

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

HAWAII CHAPTER:

- March 19: General Membership Meeting and Chapter Elections, 9 a.m. at the Hawaii Island HGEA office.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

Call Joni Taba to register for events at (808) 245-6751.

- Feb. 24: Movie Day, 10 a.m.
- March 17: General Membership Meeting and Chapter Elections, 10 a.m. at the Kauai HGEA office.
- April 21: Movie Day, 10 a.m.

MAUI CHAPTER:

- March 18: General Membership Meeting and Chapter Elections, 9:30 a.m. at Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Pukalani. Includes featured speaker Peter Oshiro, Department of Health. RSVP to Steve Criss at (808) 280-1526 or stpls69@yahoo.com by March 7.
- April 8: Bingo, 5 p.m. at Maui HGEA conference room. Registration required. Call (808) 244-5508.

OAHU CHAPTER:

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

- Feb. 3 & 24: Puzzle Day
 - Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Tai Chi
 - Feb. 6, 13 & 20: Mahjong
 - Feb. 12 & 26: Line Dance
 - Feb. 27: Craft Day
-
- March 3: Bingo
 - March 4 & 18: Tai Chi
 - March 10 & 24: Puzzle Day
 - March 11 & 25: Mahjong
 - March 12: Line Dance
 - March 20: General Membership Meeting and Chapter Elections
 - March 21: Movie Day
 - March 27: Craft Day
-
- April 1, 8, 15 & 29: Tai Chi
 - April 3, 10, 17 & 22: Mahjong
 - April 7 & 21: Puzzle Day
 - April 9 & 23: Line Dance
 - April 24: Craft Day

AUGUST SKYLINE AND SHOPPING EXCURSION

Join your fellow retirees from across the state to ride the new Skyline and enjoy a day of shopping at Ka Makana Alii on Oahu!

If you'd like to participate, please contact Tammy Tanouye at (808) 543-0054 or ttanouye@hgea.org. Transportation costs are dependent on group size.



Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 2930
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RETIREES UNIT

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 180



HGEA Retirees Unit State Board at their December meeting. Front: Elsie Iida, Steve Criss, Ruth Walker, Ethel Fleming, and Ava Kridler. Back: Sharon Char, Sharon Lee, Terry Richter, Gregory Peterson, Tommy Oi, Lance Kamisugi, Aileen Obina and John Wadahara.

WORDFIND

Celebrating the new year!

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Abundance | Lion Dance |
| Dragon | Lunar |
| Festival | Narcissus |
| Fireworks | Parade |
| Fortune | Prosperity |
| Gao | Red Envelope |
| Good Luck | Reunion |
| Housecleaning | Scrolls |
| Incense | Spring |
| Lanterns | Sticky Rice Balls |

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

HO'OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



Aloha and thank you to all members, chapters and activists that have welcomed me to the Retirees Unit. I have enjoyed meeting with you and hearing your thoughts and ideas since stepping into my new role.

It's important that we stay vigilant and active to protect your retirement benefits as we move into 2025.

Increasing our membership numbers and encouraging fellow members to sign up for the PEOPLE program is one way to do this, as it strengthens our ability to fight against any cuts

to Social Security and Medicare on the federal level.

The recent passage of the Social Security Fairness Act is a great example of what we can achieve together. In 2024 alone, retiree activists across the country made more than 8,000 phone calls and wrote more than 28,000 letters to their elected leaders to support legislation that would end unfair cuts to public service retirees and their spouses' Social Security benefits.

After passing the U.S. House and Senate with strong bipartisan support, President Joe Biden signed the act into law, officially repealing the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Many members have asked how this will impact them. The new law should make payments retroactive to January of 2024. We recommend contacting the Social Security Administration if you'd like to inquire about any changes to your monthly benefits by calling (800) 772-1213 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visiting their website at ssa.gov.

I am incredibly proud of those of you who helped us secure this win – your phone calls, emails and postcards made a difference on a national level.

While this historic victory calls for celebration, I anticipate we'll need to do more in 2025 to protect our benefits. Included in this issue are information on the benefits of joining the Retirees Unit along with a QR code to the membership application form that you can share with others to join.

In the new year, I look forward to working on our offerings of activities and educational events. My goal is to be a strong resource for our members. I aim to listen to your ideas and work to implement them.

Please email me at jgallagher@hgea.org with any comments, questions, or ideas. I look forward to working with and for you.

In solidarity,

Joan Gallagher

26TH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION

This year, the HGEA Retirees Unit will convene the 26th Biennial Assembly on June 2-3 at the Alohilani Hotel in Waikiki.

Bylaw amendments were due on Feb. 1. Any general resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Retirees Unit Administrator, 888 Mililani St., Ste. 401, Honolulu, HI 96813, by March 1.

Please refer to your respective chapter presidents for delegate selections.

**As stated in Article VIII Biennial Assembly, Section 1. Notice of Date of Biennial Assembly of the Retirees Unit Bylaws: "Notice of the date of the Biennial Assembly shall be given not less than forty-five (45) days prior thereto... Section 2. (a) Bylaw Amendments states, "Amendments to the bylaws of the Retirees Unit shall not be considered unless submitted in writing and filed with the Retirees Unit Administrator at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the opening..." Section 2 (b) Resolutions, other than charter and bylaw amendments, shall not be considered unless submitted in writing to the Retirees Unit Administrator at least ninety (90) days before the opening..." Section 5 Delegate to the Biennial Assembly states delegates may be required to "meet delegate selection qualifications as may be established by each chapter."*



ELF'S CORNER BY PRESIDENT ETHEL L. FLEMING

Whether you celebrate the new year at the beginning of January or the lunar calendar, I hope you have a wonderful 2025.

From all of us at the Retirees Unit, may you and your family be blessed with great happiness, harmony, health, hope, and joy!

WALKER WRITES... BY HAWAII CHAPTER DIRECTOR RUTH WALKER

The Hawaii Chapter celebrated the retirement of Mahie Trask, former Retirees Unit administrator, on Nov. 20, 2024.

Amidst laughter and some good-natured ad-lib roasting, we couldn't help but feel a sense of loss for our good friend, leader and administrator. At the same time, we're happy that Mahie is finally joining us in enjoying retirement, which comes with many opportunities to pursue her passions and spend more time with her loved ones.

Thank you, Mahie, for all that you have done for the retirees during your tenure. We wish you well in this next chapter of your life.

In closing, I'd like to welcome our new administrator, Joan Gallagher. We look forward to working with you on achieving our goals!

It's Better In a Union (EVEN IN RETIREMENT)

Tell your friends and family to add their voice to a strong unit of 9,000 Hawaii retirees.

We lobby state and federal government to protect your retirement benefits from rollbacks.



MEMBERS GET ACCESS TO RETIREE MEETINGS, SOCIAL EVENTS, EDUCATIONAL AND WELLNESS CLASSES, DISCOUNTS AND MORE!

Reduce Your Spending

NEW EPISODES MONTHLY

Wallet AUDIT

With Bunny Tanaka,
Financial Educator
at Hawaii State FCU



SCAN TO WATCH



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

AQUA-ASTON
HOSPITALITY

CONSOLIDATED
HAWAII'S MOVIE THEATRES

SCOTT
HAWAII

TEXAS de BRAZIL
CHURRASCARIA STEAKHOUSE

the Y
YMCA