

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

HAWAII CHAPTER:

Please wear your HGEA shirt to all events. For questions or to sign up for volunteering, text CAC Chairperson Elsie Iida at (808) 936-2023 or Co-Chair Iwalani Kaheiki (808) 895-4945. Registration is required for all events.

- Dec. 6: Salvation Army Bell Ringing at KTA Supermarket Puainako location (shifts: 9 a.m.-noon and noon-3 p.m.).
- Dec. 9-24: Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Gift Wrapping at Kuhio Mall (shifts: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m.).
- Jan. 10, 2026: General Membership Meeting & Holiday Luncheon Party at the University of Hawaii at Hilo Campus Center Dining Room from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. See holiday party registration section to register.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

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

- Dec. 8: Christmas Party, 10 a.m. at the Kauai HGEA Office. RSVP by Dec. 1 to Joni at (808) 245-6751.
- Feb. 23, 2026: Movie and Craft Day, 10 a.m.
- March 16, 2026: General Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.

MAUI CHAPTER:

- Jan. 6, 2026: Bingo Night, 5 p.m. at the HGEA conference room. RSVP to Jennie at (808) 244-5508.
- Jan. 17, 2026: Holiday Luncheon Party, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Maui Beach Hotel Rainbow Room. See holiday party registration section to register.
- Feb. 3, 2026: Hanafuda, 5 p.m. at the HGEA conference room. RSVP to Jennie at (808) 244-5508.
- Movie Day Notice: If you're interested in attending future movie days, please contact Steve at stplsd69@yahoo.com or (808) 280-1526 to be placed on a list to receive more information.

OAHU CHAPTER:

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

- Dec. 3-4: HGEA Holiday Craft & Gift Fair, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Mahjong
- Dec. 10: Line Dance
- Dec. 15: Puzzle Day
- Dec. 16: Tai Chi
- Dec. 18: General Membership Meeting
- Jan. 5: Bingo
- Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: Tai Chi
- Jan. 8, 22: Mahjong
- Jan. 12, 26: Puzzle Day
- Jan. 14, 28: Line Dance
- Jan. 15: Holiday Luncheon Party, 10 a.m. at Mango Street Grill. See holiday party registration section to register.
- Jan. 23: Movie Day
- Jan. 29: Crafts
- Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: Tai Chi
- Feb. 5, 12, 19: Mahjong
- Feb. 9, 23: Puzzle Day
- Feb. 11, 25: Line Dance
- Feb. 26: Craft Day



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



Retirees Unit President Ethel Fleming (left) and AFSCME Legislative Affairs Specialist Laura MacDonald at the U.S. Capitol lobbying on important retiree issues during the October AFSCME Retirees Council meetings in Washington, D.C.

WORDFIND

The Bill of Rights and Amendments

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Abolition | Life |
| Assembly | No Poll Taxes |
| Bear Arms | No Unreasonable Search |
| Civil Rights | Petition |
| Counsel | Probable Cause |
| Due Process | Religion |
| Equal Protection | Right to Vote |
| Free Press | Speedy Trial |
| Free Speech | States Rights |
| Impartial Jury | Suffrage |
| Liberty | Term Limits |

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

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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11 | 12.25

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HO'OLAHA

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VOLUME 48 NO 6

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



As you know, we are living in an unprecedented time with significant changes to policy and practice in our national government.

In early October, Retirees Unit President Ethel Fleming and I attended the AFSCME Retirees Council meetings in Washington, D.C., along with close to 100 other retirees to lobby U.S. representatives and senators.

When speaking to members of congress, we emphasized the following key points on your behalf:

Fund the government. Federal funding supports vital services to maintain our roads, care for the sick and elderly, feed the hungry and more.

Put working people first. The Trump administration has threatened mass firings of federal workers going far beyond standard furloughs, permanently eliminating jobs, programs and services.

Fix the health care crisis. The looming Medicaid cuts and across-the-board cuts to Medicare caused by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will throw families into financial crisis. Congress should permanently extend Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits to ensure that 20 million Americans will not see premiums go up more than 114% on average, in 2026.

Pass the Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act. This bill seeks to boost and strengthen Social Security benefits by making changes to the cost-of-living adjustment calculated using the consumer price index for the elderly.

A lot of good work was done that week, and we extend our thanks to U.S. Reps. Jill Tokuda and Ed Case and U.S. Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, along with their staff members, who met with us and listened to our concerns.

It is more important than ever to stand together in solidarity to fight for our benefits and income. Remind your friends, family, spouses, and former coworkers that we welcome and need their support and membership. Join PEOPLE and stay tuned for more news.

In solidarity,

Joan Gallagher

RISE UP WITH AFSCME PEOPLE



Becoming a PEOPLE MVP is the best way to ensure our international union has the resources it needs to beat back the billionaires and their anti-union extremist friends. Scan to sign up as a PEOPLE MVP today!

SNAPSHOTS: RETIREES IN ACTION



Retirees Unit President Ethel Fleming showed aloha to AFSCME President Lee Saunders with a lei and omiyage at the AFSCME Retirees Council meetings.



Kauai Retirees Chapter President Priscilla Badua (back row left) and Retirees Unit member Alton Amimoto (front row right) touted the benefits of becoming a member after retirement at the Kauai Joint Labor Management Seminar.

KEY IMPACTS OF THE SO-CALLED BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ON RETIREES

In July, the Big Beautiful Bill became law and, as you'll see, the effects are anything but beautiful. AFSCME has analyzed the key impacts on retirees and identified the following areas of concern:

- Medicare Cuts — Increases prescription drug costs by exempting more drugs from Medicare drug price negotiation and potentially triggers \$500 billion in Medicare cuts.
- Catastrophic Health Care Cuts — Causes 15 million people to lose coverage due to cuts in Medicaid and Affordable Care Act coverage and will result in cuts in Medicaid coverage, increases in private plan costs and reduced access to care.
- Big Cuts in Food Assistance — Makes significant cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits that could affect seniors directly and indirectly.
- Benefit Cuts for Early Retirees — Results in some pre-65 retirees losing Medicaid and SNAP benefits and causes big increases in their ACA marketplace health premiums.
- Temporary Tax Cuts for Some Retirees — Gives a temporary, four-year tax deduction for some people 65 and older with incomes below certain levels.
- Faster Social Security Trust Fund Depletion — Accelerates the date at which the Social Security Trust Fund is exhausted by six months.
- Back-door Social Security Privatization — Creates private individual accounts that could be used to privatize Social Security in the future.

You can read more details from AFSCME's issue fact sheet for retirees by scanning the QR code or visiting hgea.org/retirees. If you want to help fight against these changes, consider becoming a PEOPLE MVP. It's one of the best ways to provide the international union with funds to lobby on your behalf and fight back.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY REGISTRATION

HAWAII CHAPTER

Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
University of Hawaii at Hilo, Campus Center Dining Room, 200 W Kawili St.
Desserts welcomed. Register by Dec. 17.

CUT & RETURN THE BELOW

HAWAII CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Retiree Unit Members: _____ x \$25 each = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____ Guests: _____ x \$36 each = \$ _____
 Name: _____ Late Registration: _____ x \$41 each = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____ Total = \$ _____
 Mailing address: _____

Make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed form with payment by Dec. 17 to HGEA, 495 Manono St., Hilo HI 96720. After Dec. 17, there are no refunds and late registration is \$41 per person.

OAHU CHAPTER

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, 10 a.m.
Mango Street Grill, 130 Mango St.
Ample parking available. Register by Dec. 22.

CUT & RETURN THE BELOW

OAHU CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Retiree Unit Members: _____ x \$37 each = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____ Guests: _____ x \$42 each = \$ _____
 Name: _____ Total = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____
 Mailing address: _____

Make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed form with payment by Dec. 22 to HGEA Retirees Unit, 888 Mililani St., Ste. 401, Honolulu, HI 96813. No refunds after Dec. 31.

MAUI CHAPTER

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Maui Beach Hotel, Rainbow Room, 170 W Kaahumanu Ave.
Register by Dec. 18.

CUT & RETURN THE BELOW

MAUI CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Retiree Unit Members: _____ x \$30 each = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____ Guests: _____ x \$35 each = \$ _____
 Name: _____ Late Registration: _____ x \$40 each = \$ _____
 Member: Y or N Phone #: _____ Total = \$ _____
 Mailing address: _____

Make checks payable to "HGEA" and mail completed form with payment by Dec. 18 to HGEA, 2145 Kaohu St., Ste. 206, Wailuku, HI 96793. After Dec. 18, late registration is \$40 per person.