

CHAPTER NEWS

HAWAII

Thank you for the many hours of sign waving and phone banking for the Primary and General elections.

December 9, 2020: Hawaii Chapter board zoom meeting. at 9:00 a.m.

January 16, 2021: Holiday party CANCELLED.

KAUAI

Anyone willing to serve on Kauai Chapter Board, please call Roy Nishida at 635-6676.

If Kauai opens up, we are still planning for a celebration on April 12 since we cannot have a Christmas party or chapter general membership meeting.

MAUI

A chapter party is being planned should the gathering restriction open up.

RETIREE CHAPTER BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections for the chapter board officers and directors are held during the third quarter general membership meetings in the year in which a biennial assembly of the Retirees Unit is held. For the 2021-2023 term the elections will take place during the fourth week in March 2021 beginning with Kauai on March 22nd, Maui on March 23rd, Hawaii on March 24th and ending with Oahu on March 25, 2021. The board term begins on July 1, 2021 for two years. All members in each county are eligible to run and only those in attendance are eligible to vote. Please call Tammy at the Retirees Unit office 543-0054 or email Tammy at ttanouye@hgea.org by February 26, 2021 for information on how to submit your nomination. You may also call your island division office for information. Since we may not be able to meet in person due to COVID-19, the board will be discussing changes to the election rules that currently allow for nominations from the floor. No eligible members shall be a candidate for more than (1) office in the Chapter election. Election results will be announced at the meeting and in the Ho'olaha.

CHARTER AND BYLAW RESOLUTIONS DEADLINE

With the 24th Biennial Convention scheduled for June 2021 in Hilo, Hawaii, the Charter, Bylaw and Resolutions Committee is accepting resolution for charter and bylaw changes as well as general resolutions. The deadline to submit charter and bylaw resolutions is February 26, 2021 and March 31, 2021 for general resolutions. The resolutions must be submitted in proper form to ttanouye@hgea.org or to any HGEA office by 4:30 on their due dates. Please call Tammy at 543-0054 for any questions.



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WORD FIND

Hawaiian Birds

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| AKEPA | KIOEA |
| AKIALOA | KIWIKIU |
| AKIKIKI | KOLOA |
| AKOHEKOHE | MAOLI |
| ALAE KEOKEO | NENE |
| ALALA | NIHOA |
| ALAWI | NUKUPUU |
| AMAKIHI | OMAO |
| ANIANIAU | PALILA |
| APAPANE | POOULI |
| ELEPAIO | PUAIOHI |
| HOPUE | PUEO |
| IIWI | |

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

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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11 | 12.20

VOLUME 43 NO 5

The Ho'olaha is published six times a year by the Hawaii Government Employees Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 152, AFL-CIO.

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A MESSAGE FROM RETIREES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

Never in a million years could we have imagined that the new fashion accessory would be face masks and that early morning shopping hours for Kupuna would be the norm in many stores. But that is precisely what happened three

months into 2020. I hope you are all following the guidelines to wear your masks, wash your hands often and social distance so that we can all once again hug our keiki and get on with activities. As you know, our retiree activities have all but stopped, however I have continued to meet with the state board, chapter board and AFSCME Council via Zoom meetings. It is amazing how many participants on the Zoom calls all enjoy the interaction even if only through a computer. I hope more of you are learning how to Zoom, Skype or Facetime so that you can continue to socialize. While we had planned for a statewide zoom meeting in October there were no participants. I would encourage participation since it may be a while more before we can gather but also to be able to give input to the unit. Tammy and I are available along with our IT staff to help get you connected.

The HGEA active members and staff attended their first virtual General Assembly on Saturday, November 14, 2020. The AFSCME convention that was scheduled this summer in Los Angeles was also conducted virtually. Many lessons were learned to hopefully have a successful virtual convention here. That said, the retiree chapter elections may also be held virtually in March, 2021 along with the retiree convention slated for June, 2021. (Please see additional information in this bulletin.)

HGEA is currently seeking legislative proposals for the 2021 Legislature which begins on January 20, 2021. The Retirees Unit will continue to monitor and lobby or submit testimony on any legislation that could affect your benefits, both positively or negatively. While we did suffer some losses in this year's election, specifically Oahu Mayoral race we did win the Big Island Mayors race and several other key races. Nationally the Presidential election is top of mind, and as of this writing has not been decided yet even though Vice President Joe Biden has a lead in four of the seven remaining states. The union is cautiously optimistic and hopeful of a Biden Harris win. Hawaii State Director Aileen Obina represents HGEA retirees on the State Political Action Committee, but each island division PAC also includes a retiree member. Of course, Retiree President Ruth Walker along with the HGEA State Board of Directors had the final say in approving the union's endorsed candidates. I would like to thank President Walker and all the board directors and member volunteers that helped with the various campaigns across the state. Between the phone banking, campaign material prep and sign waving, retirees were a huge part of our success. UPDATE: BIDEN/HARRIS WON ELECTION. PLEASE SUPPORT GA SENATE DEMOCRAT RACES.

Many of you already know HGEA past President Jackie Ferguson Miyamoto but Jackie recently was appointed by Governor Ige as the Retiree Trustee for the EUTF replacing Linda Musto. Congratulations, Jackie and we look forward to working with you. I have already gotten support from the Employee Trustees to add chiropractic benefit to your health plan but that is going to be a long road ahead. I will definitely continue to push for this benefit with Trustee Ferguson Miyamoto.

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With Thanksgiving and the Christmas season upon us, Tammy and I are very thankful and appreciative of all of you in the retiree's unit this year as we maneuvered COVID-19. Our masks have become the new wardrobe accessory and constantly washing hands the new normal, but still we must be thankful that we have each other, the friendship of neighbors and strangers who have stepped up to help along the way.

From our Executive Director Randy Perreira, Executive Deputy Director Debbie Kagawa, all the staff at HGEA especially Tammy and myself, we wish you and your families a joyful holiday and a very prosperous and healthy New Year. See you in 2021.

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Mahie

CORONAVIRUS *Chronicles*

During this pandemic, I've spent most of my time trying to finish projects around the house (some of which I started years ago). I also enjoy working on the landscaping around the house. One of the things that I missed was going out to a restaurant for lunch or dinner. Also, not being able to go on vacation this summer was a disappointment (bummers!). I really don't watch a lot of TV, but it seems that it's always on. I also discovered and got hooked on TikTok. Looking forward to the time that we can all safely get together again.



Dennis Schwind, Maui Chapter

The last time I was at the HGEA office was to attend the Oahu Chapter Board meeting. I felt sad that I won't be seeing you more regularly and who knows for how long this will continue. What have you been doing? For some, you followed the rules and stayed home and some got bored. I am happy to say that some of our retirees were able to help endorsed candidates like Keith Amemiya by doing phone banking and sign waving. Big mahalo to all for a job well done.

I can't believe just how fast this year is soon coming to an end. Who would have thought that this coronavirus would end up being the most deadly disease that the world has ever experienced. It didn't just affect our Country, but the whole world! When the stay-at-home policy went into effect I thought, now what I going do? I'm not one that likes to clean house and I gave up cooking because I just don't have the motivation after being diagnosed with cancer in 2010.

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I am happy to share "Praise God", that I have been cancer free now for 10 years! I was not one to stay at home, always on the go, visiting with friends and especially eating at various restaurants. All that came to a screeching halt, on top of that, we had a curfew for a bit. With all the proclamations, policies, dos and don'ts, wearing a mask, social distance of 6 feet, who wants to go through the hassle, so I guess stay home and be safe is best.

This virus is not going away unless we as residents are willing to show the world how precious we think our Hawaii is by doing all the necessary things like wearing a mask when we leave our homes, social distancing, washing our hands, and only going out when we must. As seniors let's be the example, most of us grew up without all the modern day conveniences, no cell phones and computers. We read books and made items and crafts from things we already had. We cooked and baked and shared things with our neighbors, remember, the good ole days. Share what you have and we will survive if we reach out and help each other.

Lastly, while our Retirees Christmas party will be cancelled this year, better to be safe than sorry, let us be thankful for our many blessings. We will celebrate when it is safe for us all. Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Ava Kridler, Oahu Chapter President

When the retirees State board of directors were tasked with writing something interesting for the Ho'olaha during this pandemic lockdown, the first thing came to mind was to feature my Mom, Jane Sasaki. We were unable to have Mom's 99th birthday at a restaurant due to Covid-19 so the next best thing was to have a very small party for her at the caregiver's house. My sister and I went to Marina's (caregiver) house in Seaview, Waipahu with her favorite guava chiffon birthday cake, balloons, flowers and ice cream. She was very happy to see us.



Mom lives with three other retirees. She's enjoying her stay there and even gained weight which is wonderful. The next Sunday was Mother's Day so we went back and I made lunch and dessert for everyone to enjoy. It was a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation to Marina. At that time we presented Mom with a 500-piece bear tea time puzzle for her room.

During this lockdown since I wasn't able to take Mom out twice a week on excursions and lunch, my daughter bought me 500-piece puzzles from Amazon and e-bay to keep busy. I did seven puzzles which my daughter framed and mailed the ALOHA puzzle to Canada for our lady friend who loves Hawaii to hang in her living room. Mom's goal is to live until 100 years old and to be able to ride the rail. She's strong and healthy, doesn't take any medication and loves to walk using her walker around the backyard so I know in my heart that she will be able to fulfill her goal.

Susan Sasaki Goya, Oahu Chapter