

CHAPTER NEWS:

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

HAWAII CHAPTER:

- June 18: General Membership Meeting, 9 a.m.

KAUAI CHAPTER:

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

- April 21: Movie Day, 10 a.m.
- May 19: Movie Day, 10 a.m.
- June 16: General Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.

MAUI CHAPTER:

- April 8: Bingo, 5 p.m. at Maui HGEA conference room. Registration required. Call (808) 244-5508.
- May 6: Hanafuda, 5 p.m. at Maui HGEA conference room. Registration required. Call (808) 244-5508.
- General Membership Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the HMSA Center in Kahului. Featured presentation on “Cannabis and Seniors” with Elaine Slavinsky. Register by contacting Steve Criss at (808) 280-1526 or stplsd69@yahoo.com by June 6.

OAHU CHAPTER:

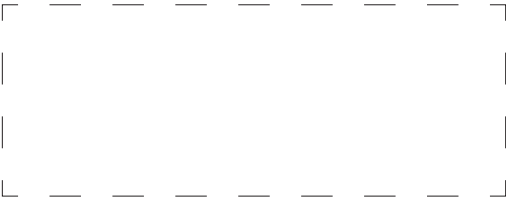
All activities begin at 9 a.m. unless specified otherwise.

- April 1, 8, 15 & 29: Tai Chi
- April 3, 10, 17 & 22: Mahjong
- April 7 & 21: Puzzle Day
- April 9 & 23: Line Dance
- May 1 & 29: Craft Day
- May 5: Bingo
- May 6, 13, 20 & 27: Tai Chi
- May 8, 15 & 22: Mahjong
- May 12 & 19: Puzzle and Board Games
- May 14 & 28: Line Dance
- May 23: Movie Day
- June 3 & 17: Tai Chi
- June 10 & 24: Mahjong
- June 19: General Membership Meeting
- June 25: Line Dance
- June 26: Craft Day



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

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RETIREESUNIT



Retirees gathered for the 32nd Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival excursion on Feb. 1.

WORDFIND

Fish, food and good eats!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Ahi | Ono |
| Aku | Opah |
| Aweoweo | Opakapaka |
| Grouper | Opelu |
| Halalu | Pakii |
| Halibut | Papio |
| Hapuupuu | Rainbow Trout |
| Humuhumunukunukuapuaa | Salmon |
| Kajiki | Shutome |
| Kaku | Snapper |
| Mahimahi | Ulua |
| Monchong | Wahoo |
| Nairagi | Walu |

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

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the Administrator
26th Biennial Assembly Convention
Rise up with AFSCME PEOPLE
Festival Celebrates Fellowship and Local Labor Leader
Hawaii | Kauai | Maui | Oahu Island Chapter News
Word Find: Fish, food and good eats!

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The Ho'olaha is published six times a year by the Hawaii Government Employees Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 152, AFL-CIO.

P.O. Box 2930
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Retirees Unit Administrator

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Secretary

Kristina Lum
Sr. Comms Specialist

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



Aloha, As we move further into 2025, we are facing increasing uncertainty about the fate of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefit funding. The federal atmosphere is messy at best and predatory at worst.

Thousands of our Retirees Unit members rely on these benefits to pay bills, housing, food, and basic living costs.

The AFSCME Retirees Unit and HGEA are fighting hard to maintain our benefits. We need to stop anti-retiree extremists and billionaires from making devastating budget cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and

Medicaid. They want to slash vital funding that retirees rely on to give trillions in tax breaks to billionaires.

Dial 1-866-685-7833 to speak to your representative.

You can also send a letter to the following:

Office of U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-106
Honolulu, HI 96850

Office of U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 7-212
Honolulu, HI 96850

Office of U.S. Representative Ed Case
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96813

Office of U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda
1001 Bishop Street
ASB Tower, Suite 1503
Honolulu, HI 96813

Remember that things change quickly, so make sure that you are subscribed to receive eBlasts from HGEA. You can check on your subscription status by visiting hgea.org/eBlast or emailing retirees@hgea.org.

In solidarity,

Joan Gallagher

26TH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY CONVENTION
JUNE 2-4, ALOHILANI RESORT WAIKIKI BEACH

The HGEA Retirees Unit will launch its 26th Biennial Assembly with a state board meeting on June 2. The general assembly will convene on June 3-4. Please contact your chapter president for any questions.



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 TODAY!

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.



\$6 MONTHLY

SCAN TO JOIN



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



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







SCAN TO START SAVING

FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FELLOWSHIP AND LOCAL LABOR LEADER

BY VIVIAN MARK



32nd Annual Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
9:00AM - 3:00PM

Official Festival Art "Mejira Amid the Blossoms" by Janice Gail

HISTORY AND CULTURE | DEMONSTRATIONS
ENTERTAINMENT | ARTS & CRAFTS

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Since 1993, Waimea has sponsored the Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival. Inspired by the Japanese tradition of gathering to view the sakura in full bloom while enjoying food, drink and music, the festival has grown in size and scale over the years. I'm pleased that we've also established a tradition of welcoming the HGEA retirees to this festival each year.

It may not be common knowledge, but this festival has a history with the labor movement. Everything started with three Formosan cherry trees planted in honor of Fred Makino at Church Row park by his widow, Michie Okaumura Makino, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Fred was the owner and founder of Hawaii Hochi, a Japanese language newspaper. Born on Aug. 27, 1877, in Yokohama, Japan, he was the third son of a British merchant and grew up bilingual in English and Japanese. In April 1899, he was sent to help their oldest brother at his general store in Naalehu called "Makino Camp." Fred would eventually move on to open Makino Drug Company in Honolulu on the corner of Nuuanu Avenue and Hotel Street in 1901.

While living in Hawaii, Fred would often serve as a consultant to the Japanese laborers even though he was not allowed to practice law due to his immigrant status. He learned that

Japanese laborers were being paid less than others and this sparked his desire to become an advocate and activist.

Fred became one of the major leaders fighting for higher wages of plantation workers as president of The Higher Wage Association. On May 8, 1908, workers went on strike at the Aiea Plantation. As planned, momentum picked up and spread to other plantations, disrupting sugarcane processing in the area. Many took the side of the plantation owners and the strike would eventually end without settlement on Aug. 5, 1908.

Fred was one of the major negotiators and it was an uphill battle trying to fight for better wages. He would eventually succeed in securing a better contract with the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association November 1909.

Unfortunately, the strike would land Fred in legal trouble in 1910 when the Supreme Court ruling that he, along with three other labor leaders, were guilty of "conspiring to hinder plantation operations." The charge came with a fine of \$300 and a three-month prison sentence.

After serving his jail term, Fred was determined to get involved with the newspaper business after seeing how public opinion was swayed to the side of HSPA by some of the largest newspaper companies at the time of the strike. His goal was to create a publication that provided a more balanced view.

On Dec. 7, 1912, the first edition of Hawaii Hochi rolled off the press and Fred became the owner of a new Japanese Language newspaper located on Mauna Kea and Pauahi Street. He passed away on Feb. 17, 1953, after a short illness, but his newspaper would continue until Dec. 7, 2023.

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UNPACKING THE UNION: WHAT IS AFSCME?



The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is an international union based in Washington, D.C. with approximately 3,400 local unions and 46 councils and affiliates across various states and territories.

As one of AFSCME's local unions, HGEA AFSCME Local 152 is part of the larger network representing and fighting for public employees.

This means that retiree members like you are part of the collective voice for labor especially when it comes to protecting the retirement benefits that you earned.

REC

NEW EPISODES MONTHLY

THE **Negotiation** TABLE
an HGEA podcast

Social Worker Vacancies

with Child Adult
Protective Services
Supervisor
Kalani Motta, Unit 13

SCAN TO WATCH



FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FELLOWSHIP AND LOCAL LABOR LEADER

BY VIVIAN MARK



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