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In 1996, Unit 8 members Harold Yokuochi and Gary Shibuya had an idea – if Boy Scouts can make and sell Kadomatsu for New Years, why can't Kauai's HGEA members do the same? After all, both men prepare Kadomatsu at their family gathering before each New Year and pound mochi. After pitching the idea to Gerald Ako, Yokuochi & Shibuya flew to Kauai to teach and prepare for the first kadomatsu sale to take place in late December.



Green bamboo was harvested, rope, plastic flowers, pine branches and tools were assembled for the lessons. Gary brought a special jig to cut bamboo at 3 different lengths and at 45-degree angles.



Having all the necessary equipment on hand, this was the beginning of Kauai's Kadomatsu tradition. Among the HGEA members attending the class were Earl Miyao, Tommy Tokuda and Gerald Ako. About a hundred kadomatsu were made and sold at \$25.00 each, with proceeds going to the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship and Education Fund. HGEA members from all units came to help and share in this new experience that continues today. Pat Watase, Earl Miyao, Marvin Mikasa and Tommy Rita are continuing the fundraising with help from HGEA members from all units. *The Garden Island* news photographer and writer Dennis Fujimoto has published and promoted HGEA Kadomatsu sale every year.



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KAUAI'S KADOMATSU STORY

HGEA retiree Greg Enos (pictured) lends a hand at Kauai's annual kadomatsu fundraiser. As reported by *The Garden Island*, "proceeds from the kadomatsu benefit the Charles Kendall Scholarship and Education Fund offered by the HGEA and started some years ago by Greg Enos."

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WORDFIND 2018 Year of the dog

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Afghan Hound | Japanese Spitz |
| Akita | Labrador |
| Basset Hound | Maltese |
| Beagle | Northern Inuit Dog |
| Bulldog | Old English Sheep Dog |
| Chihuahua | Poodle |
| Collie | Rottweiler |
| Dalmatian | Saint Bernard |
| Doberman Pinscher | Shar Pei |
| Fox Hound | Shih Tzu |
| German Shepherd | Siberian Husky |
| Golden Retriever | Whippet |
| Hawaiian Poi Dog | Yorkshire Terrier |
| Irish Setter | |

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

Medicare Part B Reimbursements for 2018

Like 2017, there are again different Medicare Part B premium amounts being charged to retirees in 2018. To ensure that you are correctly reimbursed for your and your spouse/partner's Medicare Part B premiums, please provide EUTF with a copy of your and your spouse/partner's letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) showing Medicare Part B premiums for 2018. EUTF will reimburse the amount stated on the letter (less any penalties). If EUTF does not receive the SSA letter, you and your spouse/partner's reimbursement will be the lesser of 1) your 2017 reimbursement, or 2) the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium of \$134 per month for 2018.

Please mail the copy of the SSA letter or invoice to: EUTF, PO Box 2121, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805-2121

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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HO`OLAHA

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VOLUME 41 NO 1

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A MESSAGE FROM RETIREES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

As we welcome 2018 and celebrate the Year of the Dog, let's be mindful of the struggles that continue to affect our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico and other parts of the United States. For our private sector members closer to home, Irene Puuohau (HGEA staff) says Maui Kaiser Hospital negotiations have stalled due to an employer who, "continues to offer less to employees by

way of wages, benefits and other compensation may serve to save a little for the Hospital in the short term but in the long run it will cost the Hospital and its patients, significantly. If accepted as proposed, the employees of the Maui Health will be one of the lowest, if not the lowest compensated Kaiser affiliated Hospital and Clinic in the nation."

In January, the Janus v AFSCME Council 31 case was heard by the Supreme Court, and a decision is expected by June. Right-to-work laws for the public sector will not only bring lower wages, but diminish safety protections and job advancement. Union members' strength in numbers levels the playing field for workers. The current president has tipped the playing field away from unions with his appointment of a Supreme Court Justice, attempts at rolling back the Affordable Care Act, his cabinet appointments, tax code reform and rolling back regulations that protect our internet use as well as the environment. He and the Republican Party have to be held accountable for the mess they have created. The mid-term elections are so crucial this year and while the Democrats have won some major races, we all need to become part of the process of change. I urge you to support the union by becoming active, sign up for PEOPLE or increase your membership to the MVP level and above. As we move into the election process, you can support the union by supporting our endorsed candidates, participating in phone banks and volunteering at your district campaign headquarters. These small steps will lead to the victories needed to keep our local legislature Democrat and hopefully take back the majority in Congress. Stay tuned to this publication and other HGEA sources like eBulletin and *The Public Employee*.

A great way to get involved with the Retirees Unit is by attending the general membership meetings held quarterly on each island. Check your island news section for information. Information about HGEA, the latest happenings on the island and upcoming activities are discussed. Sometimes a speaker is featured and we end with a light lunch. We are always looking at ideas and opportunities to learn something new. Please let us know if you are willing to teach a craft, trade or share your knowledge on a specific topic. We are available to assist your chapter organize an activity. Call me at 543-0090 or email mtrask@hgea.org to discuss your ideas.

Please encourage your former co-workers, family and friends to join the Retirees Unit. It is very simple to join. Call Tammy at 543-0054 for assistance. Let's each try to recruit one member this year.

In Solidarity,

Mahie

CHAPTER NEWS

OAHU

Thank you to the Christmas party committee. We danced, sang and showed we know how to party! Everyone got a door prize and a photo with Santa with promises that Santa will be back next year.

February 7, 2018 - Movie Day, 9:00 a.m. at the HGEA Hall.

February 14, 2018 - Windward Outreach Day, Kaneohe District Park, 9:00-noon in the 1st floor Arts and Crafts Room.

February 15, 2018 - Crochet class 9:00-noon at HGEA Hall. Please call 543-0054 to RSVP.

March 22, 2018 - General membership meeting at Makiki District Park at 9:00 a.m. Please call the HGEA office to RSVP.

Know how to play the ukulele? Interested in giving lessons, please call the HGEA office at 543-0054.

Interested in forming an Oahu Chapter Choral group, also looking for a piano accompaniment. Please call the HGEA office at 543-0054.

KAUAI

February 26, 2018 - Movie Day. Please call Joni to RSVP.

March 5, 2018 - Executive board meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the HGEA office.

March 12, 2018 - General membership meeting at 9:30 a.m.

April 16, 2018 - Painting class, 9:00 a.m. at the HGEA office. Call Bryan Mamaclay at 635-0188 to confirm attendance. Fee is \$45 at the HGEA office by March 30, 2018.

MAUI

Thank you to the six retirees and two active members who participated in the Salvation Army Bell ringing project held at the Wailuku Safeway. We truly appreciated your support.

February 14, 2018 - Movie Day will feature *Hidden Figures* and *Love Actually* beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the HGEA office.

February 27, 2018 - Hanafuda beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please call the HGEA office to RSVP by February 26, 2018.

March 20, 2018 - General membership meeting.

April 2, 2018 - Bingo beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please call the HGEA office to RSVP by March 29, 2018.

BIG ISLAND

Thank you, East and West Hawaii Retirees and families for supporting the Salvation Army Bell Ringing project we do each year. Along with the actives, we were able to raise over \$1100 from the event.

March 10, 2018 - East Hawaii American Heart and Stroke Walk.

March 21, 2018 - General membership meeting.

April 14, 2018 - East Hawaii Special Olympics at Keaau High School Track.

May 12, 2018 - East Hawaii Letter Carriers' Food Drive.

Please check with Elsie Iida at 959-6794/936-2013 for time, place and to sign up for the volunteer events.

Walker Writes

PEOPLE Gold Level Honoree

We are proud of our Hawaii Chapter Champion, a Gold Level contributor to PEOPLE who has also been a Hawaii Chapter President and Board Director for many years. She is Aileen Obina.

Aileen is committed to PEOPLE because PEOPLE funds especially are critical assets needed to fight legislation in Congress that negatively impact seniors. She wants to be sure that funds continue to be available to fight for seniors, for benefits we seniors earned, namely Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. PEOPLE funds are also used to fight court suits that rally against unions like the current Janus case that will be heard by the Supreme Court in February 2018.

Aileen claims her reason for contributing to PEOPLE at the Gold Level is selfish. She says after many years of caring for others, she is thinking about herself and her future and therefore wants current retirement "entitlements" to be available for her and others. (Republicans aim to make up the huge national deficit by tapping into the seniors' retirements funds according to provisions in the tax reform legislation pending the President's signature.)

We thank Aileen for her commitment to PEOPLE at the Gold Level and hold her up as our model and standard bearer.

Retirees, let us take the initiative, follow Aileen's lead, and make additional contributions to the PEOPLE initiative. Thank you, Aileen, for being our champion.

P.S. Aileen also advocates and firmly believes that we strictly adhere to the HGEA policy that officers of HGEA be committed to endorsed candidates. When someone questions the possibility of contributing to a non-endorsed candidate, you will get an earful of reasons why supporting endorsed candidates are comparable to looking after our own causes.

PEOPLE funds are spent on campaign activities to campaign vigorously for HGEA-endorsed candidates.