

CHAPTER NEWS:

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ISLAND DIVISION OFFICE TO RSVP AND MAKE SURE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELLED OR RESCHEDULED.

HAWAII CHAPTER:

- December 16: Salvation Army Bell Ringing at the Hilo Safeway, 4-8 p.m. RSVP to Elsie via email at esiida@netscape.net or text to 808-936-2013.
- January 17, 2024: Holiday Party. See insert to register.
- March 20, 2024: General Membership Meeting, HGEA meeting hall at 9 a.m.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

- December 4: Holiday Party at the HGEA office
- March 18, 2024: General Membership Meeting at 10 a.m. at the HGEA meeting hall

MAUI CHAPTER:

Call the Maui HGEA Office to register for events at 808-244-5508.

- January 2024: Movie Day. Contact Steve Criss at 808-280-1526 or stpls69@yahoo.com for date and movie. Cost is \$5 and will include popcorn and a drink.
- January 11, 2024: Holiday Party. See insert to register.
- February 8, 2024: Heart Wreath Making at 10 a.m. Limited to 10 members. RSVP to the HGEA office.
- March 19, 2024: General Membership Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the HMSA Center, 70 Hookele St. RSVP to Steve no later than Friday, March 8, 2024.

OAHU CHAPTER:

All activities begin at 9 a.m. unless specified otherwise.

- December 5 & 19: Tai Chi
- December 12: Mahjong
- January 2, 16, & 30, 2024: Tai Chi
- January 4, 9, 18, & 23, 2024: Mahjong
- January 8, 2024: BINGO
- January 10 & 24, 2024: Line Dancing
- January 12, 2024: Movie Day
- January 25, 2024: Crafts
- January 20, 2024: Holiday Party. See insert to register.
- February 1, 8, 13, 22 & 27, 2024: Mahjong
- February 6 & 20, 2024: Tai Chi
- February 14 & 28, 2024: Line Dancing
- February 29, 2024: Crafts
- March 21, 2024: General Membership Meeting at 9 a.m. in the 1st floor HGEA meeting hall.



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
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Retirees Unit President Ethel Fleming (left) with Vice President and Oahu Chapter President Ava Kridler (right) at the AFSCME Retirees Council Meeting in Washington, D.C.

WORDFIND

'Tis the season for giving and spending quality time with loved ones. Get cozy and complete a fun wordfind!

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Angel | Joseph |
| Bells | Lights |
| Candle | Mary |
| Cards | Miracle |
| Chocolate | Parties |
| Christmas Tree | Reindeer |
| Cookie | Santa Claus |
| December | Sleigh |
| Dream Egnog | Snowball |
| Gift | Stocking |
| Holy | Sweater |
| Ice | Winter |
| Jesus | Wishlist |

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

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



On behalf of Executive Director Randy Perreira and Retirees Unit President Ethel Fleming, I sincerely thank you for your support and trust in HGEA and wish all of you and your families good health and a safe holiday season.

As we close out the year, Tammy and I would like to thank our board of directors, chapter officers, committee leaders and chapter presidents, especially, who continuously strive to make their chapters a place of learning and fun. We also extend

a warm mahalo to President Ethel Fleming, who continues to be the biggest supporter of all things HGEA and Retirees Unit.

The success of each chapter is best achieved with participation from you, the members. I encourage each of you to contact your chapter presidents to share your ideas for future events or workshops. I look forward to hearing your suggestions as we plan for 2024.

At the December meeting, President Fleming will appoint Brenda White from the Oahu Chapter to fill the vacant seat left by Oahu State Director Elienne Yoshida when she became Oahu Chapter Vice President.

The legislative session will open in January 2024. Our priority remains the same — sustain retiree benefits. While we were not surprised at the loss of the Medicare Part B for spouses of new hires, effective July 2023, it does bring into focus that benefits are never to be taken for granted. Rest assured that this recent loss does not diminish the benefit for any current retiree spouses or anyone already in the Employees Retirement System prior to July 2023.

With the presidential election and our state election occurring next November, the Retirees Unit will need volunteers for HGEA's political action activities such as phone banking, prepping campaign materials, sign waving and more. This is a time to support our Democratic candidates nationally and locally. AFSCME has already endorsed President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. This presidency's work has enabled pro-union efforts to move forward and recent polls show that union favorability is at an all-time high at around 71%.

It really is up to us, the voters, to keep our country on the right side of democracy. We must use our collective voices to support our Democrat candidates. So please stand with us and vote for our endorsed candidates.

In solidarity,

Mahie

HOLIDAY PARTY REGISTRATION

MAUI CHAPTER
Thursday, January 11, 2024
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bistro Casanova - Kahului
Registration and payment
due by December 15.

HAWAII CHAPTER
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Fairway Grill
340 Haihai Street, Hilo HI 96720
Registration and payment
due by January 3, 2024.
Desserts welcomed – Please note the
dessert you will be providing when
registering

OAHU CHAPTER
Saturday, January 20, 2024
at 10 a.m.
HGEA 1st Floor Hall
RSVP by December 27, 2023.
(No refunds after Dec. 27)
Metered street parking available.
In lieu of a gift exchange, please
bring a canned good donation.

CUT & RETURN THE BELOW

OAHU CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Mailing address: _____

of Retiree Unit Members: ___ x \$30 each = \$ ___
of Guests: ___ x \$35 each = \$ ___
Total = \$ ___

Please make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed registration form with payment by December 27, 2023 to HGEA Retirees Unit, 888 Mililani St., Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813.

HAWAII CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Mailing address: _____

Please make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed registration form with payment by January 3, 2024 to HGEA, 495 Manono Street, Hilo HI 96720.

MAUI CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Name: _____
Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
Mailing address: _____

of Retiree Unit Members: ___ x \$30 each = \$ ___
of Guests: ___ x \$35 each = \$ ___
Total = \$ ___

Please make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed registration form with payment by December 15, 2023 to HGEA, 2145 Kaohu St., Suite 206, Wailuku, HI 96793.

of Retiree Unit Members: ___ x \$20 each = \$ ___
of Guests: ___ x \$30 each = \$ ___
Total = \$ ___

At the holiday party, the Hawaii Chapter will hold an auction for two blankets made by Hawaii Chapter Retiree member Norma Silva. Proceeds for this auction will be donated to those impacted by the Maui wildfires. Monetary donations for HGEA Maui Retirees impacted by the fires are welcome.



ELF'S CORNER BY PRESIDENT ETHEL L. FLEMING

To see "Elf's Corner" reminds us that holiday activities are soon to surround us: eating, writing greeting cards, shopping, wrapping presents, cooking and cleaning. Even though it can be exhausting, it's always worth the effort to gather and enjoy the diverse traditions of our friends and family.

The joy and laughter of the holidays are sometimes tempered when the absence of someone reminds us of our loss. They are still with us, though, and they stay alive through our memories as we reminisce with mutual friends and family. May you all share a wonderful,

blessed time with your loved ones this holiday season.

Turn the page of your 2023 calendar to the new year when the end of December approaches. We have hopes for a bountiful future in the upcoming Year of the Dragon. The dragon symbolizes power, nobility, honor, luck and success in traditional Chinese culture. May we all have a little of these traits as we ring in another year.

CHERRY BLOSSOM HERITAGE FESTIVAL

WAIMEA, HAWAII
FEBRUARY 3, 2024, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Thirty years ago, Hawaii Chapter Past President and Director Evelyn Togashi established this festival when she was the Program Director for the Culture and Education Division for Elderly Recreation Services.

If interested in traveling to Big Island for this event, please contact Tammy at 808-543-0054 no later than December 29, 2023. Airline and bus costs will be decided once we know how many people will travel. Transportation from the Hilo airport to Waimea and back will be included in the cost. You must be an HGEA member to participate.



**BLANKET FOR AUCTION MADE
BY NORMA SILVA**

