

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

HAWAII CHAPTER:

- March 20: General Membership Meeting
- April 2-5: Ka Uhane Hemolele O Ka Malama. Assist with church chores for Merrie Monarch Festival.
- April 29: Special Olympics, Waiakea High School
- April 2024: County of Hawaii Easter Celebration. Date TBD.
- April 2024: Set up equipment for BILA. Date TBD.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

- February 26: Movie Day at 10 a.m.
- March 18: General Membership Meeting. RSVP to Tommy or call Joni at the HGEA office at 808-245-6751

MAUI CHAPTER:

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

- February 20: Hanafuda Tournament at 5 p.m. in the HGEA conference room. RSVP to the Maui office. Seating is limited.
- March 19: General Membership Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Contact Steve at 808-280-1526 or stpls69@yahoo.com to RSVP by the March 8 deadline. Meeting will be at the HMSA Center, 70 Hookele St. (next to Target and Planet Fitness). Hawaii Energy will present on saving money on your energy bills.

OAHU CHAPTER:

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

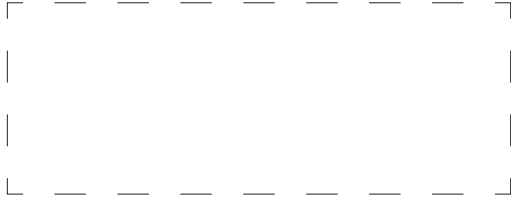
- March 4: BINGO
- March 5 & 19: Tai Chi
- March 12: Mahjong
- March 13 & 27: Line Dance
- March 15: Movie Day
- March 21: General Membership Meeting
- March 28: Craft

- April 2, 16 & 30: Tai Chi
- April 4, 9, 18 & 23: Mahjong
- April 5 & 26: Karaoke
- April 10 & 24: Line Dance
- April 25: Craft



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
Honolulu, HI 96802-2930

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Hawaii Chapter retirees enjoy a kanikapila session at their annual holiday party at Fairway Grill.

WORDFIND

All things Hawaii

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Aloha Shirt | Maui |
| Baby Luau | Molokai |
| Crack Seed | Music |
| Guava Jelly | Niihau |
| Hawaii | Oahu |
| Hula | Ocean |
| Inamona | Pineapple |
| Kahoolawe | Plumeria |
| Kauai | Poi |
| Koa | Poke |
| Lanai | Salt |
| Language | Surfing |
| Laulau | Ti leaves |
| Lei | Wauke |

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

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



Hauoli makahiki hou and greetings to everyone near and far!

We had a blast closing out the festive holiday season with chapter parties. Mahalo to the chapter presidents, each island planning committee and Tammy. Coordinating is time consuming and stressful but, in the end, the parties are sources of joy for members who appreciate the opportunity to celebrate another year with their fellow retirees.

All island chapters except for Kauai held their parties in January to avoid the hectic holiday peak in December. We are grateful that HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira was able to attend the January parties.

I'm also pleased to report that we raised over \$500 for the Maui wildfire victims from the Hawaii and Oahu chapter members who held fundraisers at their parties. Proceeds will be donated to the Maui Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity will help provide relief to our Maui ohana.

The Hawaii State Legislature convened on Jan. 17, 2024. There are no proposed benefit reductions for retirees; however, there are many pressing issues from community organizations like the Alzheimer's Association and Kupuna Caucas that could use your advocacy. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in particular continues to search for volunteers to be a voice for kupuna residing in a long-term care setting.

We are willing to schedule presentations from these organizations if there is significant interest of retirees willing and wanting to get involved with political action. You can also reach out to us for more information.

Recently the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a small dip in public sector unionization and overall union density. AFSCME President Lee Saunders gave a statement saying, "It is not a surprise to see that severe staffing shortages and job vacancies in public service have contributed to a small dip in union membership. Nor would it be a surprise if these numbers – which come from a survey and not actual membership data – have not yet caught up with the increased union enthusiasm and mobilization efforts of last year."

The BLS report also showed Hawaii was among some of the states with the highest union membership rates at 24.1%. In spite of Hawaii's large union membership and government workforce, there is growing concern for staff shortages.

Perreira has called on the state and counties to revamp their hiring process to address the vacancy crisis in recent eBlast messages and the new HGEA podcast. I hope you are

signed up to receive the latest "scoops" on eBlast (hgea.org/eBlast) and that you tune in to "The Negotiation Table" podcast releases.

Retirements often occur at the end of the year, so please reach out to your former coworkers, family and friends about joining the Retirees Unit. I am available to do a short presentation to groups that request it. Member dues are \$6. It includes access to regular retiree activities and our extensive HGEA Makana Perks and Discounts program.

As a reminder, chapter presidents are looking for help with activity ideas and planning. Please contact your island division office or your president directly with any suggestions or to volunteer.

Oahu member Bert Fishman would like to host a monthly karaoke day. Please contact Tammy if you are interested in participating. Anyone else who wishes to host an activity or share a "talk story" session with fellow HGEA retirees can contact me.

The 2024 standard Medicare Part B premium is \$174.70. If you are paying higher than the standard premium, you must submit a copy of your letter from Social Security Administration to the EUTF to be reimbursed the higher premium amount. Send a copy of your letter to EUTF, 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Thank you for your continued support of the HGEA Retirees Unit.

In solidarity,

Mahie

REC

THE **Negotiation** TABLE

an podcast

NEW EPISODES MONTHLY

The 2024 Legislative Session

with HGEA Executive Director **Randy Perreira**

LISTEN AT HGEA.ORG/PODCAST



ELF'S CORNER BY PRESIDENT ETHEL L. FLEMING

Wishing you all a very fulfilling new year in 2024. There is a whole lot of living to do in the coming year, and we certainly hope that you'll stay active by participating in retiree events!

As we look at the 2024 retirees calendar full of pictures and notes of upcoming events, a thought came to me: while we might want to plan some changes to our routines and have new experiences, wouldn't we still want to keep some things that we've done in the past and continue them in 2024?

Think about actions you might choose to engage in as an HGEA Retirees Unit member this year. Be active, stay social, keep a healthy mind and body. Decrease isolation, make new friends and laugh a lot.

WALKER WRITES... THE 2024 YEAR OF THE DRAGON

The dragon symbolizes life and growth and is said to bring us five blessings: riches, harmony, virtue, longevity and finishing the allotted life span.

We look forward to 2024, to new success, and opportunities for riches, harmony, virtue and longevity. Let us assume the dragon's ability to adapt to any situation, to value our relationships and to connect with people who may share our vision.

Let us also adopt the dragon's energy to achieve greatness in 2024 by staying positive and building relationships. We can always achieve more by supporting each other.

Best of health to all and a happy new year to you and your families!



MAKANA
PERKS & DISCOUNTS

With over 100 partners, the Makana Perks & Discounts program allows HGEA members to save on insurance, education, travel, recreation, professional services and more.

VISIT HGEA.ORG/MAKANA