

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 Elsie Iida (808) 936-2023 or Iwalani Kaheiki (808) 895-4945 unless specified otherwise.

- March 18: Hawaii chapter general membership meeting, 9 a.m. at HGEA office. For more information or questions, contact Solette Perry at (808) 351-5005 or soletteperry96760@gmail.com.
- April 2026: Big Island Labor Alliance Special Olympics volunteering. Join fellow unions in helping to set up for the Special Olympics in the early morning (6 a.m.). Date and location to be determined.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

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

- Feb. 23: Movie Day, 10 a.m. Showing "Everything, Everywhere All At Once."
- March 16: Kauai general membership meeting, 10 a.m.

MAUI CHAPTER:

All events held at Maui HGEA office unless specified otherwise.

- March 17: Maui general membership meeting, 9:30 a.m. at HMSA Center in Kahului. RSVP to Steve Criss at (808) 280-1526 or stplsd69@yahoo.com by March 6. Guest speaker is Elaine Slavinsky on Dementia and Alzheimer's.
- April 7: Bingo night, 5 p.m. RSVP to Jennie Aruda 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:

- March 20: Oahu general membership meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the IBEW office building, 1935 Hau St., Union Hall floor 3, room 306A. We recommend that you park on the third floor of the garage for direct entry to the meeting hall from that level. Please RSVP to ttanouye@hgea.org or call (808) 543-0054.

Oahu Chapter Activities Suspension Notice

All Oahu Chapter activities with the exception of its general membership meeting have been cancelled until further notice due to construction at the Oahu HGEA office building. Please stay tuned for updates on when activities can resume.



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

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Retirees Unit members met with Sen. Karl Rhoads on opening day of the Hawaii State Legislature. Right to Left: Diane Nakashima, Ethel Fleming, Aileen Obina, Lance Kamisugi and Patrick Frane.

WordFind

Year of the Horse

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Appaloosa | Palomino |
| Arabian | Percheron |
| Buckskin | Pinto |
| Chestnut | Shetland |
| Clydesdale | Standard |
| Lipizzan | Tennessee |
| Morgan | Thoroughbred |
| Mustang | Welsh Cob |
| Paint | |

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

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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HO'OLAHA

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



As we look forward to 2026, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in 2025. It was a tumultuous year filled with ups and downs and unsettling news on the federal level.

This year we are already hearing of a troubling plan for prior authorization expansion in traditional Medicare. It's called WISeR Pilot, and it would utilize outside contractors and artificial intelligence to review and approve services before care is delivered.

The problems inherent in a system like this are mind boggling – health decisions should be made by doctors, not algorithms or private contractors.

The six states it's launching in are Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington. Although Medicare Advantage and Hawaii members are not currently impacted by this change, we need to work together to make sure it doesn't come to Hawaii and support our union brothers and sisters in the impacted states.

That's why we're supporting AFSCME in the fight to permanently stop the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from using this program to deny or delay care for traditional Medicare.

Also in the news is the potential merger between Hawaii Medical Service Association and Hawaii Pacific Health. We'll be keeping a careful eye out for critical changes in care and keep you updated as we know more.

In the meantime, we continue to focus on growing our membership for strength in numbers. On deck for the new year are organizing training workshops for all island chapters, an increase in outreach partnership with the active membership and increased visibility tabling. Our goal is to continue to empower our member leadership to carry the message of retiree membership benefits.

For our existing membership, our chapter presidents and statewide office continue to increase the options for activities available to our members. We will be scheduling financial planning workshops, lobbying opportunities and more as we move through 2026.

In the political arena, we attended opening day for the Hawaii State Legislature with a strong team of member volunteers visiting legislators. Special thank you to our political action committee representatives Aileen Obina and Lance Kamisugi. As always, we appreciate your continued support for our PEOPLE program and for all the volunteer work you do.

In solidarity,

Joan Gallagher



Your Union at Your Fingertips

Refreshed website and new mobile app are live!



After 10 years, our website has a much-needed tech upgrade and makeover. And HGEA, for the first time ever, is unveiling a mobile app for members.

Union news and resources will be even easier to access. At your fingertips, you'll have: news and updates, exclusive discounts at 100+ vendors and event calendar with easy registration.

See below for details on an exciting opportunity to win perks for you and a group of your fellow retirees.

Please note that the username and password you used on the old website will not work anymore. You'll need to register for a new account to access member-only content on the website and mobile app.

DOWNLOAD THE APP FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

Download the app to your smart device. Sign up for your new member log in account. Select the banner at the bottom of the app home screen to submit your entry for a prize for your island chapter to enjoy!

Any member belonging to the Retirees Unit will win \$200 worth of refreshment funds for their island chapter's next general membership meeting.

25 winners total will be selected: 5 each from Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island Divisions, and 10 from Oahu Island Division. Winners will be picked from among the active and retiree members.

Deadline to enter the giveaway is Tuesday, March 31.



AVAILABLE ON APPLE & ANDROID DEVICES

Scan for instructions on how to download the app. If you run into any issues, feel free to reach out to the Retirees Unit at (808) 543-0054 or retirees@hgea.org.



RISE UP WITH AFSCME PEOPLE

What's the best way to fight back? Be a PEOPLE MVP to ensure our international union has the resources it needs to beat back the billionaires and their anti-union extremist friends. The work of dedicated public servants like you – not the greed of the uber wealthy – is what makes our community strong.



SCAN TO BECOME A PEOPLE MVP!

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!

Tell Your Spouse or Partner About The Perks of Membership

If your spouse or partner isn't a member yet, they can join for just \$6 a month, too. It's a small price to pay to protect your hard-earned benefits, stay connected, and access more than 100 discounts and deals from our exclusive vendors.



With more than 100 partners, the Makana Perks and Discounts program allows HGEA members to save on insurance, travel, professional services and more!



SCAN TO START SAVING

