaii at Manoa</td>
<td>June Zakimi (Excluded)</td>
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*Denotes repeat awardees
Although the 2012 Legislative Session was not as busy as recent years, there were a number of critical bills that HGEA was monitoring and actively working to pass or defeat.

One of the most important bills of the session was Senate Bill 2214, which would have made employer healthcare contributions to the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) subject to impasse and arbitration.

Despite its overwhelming passage in the Senate and House, with a “no” vote from Sen. Sam Slom, and Reps. Corinne Ching and Barbara Marumoto voting “with reservations,” the bill was vetoed by Governor Neil Abercrombie on July 10.

Although upset, HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira was not surprised by the governor’s veto. “This EUTF bill would have been a way to level the playing field for these employees who for years have had to endure paying an exorbitant amount of their healthcare premiums,” he said. “The governor’s signing of the bill would have been a significant gesture of his support and understanding of what government employees have had to endure. The governor talks a lot about addressing the state budget shortfall by ‘sharing in the pain’ and ‘paddling the canoe together’ – but so far, it seems public employees are shouldering much of the burden.

Unfortunately, this will represent yet another missed opportunity for the governor to demonstrate a support for collective bargaining for public employees, and instead represents a continuation of the effort by the state to control costs at the expense of its employees. Unlike the private sector, government workers pay a significant amount of their income – reduced income, at that – for medical premiums. On top of that, elected and appointed officials continue to whine about the cost of retiree health care. The veto of this bill demonstrates that government employees will not be treated as assets to our community, but rather as cost-cutting pawns in a ‘race to the bottom’ game.

“Whether it was the effort to tax pensions and eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursement for retirees, to the extremely difficult and frustrating contract negotiations and sluggish favored nation implementation, this Administration failed to show any fairness toward public workers – and leaves little optimism or hope that the future for these middle class, tax-paying government employees will improve.”

Another disappointment this session was the failure to pass legislation that would have created a new bargaining unit(s) for law enforcement officers and ocean and water safety officers. HGEA will continue to work with both employee groups in preparation for the 2013 Session.

The “pension spiking” bill received much attention during the session. In the 2011 session, the Abercrombie introduced the bill to eliminate overtime as a part of compensation when calculating retirement benefits for employees. This session, the Legislature amended the bill to affect those employees who are hired after July 1, 2012.

“Certainly, the state has to deal with soaring pension costs, but this bill to address ‘pension spiking’ is more symbolic than an actual solution,” said Perreira. “Curbing the overtime calculation will hardly make a dent in the big unfunded liability – $440 million out of $8 billion. But there’s one outcome of this bill that is certain – it will continue to chip away at these employee benefits, making government employment less and less attractive. Our elected officials want efficient service, yet are not willing to compensate employees fairly for it. How will government be able to attract and retain the best and the brightest employees?”

HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira testifies against a bill limiting retirement benefits.

HGEA President Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto (left) and Retirees Unit Administrator Mahie Trask (right) discuss legislative issues with State Sen. Brickwood Galuteria.
The Next Wave Moves Forward!

Since launching statewide earlier this year, the Next Wave has kept up the momentum! Whether it’s participating in Community Action events, hosting voter registration drives or having roundtable discussions with HGEA-endorsed candidates, the Next Wave committee on each island is going strong and continuing to prepare young members to become the leaders of tomorrow.

At the 21st General Assembly in May, the Next Wave hosted its own caucus – the first of its kind! More than 40 members joined HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira, AFSCME President Lee Saunders and Secretary-Treasurer Laura Reyes to discuss Next Wave as a national movement.

This summer, Next Wave will also be wrapping up the first year of its mentorship program, the Haumana Project. The pilot program was run only on Oahu, but they are working to enhance the program before launching on neighbor islands in fall 2012! If you are interested in becoming either a mentor or protégé, or would like more information about Next Wave, please email nextwave@hgea.org.

2012 AFSCME Family Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Hunter Ellis-Lui-Kwan, a recipient of the 2012 AFSCME Family Scholarship! She was selected as one of 10 winners from across the country.

Hunter is the daughter of HGEA member Holly Ellis (Unit 13), a legal assistant with the State Department of the Attorney General. Hunter graduated from Kamehameha Schools (Kapalama) and plans to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

The $2,000 AFSCME Family Scholarship is available for graduating high school seniors whose parent/legal guardian is an AFSCME member. Applications are available in August and can be downloaded from www.afscme.org or can be requested via email at education@afscme.org

MAHALO FROM A CHARLES R. KENDALL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

The Kendall Scholarship means the world to me. In my family, I will be the first of four children to graduate with a baccalaureate degree. Without this scholarship I would have a very difficult time making ends meet while I attend school full-time and work part-time. This scholarship means that I won’t have to worry about being able to afford the costs of being in a cohort that travels interisland once a month, that I can purchase all of the necessary supplies that I need for school, and that I can decrease the amount of student loans I would have taken in order to afford my tuition. Plus, I will be able to take care of all of my personal needs and expenses.

Mahalo nui loa to everyone who has helped make this possible for me. Your support and encouragement along the way has allowed me to truly spread my wings and soar! As an HGEA member, I truly feel supported and taken care of. Thank you so much.

Shyela Stephens
Office Assistant, University of Hawaii – Maui College
Unit 3 member
**Mahalo, President McEntee!**

**AFSCME International President Gerald W. McEntee retires after more than three decades**

In June, AFSCME International President Gerald W. McEntee retired after leading the nation’s largest public service employees union for 31 years.

Former HGEA Executive Director Russell Okata recalls the 1981 election when McEntee first ran for President.

“I can vividly remember the special election 31 years ago,” said Okata. “I was the most junior AFSCME international vice president, but Jerry McEntee chose me to nominate him for president. His narrow victory cemented an unshakeable bridge between the AFSCME and HGEA to this day.”

Through the years, the relationship between AFSCME and HGEA flourished. McEntee was always willing and eager to address delegates at our HGEA conventions. A fiery and spirited speaker, McEntee had the ability to motivate and inspire members to take action. In 1998, the AFSCME convention was held in Hawaii because McEntee wanted to demonstrate AFSCME’s support for union members in our state, which at the time had the highest percentage of unionized workers in the country.

Under President McEntee’s leadership, AFSCME grew to 1.6 million members strong, the largest union in the AFL-CIO. Today, there is no denying AFSCME’s political strength and influence in the fight on behalf of public workers.

“I witnessed President McEntee’s remarkable ascendance to become one of America’s visionary trade labor unionists. He worked overtime to strengthen AFSCME through unprecedented membership growth and political power. His dynamic leadership transformed the AFL-CIO to regain its bargaining clout to battle the unending global labor struggles. He quickly became the ‘go-to guy’ for every major worker issue.”

HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira said, “We at the HGEA and all of the American labor movement appreciate the many contributions Jerry McEntee made to the quality of life for working people all across our country. I am proud to count him as a friend, and wish to acknowledge all he has done for the HGEA, UPW and East West Center. We are forever grateful for the support and guidance given us over his many years leading AFSCME. All of us at HGEA wish Jerry and Barbara the very best as they enjoy their well-earned retirement years.”

Okata added, “He always counted and depended upon HGEA, UPW and East-West Center Local 928 during his long AFSCME presidency. And we could always count on him for help knowing that the full strength of AFSCME would forever be on our side. I was proud to be his supporter and close friend. This legacy continues with newly elected AFSCME President Lee Saunders and Randy Perreira.”
This year’s recipient of the Norman Ahakuelo United Way Labor Award is HGEA’s very own Alton Watanabe, Maui Island Division Chief. In her nomination of Watanabe, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison Lena Staton said: “A strong supporter of the United Way campaign, he leads by example and always strives for 100 percent participation in his workplace.” Watanabe has served on the Maui United Way Board and on the Board of Directors for Mental Health of America. You can find him out in the community, participating in events such as the annual Martin Luther King Peace March or small activities like cleaning up the Waihee Cemetery.

This honor awards the memory and legacy of Norman Ahakuelo, a business manager – financial secretary for the IBEW Local 1260, who strongly supported the United Way and was one of the founding fathers of AFL-CIO’s local Community Services Program.

Congratulations, Alton!

Executive Director Randy Perreira receives an “exceeds expectations” rating from the board

At its June meeting, the HGEA State Board of Directors conducted its mid-term evaluation of HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira and rated his overall performance as “exceeds expectations.” Perreira was evaluated on his performance for the period from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 in the areas of Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan; Collective Bargaining; Legislation and Political Process; Planning and Programming; Working Relationships; Managing Resources; and Personal.

HGEA President Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto said, “The past fiscal year has continued to be challenging for our union with contract negotiations and attacks on public employees. The board recognized that Executive Director Perreira’s constant vigilance, in spite of these challenges, has kept our organization financially sound and operations continue to move forward on behalf of our membership. In each of the six areas, the board felt he met or exceeded expectations.” The board will be conducting its end-of-term evaluation of the Executive Director in June 2013.
HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
Honolulu, HI 96802-2930

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

For more information on these events, visit the HGEA website at www.hgea.org and look out for details in upcoming eBulletins.

Oahu: Family Fun Day at the Water Park
August 17, 2012
Wet ‘n’ Wild Hawaii

Kendall scholarship applications available
September 15, 2012

Maui: Fall Card Making
October 18, 2012

Hawaii: BINGO
November 21, 2012

Kauai: Kadomatsu
December 19-22, 2012

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Primary Election
Saturday, August 11, 2012

General Election
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

NEW LOOK OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

You may notice that this newsletter is now in color. We’re pleased to report that with technological advancements, printing on a four-color press is now even more economical. We hope you like our new look.