



Ha'aheo 675

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PLUMBERS AND FITTERS UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 675, AFL-CIO

23 Honored Graduates Complete Training Program



The 16 apprentice graduates who attended their commencement are shown above with members of the apprenticeship training staff along with Local 675 and PAMCAH officials serving on the jointly administered training fund.

Twenty-three apprenticeship graduates were newly welcomed June 20 into the **UA Plumbers & Fitters Local Union 675** membership, the smallest number in almost a decade “but still significant at a time when all areas of the industry are feeling the pinch of the need to fill huge gaps in a busy economy,” noted Local 675 apprenticeship coordinator **Harold McDermott**.

In comparison, 45 earned their trade “wings” last year, 62 in 2013, 95 in 2012, 100 in 2011, and 56 in 2010.

“We expect to see a new surge of interest in our trade when recruitment is renewed July 6,” optimistically pointed out business manager **Reggie Castanares**. In his message to the recent graduates, he hailed them as a “fresh generation of tradesmen who by the time they retire, will have shared in the building of a new Hawaii, just as their predecessors have proudly experienced.”

His counterpart, **PAMCA** president **Tyrus Kagawa**, echoed a similar view in challenging the graduates to carry the plumbing and pipe fitting industry over the next 20 to 30 years and “inspiring the next generation to be the best trained highly skilled workers in our trades.”

The combined breakdown of the graduates who completed their program in the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 by island residence and specialties was as follows:

Plumbers, Oahu 3; **Refrigeration Air Conditioning**, Oahu 12, Island of Hawaii 3, Kauai 1, Maui 2; **Fire Sprinkler**, Maui 1; and **Steamfitter-Welder**, Oahu 1.

Graduates honored for special achievements were:
Perfect Classroom Attendance: **Antonio Domingo**.

Fall 2014/Spring 2015 Contest Winners: **Plumbing**, 1st, **Darin Espejo**, 2nd, **Bernaray Oili**; **Refrigeration Air Conditioning**, 1st, **Ryan Shim**; 2nd, **John Felix**; 3rd, **Chavez Corpuz** and **Kaikala Rosa**; **Steamfitter Welder**, 1st, **Shaun Tanabe**.

In addition to the above noted awardees, their other fellow graduates are **Aaron Acorda**, **Jojo Adina**, **Travis Agbayani**, **David Calizar III**, **Randall Closson**, **Joseph Galloway**, **Kimo Kim Han**, **Ryan Imaoka**, **Philamer Inofina**, **Kent Ishihara**, **Daniel Kahakauwila**, **Kasey Komeiji**, **Ikaika Kupukaa**, **Todd Wong**, and **Kaiulani Ah Mook Sang**.

UA's Expanded Global Ties Will Benefit Its Locals Like Ours

Reginald Castanares, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

What does it mean for a Plumbers Union Local like ours when its parent **United Association (UA)** increases its formal relationships with groups abroad that share similar interests?

We can take the word of UA General President **William P. Hite** that its affiliation early this year with the **Technical, Engineering, Electrical Union (TEEU)** of Ireland will result not only in the sharing of training but just as important, protecting the interests of workers on both sides of the Atlantic. That recent tie follows the agreement the UA signed in 2012 with the **Plumbing Trades Employees Union (PTEU) of Australia**.

Okay, so we're isolated in the middle of the Pacific. Ever believe in the quick impact of communications devices used commonly by virtually all occupations, trades, and professions?

The undertakings mirror the UA's far-seeing mentality, if you will, of ensuring that the work force in the United States will not be undermined. We all know over recent decades the practice of many domestic manufacturers sending their production overseas where labor is cheap. We also are annually subjected to threats by conservative interests in Congress and some state capitols forever trying to dismantle the collective bargaining rights of labor unions and, equally onerous, attempts at passing right-to-work legislation. I don't need to go further. Rather, we prefer a positive spin toward helping raise the caliber of our country's entire work force.

Though the UA affiliation agreements are aimed mainly at pressuring multinational companies to pay fair wages and benefits, the long-standing objective is for adoption of international labor standards and improved corporate governance.

Truly for those companies abroad who are part of the agreements they will be able to rely on the UA and its locals for skilled manpower to grow their economy.



NOTICE

As we observe the anniversary date of the current Labor Management Agreement, (7/6/14), I would like to take a moment to remind our members, that the Union staff does not have access to any personal information which is found on your pay-stub. Thus, I encourage each member to review your payroll information on a regular basis to ensure that you are receiving all of your benefits as provided by the LMA. If you believe an error or an irregularity has occurred, please contact the office so we may be able to assist you in correcting it.

Our Ho'omaik'i to Dorvin D. Leis



Our industry in both labor and employer circles has never lacked for inspiring leadership. The name **Dorvin Leis** conjures such a connection. His passing June 15 ended almost 87 years of an incredibly unbroken string of achievements across a wide variety of stages - higher education, cultural arts, and, of course, business.

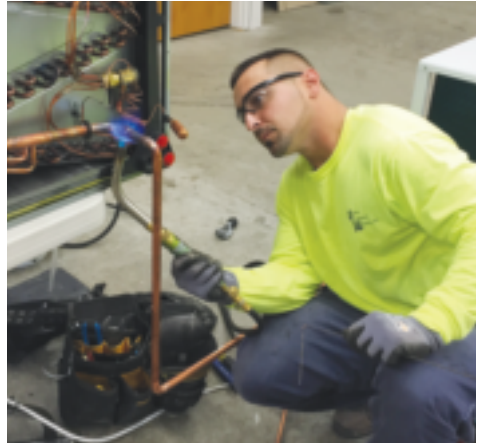
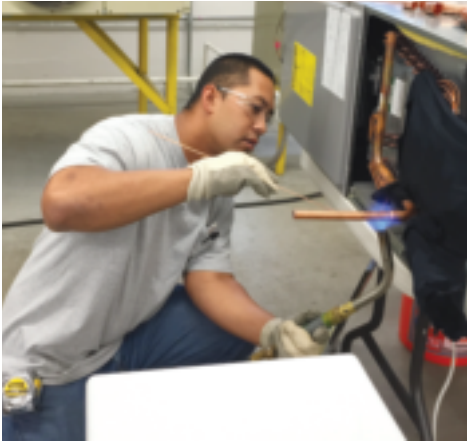
When in 1972 he relocated his family and business to Maui the Valley Island became largely the lucky benefactor of much of what he deemed important to the sustenance and well-being of a community. It was driven, obviously, by devoted parents who imbued in their youngsters that when success is attained "it is because of people in the community, and therefore one must give back to the community and the people that helped you succeed."

That was a lesson passed on to his own youngsters and from what we've observed has been well absorbed, as exemplified by a younger son **Stephen** capably running the Leis operation long active on all islands.

The honors, awards and accolades Dorvin has amassed over his island years speak warmly of how the community felt about him and his family. **Local 675** and its members are just as elated that Dorvin was an endearing presence in our industry and in fostering its public image.

Our condolences to his family and company team and may memories of his selfless nature and numerous contributions continue to inspire all of us.

Montage of Recent Trade Graduates Testing Their Skills



more photos on page 5

Governor Ige's Cabinet Finalized After Rough Start

Readers have asked if the new Governor's cabinet choices have cleared before the legislature adjourned. Our response is yes, finally, after overcoming a few dogged challenges.

Department directors, who form the nucleus of Governor **David Ige's** cabinet, are shown bold-faced. Their deputies, some still to be chosen, are in parenthesis.

Accounting & General Services, **Douglas G. Murdock** (known also as Comptroller); Agriculture, **Scott Enright** (Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser);

Attorney General: **Doug Chin**; Budget & Finance, **Wesley Machida** (Roderick K. Becker); Business, Eco-

conomic Development & Tourism, **Luis P. Salaveria** (Mary Alice Evans); Commerce and Consumer Affairs: **Catherine Awakuni Colon** (Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi); Defense, Brig. Gen. **Arthur Logan**, Adjutant General (Col. Kenneth Hara); Education, **Kathryn Matayoshi**; Hawaiian Home Lands, **Jobie Masagatani**; Health, **Virginia Pressler** (Keith Yamamoto); Human Resources Development, **James Nishimoto** (Randy Baldemor); Human Services, **Rachael Wong** (Pankaj Bhanot); Labor and Industrial Relations, **Linda Chu Takayama**; Land

& Natural Resources, **Suzanne Case**; Public Safety, **Nolan Espinda** (Cathy Ross, Administration/Shawn Tsuha, Law Enforcement); Taxation, **Maria Zielinski**; Transportation, **Ford Fuchigami** (Jade Butay, Administration/Ross Higashi, Airports/Darrell Young, Harbors/Ed Sniffen, Highways/Todd Nacapuy, Information Management & Technology; and University of Hawaii, **David Lassner**.

Lt. Gov. **Shan Tsutsui** and the Governor's managing staff director, **Mike McCartney** also are part of the cabinet.

House Finance Chair Notes Pride in Committee's Working Ties

Most legislators when asked will vow they get more things done after developing a sound working relationship with their peers.

"It makes a huge difference," admits **Representative Sylvia Luke**, in her seventh term for Oahu's 25th district that covers Nuuanu, Pauoa, Pacific Heights, and Papakolea.

Having completed her third year as chair of the **House Finance Committee**, Luke warmly praised her committee colleagues as "responsible gatekeepers who try to ensure every dollar is spent wisely to benefit the entire state community."

They all have sound experience and do their homework, she emphasized. She and her Senate counterpart, **Jill Tokuda**, succeeded in passing a budget that includes over \$2.45 billion for CIP infrastructure, \$40 million for the rental housing trust fund and \$28 million for grants-in-aid to nonprofit organizations.

"We're spending a little more than what's in the state coffers but feel we'll come out okay," said.

She extolled the strong ties she has with Governor **David Ige**. "I'm likewise pleased with the many groups that come before our committee. We enjoy a practical relationship with the labor sector. **Reggie Castanares**, particularly, has been helpful in representing the building trades and clarifying our understanding of the state's construction needs."

New Funds Administrator Current Understudy

Erinn Liu, at 37, is only the fourth to assume officially the job of Administrator for the **UA Local 675/PAMCA Trust Funds**. She took over in January 2015 replacing the previous administrator, **Francis Chun**, who is retiring at year-end.

Erinn was previously the controller for **our signatory** Alaka'i Mechanical Corp. for 11 years after a career start with N&K CPAs Inc., a major local public accounting firm.

She is a graduate of Pearl City High School and UH-Manoa with a double major in Accounting and Management Information Systems.

Earlier administrators were **Francis Rathburn** and **Patsy Shimizu**. Erinn said that members can expect improved efficiency in trust fund services resulting from a new software system with a centralized database.



Trades Depend on Licensing Agency to Protect Workers, Consumers

Hawaii's blistering economy is a magnet for professionals and vocational businesses from the mainland and other outlying jurisdictions. It is more than reason enough to ensure that local consumers and employees can rely on a public agency backed by adequate laws to protect their hard-earned income from unscrupulous enterprises.

An offshore, isolated environment like Hawaii can be especially vulnerable, contends Celia C. Suzuki, the licensing administrator of the **State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVLD)**.

"My division's main job is protecting public health, safety and welfare," she said, "and that embraces responsibility for implementing licensing regulations for 48 professions and vocations (plumbing and related specialties among the latter)." The



Celia C. Suzuki

task is carried out by a dedicated staff of 70 servicing 25 distinctive boards and commissions whose members are Governor-appointed and subject to approval by the State Senate.

Nominees for these oversight positions also want to be sure that license applicants are thoroughly scrutinized and have legitimate qualifications to operate in their chosen field. "Their

rationale is that the public is entitled to safeguards in the marketplace from deceptive actions, including those for persons newly hired," Suzuki said.

An administrative assistant overseeing boards and commissions under three earlier Governors (**Ariyoshi, Waihee** and **Cayetano**), she assumed her current post four years ago. Among her key staffers are **Charlene Tamanaha**, in a supervising role with the PVLD, and executive officers **Candace Ito**, with the **Contractors License Board**, and **Christine Rutkowski**, with the **Board of Electricians and Plumbers**.

Suzuki said she has noticed in a cursory review of license types over the past decade a perceptible increase among female licensees in various vocations. "That is a welcome sign for the building trades, which seemingly is running short on skilled personnel for a surging market," she emphasized.

Additional Snapshots of Graduates Testing Skills



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2014 Sprint Item #800-22
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Local 675 FCU On Sound Fiscal Track

Attendees at the **Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 FCU** annual meeting April 10 welcomed the Credit Union report it remains healthily capitalized based on its current 11.30% net capital ratio.

Newly elected to the FCU board of directors were **Jenny Le** and **Amy Lee-Ortega**. **Simone Shaw** was announced as a member of the Credit Committee.

Union business manager **Reggie Castanares** thanked attendees for support of one of Local 675's primary membership benefits.

Personal Care Physician Now Available

The **Plumbers Fitters Medical Plan** has come to the rescue of members who need a Personal Care Physician (PCP). Thanks to member response, the Plan now provides a PCP on record with **HMSA**.

How vital is it? With a PCP you have a doctor who will be familiar with your medical history. The result is better medical care in arranging and coordinating all your health care needs.

If you require help in getting a PCP, call HMSA at 808-948-6372.

**“Heat Up for the Summer”
Loan Special**

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Rates as low as 1.99%

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Rates as low as 2.99%

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(borrow up to 90% of share balance)

**APR-Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 FCU loan terms and conditions.

Notes From the Benefits Administrator

Urgent care centers and retail/in-store clinics are convenient options for non-emergency care when one is not able to get an appointment with a regular physician. Non-emergency conditions typically treated include:

Allergic reactions/Asthma bronchitis/Colds/Coughs/Flu/Sore throat/Strep throat/Gastrointestinal problems/Gynecological problems/High blood pressure/Diabetes/Pediatric illness/Pink eye/Rashes/ Skin problems/Sinus/Ear infections/Urinary tract infections.

Nearby urgent care centers and in-store/retail clinics are found online. Some websites:

www.aaucm.org (Urgent Care Centers)

www.findurgentcare.com (Urgent Care Centers)

www.cvs.com/minuteclinic (CVS In-Store/Retail Minute Clinic)

CVS)

Immediately call 911 or go to an Emergency Room for medical events capable of causing loss of life or limb. For example, chest pain (thought to be a heart attack), abdominal pain (may be appendicitis), signs of stroke, concussion, broken limb.

VSP ProTec Safety Eyewear

Protect eyes from work-related eye injuries! Employees only are eligible to obtain ProTec safety eyewear with a nominal copayment. For information, call VSP Customer Service 1-800-877-7195

Extension of \$150 Pension Benefit Unit Value

This benefit was extended for Benefit Units earned from Sept. 1, 2013 through Aug. 31, 2015.

Union Adds Generous Donation to Retirees Club Coffers

Photo at right shows an elated **Willy Kanno** expressing the UA Local 675 Retirees Club's appreciation to Union business manager **Reggie Castanares** for its surprise and welcomed \$5,000 donation to the club's working capital. The gesture was made at the club's May meeting.

The Union's generosity elicited not only praise to the Union's business manager but also for his update on various activities and bolstered by reports from staff members. (See separate reports in this Newsletter.)

"It's obvious that the Union is clearly pro-active in foreseeing this industry's future needs," Kanno, club president, said effusively.

Besides the Union's briefing, attendees were also congratulated for another hefty annual canned goods collection for the Hawaii Foodbank plus a \$40 cash donation, Kanno noted.

Several former business agents, Robert Fernandez and Mel Suganuma, also expressed their appreciation for the business manager's close monitoring of member needs and overall leadership among his Union peers.

The retirees next meet on Tuesday, August 11, 9 a.m., at the Moanalua Golf Clubhouse. Local 675 members who have retired are welcomed to join their peers. Call Kanno, 487-2773 or 256-0704.

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A table of old-timers joyous to see each other every three months. From left, Allen Holton, Walter Kamalolo, Minoru Tamura, Mel Suganuma, Eddie Freitas, Albert (Skippy) Freitas, Chester Chagami, and Robert Fernandez.



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Ha'aheo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Association, Local 675
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David Kamakea
Sentry

Send Contributions/questions regarding Ha'aheo 675 to Editor, Elroy Chun

Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813



Calendar of Events

JUL/AUG

July/August - No Meetings

Saturday, August 22, 2015
BIG ISLAND MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS CONFERENCE
Waikoloa Beach Marriott
10am-2pm

Sunday, September 6, 2015
HAWAII LABOR UNITY PICNIC
Waikiki Shell
3pm-8pm

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 14, 2015
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
MAUI RAP SESSION
Maui Community College

Wednesday, September 16, 2015
KAUAI RAP SESSION
Kauai Community College

Big Isle Set for Benefits Conference

Big Island members and their dependents are due for the next **UA Local 675/PAMCAH benefits conference** set Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, Naupaka Ballroom.

The conference, usually rotated among the neighbor isles every two years, provides families time to address exhibitors on various benefits provided by the Union's negotiated contract.

The Union has also arranged for overnights at special rates but rooms are limited. Refer to a flyer mailed recently regarding booking reservations. Deadline is July 24.

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of recently deceased:

Tokio Itano	04/20/15
Robert K.Naki	01/21/15
Hideo Nozawa	02/10/15
Jackson K.S. Pang	02/05/15

Pensions for 8 Retirees Cleared

More recent retirees who have earned approval as new pensioners are:

Andy B. Alfiler	04/01/15
Michael G. Hart	04/01/15
Maurice T. Johnson	04/01/15
Russell J. Kato	06/01/15
Johnny T.S. Lin	04/01/15
Garrett H.W. Lum	04/01/15
Derwin N. Matsukawa	06/01/15
Wayne S. Ono	06/01/15

YOUR PHONE CONNECTIONS

Local 675 Office 536-5454
1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
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Administrative Office .. 536-4408
1109 Bethel Street, Suite 403
Honolulu, HI 96813

Health & Welfare
Pension, Annuity
Vacation & Holiday

Training Workshop 456-0585
97-731B Kamehameha Hwy.
Pearl City, HI 96782

Credit Union 537-9135
1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813

Call office promptly on address change.