

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

HAWAII CHAPTER:

- May 11: Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Contact Carol at the HGEA office.
- May 14-16: Hilo Blood Drive at Church of Jesus Christ, 1373 Kilauea Avenue.
- May 22: Waiakeawaena Elementary School May Day volunteering.
- June 19: General Membership Meeting at 9 a.m.
- July 20: American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Leave donation check at the HGEA office.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

- May 20: Movie Day at 10 a.m. Showing: *Despicable Me 2*
- June 17: General Membership Meeting at 10 a.m.

MAUI CHAPTER:

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

- May: No movie day planned, but call Steve Criss at 808-280-1526 if interested.
- May 21: Hanafuda at 5 p.m. RSVP required - call the HGEA office at 808-244-5508
- June 18: General Membership Meeting at 9:30 a.m., HMSA Community Center, 70 Hookele Street. Presentation from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on scams and fraud. RSVP by June 7 to Steve at stplsd69@yahoo.com or the office 808-244-5508.

OAHU CHAPTER:

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

- May 2, 9, 23 & 28: Mahjong
- May 6: BINGO
- May 7 & 21: Tai Chi
- May 8 & 22: Line Dance
- May 17: Movie Day
- May 30: Craft Day

- June 4 & 18: Tai Chi
- June 12 & 26: Line Dance
- June 13 & 25: Mahjong
- June 20: General Membership Meeting at 9 a.m.
- June 27: Craft Day



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
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Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke and HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira address retirees at the Hawaii Chapter's General Membership Meeting.

WORDFIND

HGEA Union Strong

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Timmy Albao | Aileen Obina |
| Sharon Char | Tommy Oi |
| Steve Criss | Russell Okata |
| Ann Ebesuno | Glenn Park |
| Ethel Fleming | Greg Peterson |
| Al Hamai | Randy Perreira |
| Elsie Iida | Lee Saunders |
| Fran Kagawa | David Trask |
| Lance Kamisugi | John Wadahara |
| Charles Kendall | Ruth Walker |
| Ava Kridler | Brenda White |
| Bill Lucy | Jerry Wurf |
| Paul Matsuo | Elienne Yoshida |
| Elissa McBride | Elmer Yuen |
| Gerald McEntee | |

R A B N E L S I E I I D A S C T S A F M S L A Y
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HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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HO`OLAHA
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



April marks the fourth quarter of this board term, which ends on June 30. I hope you participated in your chapter's third quarter general membership meeting and are getting ready for the beginning of our political action season.

Chapter presidents are eager to hear what your availability is as they begin to plan for phone banks, friend-to-friend card writing, preparing candidate canvassing materials and sign waving. Please reach out to your island division office or chapter board

members to volunteer or you can sign up at hgea.org/pacvolunteer.

The HGEA Board of Directors have already confirmed early endorsement of these labor-friendly candidates: President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Scott Saiki for House District 25 and Scott Nishimoto for Honolulu City Council District 5. We expect that a few more early endorsements may be determined soon.

This legislative session continues in full swing and will conclude in May. According to HGEA Legislative Specialist Kauanui Sabas, there were no take-aways from retirees introduced this session but there are still bills that could affect seniors such as those concerning Alzheimer's and dementia care, elder abuse and care home issues.

We're still looking for volunteers to share their knowledge – anything from crafting, cooking, sewing, cleaning, canning, pruning, drawing or gardening. Please contact me or any chapter board member if you're interested in teaching. As long as it can be done in a classroom setting with easily available supplies, we can help arrange it. Not only is this a great way to get to know your fellow retirees, but it's also a good way to bring new members who may be interested in this new activity.

We also hope to get our home-grown story sharing up and running. If you're willing to share what it was like to grow up in your community and how it shaped you, please call my office or your chapter office.

Membership recruitment is President Ethel Fleming's top priority. We need volunteers to help brainstorm strategies to increase our member numbers. If you have any ideas, please call me or your chapter office. Feedback on what specific activities interest you can help us design events that might attract more members. Even though the board of directors is working on this, we want to hear from non-board members as well. With your input, I'm hopeful that we can increase our membership.

At a recent board meeting, a member asked me what retirees can do to help with political action. Aside from volunteering, one of the best ways to support our endorsed

candidates is by joining the AFSCME Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality or PEOPLE program for just \$8.40 a month.

Your contribution helps level the playing field for labor friendly candidates against the billionaires funding opposition. Your state and chapter board members and HGEA staff have a 100% participation rate as PEOPLE MVP members. Please join us today! You can contact the Member Service Center at 808-543-0000 or service@hgea.org if you're interested in joining PEOPLE. Those who sign up as PEOPLE MVPs will receive a free jacket.

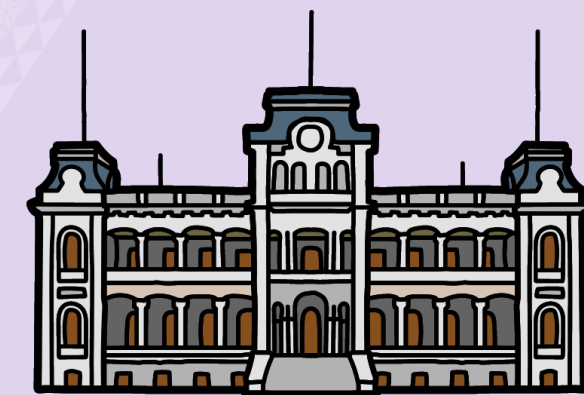
In solidarity,

Mahie

MAKANA
PERKS & DISCOUNTS
VISIT HGEA.ORG/MAKANA

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

MAY IOLANI PALACE EXCURSION



Enjoy a palace tour, Royal Hawaiian Band concert and lunch.

If time permits, we may include a shopping stop for omiyage.

Cost and date are still being determined. If interested, contact Tammy Tanouye at 808-543-0054 or ttanouye@hgea.org.



ELF'S CORNER BY PRESIDENT ETHEL L. FLEMING

Holiday happenings were a wonderful time to be with friends and fellow HGEA members. Much applause to the retiree chapter officers, directors and active volunteers who planned and executed our January holiday event programs. We appreciate everything they did to arrange business meetings, decorations, music, delicious food, lucky name drawings for prizes, and voluntary donations to the Food bank and those affected by the Maui wildfires.

Now we have moved into spring! Have you noticed more mango flowers, plumeria blossoms, and blooming orchids appearing in island yards and neighborhoods? Have you awakened in

the morning to the glorious sunrise? It's time to feel refreshed and become more energized and active.

As with every issue of Ho'olaha, we list out free island chapter activities available to retiree members. These activities are part of your member benefits. If you know of any retirees who are not members, encourage them to sign up so they can participate with you. We have an exciting list of events in the upcoming months – lei-making and party favor workshops or ukulele kanikapala sessions.

Aside from recreation, we're also gearing up for the busy political season that starts after the legislative session concludes in May. Volunteers from the Retirees Unit play an important role in helping our HGEA-endorsed candidates get elected by providing campaign manpower – sending friend-to-friend endorsement cards, rubber-banding campaign literature, phone banking, sign-waving and more. Remember, elected officials make decisions that could affect retiree benefits. If you'd like to volunteer, you can submit your information at hgea.org/pacvolunteer.

Whenever you have questions about what's going on, please call the Retirees Unit office at 808-543-0054 or your respective HGEA island division office.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events! Socialization is vital to keeping our brains sharp in retirement.



Left to right: Ruth Walker, Michele Kurihara-Klein, Kaoru Ishii and Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke.

WALKER WRITES... RECAP OF THE HAWAII CHAPTER'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Hawaii Chapter retirees were treated to an unexpected but pleasant surprise when Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke and HGEA Executive Director Randy Perreira spoke at their General Membership Meeting on March 20.

Luke was accompanied by Michele Kurihara-Klein, former HGEA legislative officer who now serves as the lieutenant governor's executive advisor. Kurihara-Klein's 99-year-old grandmother and fellow HGEA retiree Kaoru Ishii also attended.

After addressing the group of retirees, Luke and Perreira circulated the room and spent one-on-one time with them. The members were thrilled to have both these special guests. It was quite an experience for us all!