A Message From Retirees Unit Administrator: Mahie Trask

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Retirees at Big Island Candies after attending the Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival in February.

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# A MESSAGE FROM RETIREE UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

First off, my sincerest apologies for misstating that 2020 is the Year of the Dog, when it is the Year of the Rat! Not a good way to start the decade but thank you for bringing it to my attention.

The 30th Hawaii State Legislature opened on Wednesday January 15, 2020. Again I am happy to report there are no take-aways and pleased to report there are several bills from the Kupuna Caucus and other senior groups that support Long-term care, assisting caregivers, criminal offenses against seniors and extending Hawaii family leave to include care of a grandchild are some of the bills I am monitoring. At the January 21, 2020 State Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to early endorse Kaulii “Kai” Kahele for the Congressional District 2 seat. Many of your Oahu chapter board and members were in attendance at the press conference following the board action. Growing up middle class in a union family and being a union member in the Pilots Union, Kai knows the importance of unions and pledges to continue his support of Labor. Given the recent development of COVID-19, the Mayoral & Prosecutor interviews for Oahu were postponed. However, please continue to send your interview questions to the island division PAC’s.

Stay connected to the CDC page on risk populations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html for the latest information. Also AFSCME Retirees COVID-19 Fact Sheet can be found at https://www.afscme.org/downloadable-asset/AFSCME-Retirees-COVID.pdf. AFSCME through Congress is working on a bill (HR6201) Family First Coronavirus Response Act which amongst other things, makes sure that cost is not a factor in people getting tested. Locally, the COVID-19 Hotline is available by calling 211. For now, the retiree unit activities and meetings have been cancelled through April 2020. Please contact your island offices or the Retirees Unit office for information regarding any planned activities.

AFSCME is a 2020 Census Bureau partner for the Communication Campaign to ensure a full count of the population. By completing the 2020 Census, you will also help AFSCME/HGEA members do their jobs and keep America running. It means strengthening our voice on the job, better health care and a more secure retirement so be sure to complete your Census. Starting March 12, households began receiving a form in the mail seeking information about every person living at that address. This year, the form can be completed online, over the phone or by mail.

HMSA will be visiting the HGEA offices for a health and fitness presentation; May 4 on Maui, May 28 in Hilo, and May 29 on Kauai all beginning at 10:00 a.m. Kaiser will be at the Hilo office on May 7 and Maui on May 27. A dementia presentation by Dorothy Colby of Hale Ku’ike is scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to noon. Thursday, May 28, 2020: Crochet class

## OAHU

- **Monday, May 4, 2020:** Bingo
- **Tuesday, May 5, 12, 19, 26:** Mah Jong & Tai Chi
- **Wednesdays May 13 & 27, 2020:** Line Dancing
- **Thursday, May 21, 2020:** Outreach at the Kaneohe District Park, 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- **Thursday, May 28, 2020:** Crochet class
- **Monday, June 1, 2020:** Bingo
- **Tuesdays, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:** Mah Jong & Tai Chi
- **Wednesdays June 10 & 24, 2020:** Line Dancing

## KA‪U‬I

- **Monday, May 4, 2020:** Movie Day at HGEA 9:30 a.m.
- **Friday, May 29, 2020:** HMSA health and fitness presentation. 10:00 a.m. at HGEA
- **Monday, June 22, 2020:** General Membership meeting. Update by legislators

## MAU‪I‬

- **Monday, May 4, 2020:** HMSA health and fitness presentation. 10:00 a.m. at HGEA.
- **Wednesday, May 20, 2020:** Movie Day at HGEA 9:30 a.m. The Good Liar and Knives Out showing
- **Tuesday, May 26, 2020:** Hanafuda at HGEA at 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, May 27, 2020:** Kaiser health & fitness presentation. 10:00 a.m.
- **Tuesday, June 16, 2020:** General Membership meeting, UPW hall at 9:00 a.m.

## BIG ISLAND

- **Thursday, May 7, 2020:** Kaiser health & fitness presentation, HGEA office.
- **Saturday, May 9, 2020:** National Letter Carriers Food Drive sorting, Airport Post Office, 1:00 pm - 3:00 p.m. or until finished
- **Thursday, May 28, 2020:** HMSA health and fitness presentation. 10:00 a.m. at HGEA.
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2020:** General Membership Meeting, HGEA Hilo office, 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for your support of the Retirees Unit and the HGEA. A huge THANK YOU to those members that recently joined the PEOPLE MVP level with the recent AFSCME mail out. Your continued support of that program helps fight the battles of the Republican and Trump White House agendas.

In Solidarity,

Mahie