



# Ha'aheo 675

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



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Keep Workers Safe

(l-r) Jonathan Terrado, apprentice and Shane Horie, foreman at the Dorvin Leis Co.'s Conrac, Airport job. General Contractor: Watts

### **Business Manager's Message**

**Valentino Ceria, Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer**

We hope you and your family are all safe and taking measures to stay healthy. The most important thing right now is to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We need to continue to practice proper hygiene and not risk the health of ourselves and others.

This is why in June, the Union provided personal protective items for our active Local 675 members. Although the items were ordered way in advance we were finally able to receive them for distribution. Each sealed bag contained a cloth mask, KN 95 FDA-approved face masks, disposable face masks, disposable latex gloves, and a 2 oz. hand sanitizer. Thanks to our office staff and business agents working together with our contractors, we were able to make the kits available to our membership.

Local 675 supports all of Hawaii's essential and frontline workers. To assist those affected by the COVID-19 we donated N95 masks to the **Hawaii Foodbank** workers and volunteers for their food distribution efforts. We were also able to assist financially to the **Hawaii Foodbank** via the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council and the Hawaii State AFL-CIO. The demand for donated food is extremely high right now and the **Hawaii Foodbank** is there to help those in need in our community including our own union workers.

By order from the City and State as well as recommendation from the United Association, the general membership meetings and island rap sessions for the months of April and May were cancelled. As soon as we move through the summer months we anticipate starting up the monthly meetings again beginning in

September. Also a notation that the annual Labor Unity Picnic held at the Waikiki Shell every Labor Day weekend is unfortunately cancelled this year due to the COVID-19.

Even during this time of unprecedented government-mandated shutdowns, as essential workers we recognize that we need to continue moving our industry forward. We were able to organize three companies to date. **APB Construction Group** in January, **Tabla Mechanical** in April and **Industrial Fire Sprinklers** in May of this year.

As you may also be aware from current events, the funds financially have not escaped the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The resulting fear of the widespread virus caused the U.S. stock market to have the worst drop in March since the 2008 recession. In the course of the coronavirus outbreak, our **Pension Fund** dipped into an all-time low, as expected. Last year the ratified permanent diversion of the Union's **\$.50** per hour work dues towards the **Pension Fund** along with other changes was made so we could keep the **\$100** benefit unit for the members. The funds were doing well prior to the pandemic which helped lessen the full impact of the market crash. For diversification purposes, our contractors, as negotiated beginning **2021**, will be contributing **\$.50** per work hour towards the **Annuity Fund** for our members' secured income account. Financially, the **Health & Welfare, Training, Annuity** and **Cooperation** funds were also impacted but are now on a steady course. The Trustees, both Union and Management will review and make important decisions before the fiscal year-end date of **July 31, 2020**.

There is hope for all of us together in the same boat. Recently, the experts have noted that there may finally

## Business Manager's Message

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be a glimpse of light at the end of the dark tunnel. There is some uncertainty though around the pace of the recovery from this COVID19-led economic slowdown. But remember, as in the past we will weather the storm together and emerge to once again sail on calm waters.

Let's have faith for better days ahead.

As always, practice safety guidelines (below), take care of each other and keep informed. For updates and more information, you can visit our new and improved mobile friendly website, [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com).

## UA Notice Regarding Monthly Dues for Unemployed Members

Securing relief for UA members and their families who have been impacted by the **COVID-19** is among the greatest priorities at the International level. While the job losses arising from **COVID-19** are still a relatively recent occurrence, many of our brothers and sisters nation-wide are already feeling the financial effects and virtually all members are looking to the future with at least some sense of uncertainty. Because of this, the UA has sent notice to all local unions regarding the monthly dues payment.

For the months of **April and May 2020**, and thereafter on a month to month basis at the direction and discretion of UA General President **Mark McManus** and General Secretary Treasurer **Patrick Kellett**, Local Unions shall cover the fixed monthly dues (\$31.00) of all non retired members who performed **40 or fewer hours of UA work in the previous calendar month**. For example, if a member performed only 32 hours of UA work in March, his or her monthly dues for April shall be covered by the Local Union. Non-retired members who qualify for the relief will be credited for the eligible months.

## Protecting Worker Health Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) United Association (UA) and CDC Recommendations

[www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that workers perform the following preventive/protective actions, generally and while at work:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds immediately after working on a sanitary waste and vent system.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while working on a sanitary waste and vent system.
- After working on a sanitary waste and vent system, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before eating or drinking.
- After working on a sanitary waste and vent system, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after using the toilet.
- Before eating, remove soiled work clothes and eat in designated areas away from human waste and sewage-handling activities.
- Do NOT smoke or chew tobacco or gum while working on a sanitary waste and vent system.
- Keep open sores, cuts, and wounds covered with clean, dry bandages.
- Gently flush eyes with safe water if human waste or sewage contacts eyes.
- Use waterproof gloves to prevent cuts and contact with human waste or sewage.
- Wear rubber boots.
- Remove rubber boots and work clothes before leaving worksite.
- Clean contaminated work clothing daily with 0.05% chlorine solution (1-part household bleach to 100 parts water).
- Clean and disinfect tools and equipment used.
- Clean and disinfect the work area frequently.
- Cover your cough and/or sneeze with your bent elbow.
- Do not report to work when you feel ill.
- Report and document all exposures.
- If you start to feel ill, inform your supervisor immediately and document the incidence.
- Currently there is not a vaccination for COVID-19 but it is recommended that all other vaccinations be current.

### Practice Social Distancing

Finally, it is important to follow social distancing recommendations. Try to keep a minimum six-foot distance between others. Remember, it could take anywhere from 2 to 14 days for COVID-19 symptoms to appear, if they even appear at all. If you believe you have contracted the virus, stay home, contact your supervisor and seek assistance from your medical provider.

### Local 675 Staff Prepares Personal Protection Kits for Members



# Plumbers and Fitters endorse Amemiya for Mayor!

“Keith Amemiya will bring new energy and fresh ideas to the City and County of Honolulu,” said Business Manager Valentino Ceria. “Choosing Honolulu’s next Mayor is probably one of the single most important decisions we will make this year. Honolulu needs someone who can get things done, someone who cares about all of Honolulu’s people, and someone who we can trust. This is why the Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 strongly supports Keith Amemiya to be Honolulu’s next Mayor.”



## Local 675 Candidate Endorsements for Primary

### United States Congress

ED CASE Dist. 1  
KAI KAHELE Dist. 2

### State Senate

RONALD D. KOUCHI Dist. 8  
STANLEY CHANG Dist. 9  
KARL RHOADS Dist. 13  
DONOVAN DELA CRUZ Dist. 22

### State House of Representatives

JAY ISHIBASHI Dist. 20  
PATRICK BRANCO Dist. 49

### Mayor-City and County of Honolulu

KEITH AMEMIYA

### City Council of Honolulu

ANDRIA TUPOLA Dist. 1  
ESTHER KIA`AINA Dist. 3  
CALVIN SAY Dist. 5  
EARL TSUNEYOSHI Dist. 9

### Honolulu City Prosecutor

STEVE ALM

### Hawai`i Island County Mayor

MITCH ROTH

### Hawai`i Island County Council

SUE LEE LOY Dist. 3  
IKAIKA RODENHURST Dist. 5  
HOLEKA INABA Dist. 8

### Maui Island County Council

YUKI LEI SUGIMURA Upcountry

### Kaua`i County Council

KIPUKAI KUALI`I  
FELICIA COWDEN

If you would like to volunteer, be more involved in the campaign process or have any questions, please contact Local 675’s Director of Government & Community Affairs, Kika G. Bukoski at (808)441-1033 or via email at: kika@hilocal675.com.

# Hawaii Votes By Mail

## 2020 ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

### Election Day

Primary: August 8, 2020  
General: November 3, 2020  
Voting closes at 7:00 p.m.

### Voter Registration Deadline

Primary: July 9, 2020  
General: October 5, 2020

### Absentee Ballot Request

Primary: August 1, 2020  
General: October 27, 2020

### Voter Service Centers

Primary: July 27, 2020 through Election Day, August 8, 2020  
General: October 20, 2020 through Election Day, November 3, 2020 (Excluding Sundays)

The State of Hawaii passed **Act 136, SLH 2019**, implementing elections by mail beginning with the 2020 Elections. The 2020 Primary Election will be the first statewide election conducted by mail and no traditional polling places will be opened. Instead, all voters will automatically receive a ballot in the mail.

**Keep Your Voter Registration Record Up to Date:** Ballots are mailed to the voter's mailing address associated with their voter registration record. Voters who have moved, changed their name or mailing address, must update their voter registration. Voters may check online or call their Clerk's Office to confirm that their voter registration is current. If you do not receive a signature capture card in the mail, check your voter registration online at [olvr.hawaii.gov](http://olvr.hawaii.gov) or by contacting the Office of Elections. **For more information about elections by mail, contact the Office of Elections at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or [elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov).**

**Not yet registered?** Register online at [www.elections.hawaii.gov](http://www.elections.hawaii.gov) or complete a Voter Registration Application and submit it to your Clerk's Office.

**Receiving Your Ballot:** All properly registered voters will receive a mail ballot packet approximately 18 days prior to the election. **(ON OR AFTER JULY 21, 2020)**

**Returning Your Ballot:** Voters may return their ballot by mail or in-person at a designated place of deposit. Voted ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

- **By mail:** Voters should mail their voted ballot **2-3 days before the election** to ensure that the Clerk's Office receives it by the deadline. The return envelope is postage paid via the U.S. Postal Service and addressed to your Clerk's Office.
- **Voter Service Center:** Voters may visit any voter service center within their county to drop off their voted ballot.
- **Clerk's Office:** Voters may return their voted ballot directly to their Clerk's Office.

## SIGN, SEALED, AND COUNTED - SECURING YOUR VOTE

**Processing Your Ballot:** Upon receipt of your return envelope, the Clerk's Office conducts a signature validation. After your signature is validated your ballot will be forwarded to State Election Officials to be counted. (You should have received an election mailing in April asking for a current sample of your signature.) If there is no signature on the return envelope or it does not match your record, the County Elections Division will notify you and you will have up to 5 business days after the election to correct it in order for your ballot to be counted.

**Voter Service Centers:** The Clerk's Office establish voter service centers that will be open 10 days prior to each election. Voters may visit any service center within their county should they prefer to vote in person. Additionally, the service center will provide accessible voting and same day registration. See **elections.hawaii.gov** for voter service centers locations.

# Training News

Due to COVID-19, the Apprenticeship Graduation ceremony was cancelled for the Fall 2019 - Spring 2020 graduates. Head Training Coordinator **Chuck Shima** stated, "Graduates from this class will have the opportunity to attend the Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 graduation ceremony." He also noted that the 2020 Instructor Training Program (ITP) held every summer in Ann Arbor, Michigan was cancelled.

The Training Office was tasked, with approval from the JATC, to place all apprentices statewide on home study courses. This was to help the apprentices complete the Spring 2020 semester-related classes.

The training coordinators, **Kirk Kageno**, **Ronden Numasaki**, and **Chuck Shima** have been using video communication conducting Zoom online classes as well as utilizing blackboard online classes. In addition, they have been busy correcting the lessons as well.

In June, the community colleges across the state have been allowing in-person classes provided health and safety guidelines of the college are practiced. Training will complete hands-on training for the 5th year apprentices who will soon become journeymen.

As far as recruitment, the **Kauai Recruitment** is currently ongoing for those interested.



## Consolidate Debt and Save As low as 5.99% APR\*!

Move all of your high interest debt into a single, lower interest, affordable monthly payment. Simply consolidate your debt into Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 FCU. For more information, contact the Credit Union at (808)537-9135.

*\*APR-Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to credit approval. Rates are subject to change at any time and are not guaranteed. Individual rates may vary depending on credit worthiness.*

## Local 675 FCU Annual Meeting

The Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Federal Credit Union conducted a virtual Annual Meeting on **June 5, 2020** via **GoToMeeting** that was streamed from the Local 675 branch at the Union Office. FCU President **Valentino Ceria** and Board Director **Susan Fukunaga** were nominated and re-elected for another term. **Samuel Barrett, Jr.** was nominated and elected as a Credit Committee Member. Terms are for three years.

### *In Memoriam*

*Heart felt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:*

*Roy S. Fukushima  
3/16/2020*

*Juro Fukuda  
4/13/2020*

### NEW PENSIONERS

*Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:*

- Edwin H Bihag ..... 02/01/2020*
- Michael R. Bourke..... 04/01/2020*
- Wallace K.M. Chun..... 04/01/2020*
- Stephen H. Freitas..... 04/01/2020*
- Michael J Killion..... 04/01/2020*
- Michael T. Kondo..... 04/01/2020*
- Harold K. Minamishin 04/01/2020*

# Members on the Job Dorvin D. Leis, Company



(l-r) kneeling: Cory Baltunado, Thung Ho, Glenn Gascon, Chad Yamashita, Greiden Cadiz, Martin Kodama, Isaiah Manalo, Jason Kim, Alecsou Agustin. Dorvin Leis Co. on the C2F-02 job at Fort Shafter. GC: Hensel Phelps.

(l-r) standing: Shaun Tanabe, Aaron Holtzlider, Makoa Frias, Derrick Oshiro, Blaine Shiraki, John Curran, Phillip Gordon, Bienville Agustin, Lon Okino, Edwin Saquiton, Keawekuloa Leong, Kody Taylor, Reggie Kekua, Chance Diaz.



(l-r) Scott Yamaguchi, Ryan Higaki, Cody Acasio, Dustin Pilialoa, Mike Guillermo, Jeff Strutner, Codi Oshiro, Robbie Okazaki, Shelton Fujii. IPC Energy Savings Performance (HVAC). Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Actus Lendlease.



(l-r) Terrance Nakata, Darin Kawamoto, Dustin Gapusan, William Sacapulo-Uepa., Dean Fujikawa, Lino Pascua, Quincy Blas, CJ Silva (Project Super.), Chance Akamichi, Vance Baron, Kekai Hermosura, Keola Nakamura, Wilfred Yamaguchi. Schofield Behavioral & Dental Clinic, Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Hensel Phelps.



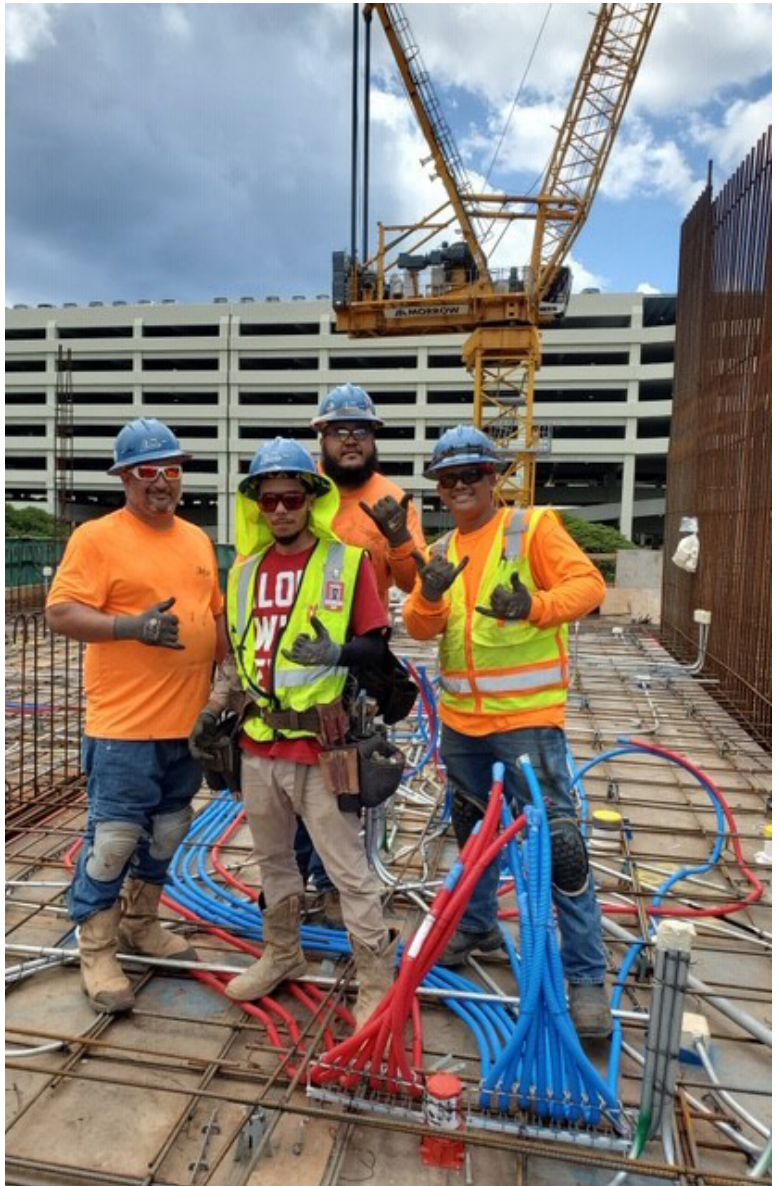
(l-r) Sean Sugihara, David Rapozo, and Keanu Solidum. Hawaii State Hospital, New Patient Facility. Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Hensel Phelps.



(l-r) Giovanni Stevenson, Mark Miyasato, Brandon Kong, Keanu Solidum. Hawaii State Hospital, New Patient Facility. Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Hensel Phelps.



(l-r) Scott Carr and Christian Chun (F/S). The Central Project. Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Hawaiian Dredging.



(l-r) Chris Ano, Jeremy Hennings, Lakbok Peter Schmidt, Patrick Amerino (Plbg). The Central Project. Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Hawaiian Dredging.



(l-r) Rex Tyau and Ryan Higaki. Geothermal Heat Pumps. Aliamanu Military Reservation. Dorvin Leis Co. GC: Actus



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[www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com)

**VALENTINO CERIA**

*Business Manager/*

*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

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*President*

**BENJAMIN PANIS**

*Vice President*

**LANCE HAYASHI**

*Recording Secretary*

**JORDAN DAWSON**

*Sentry*

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**DEAN LUNA**

**SAMUEL BARRETT, JR.**

*Send contributions or questions regarding Ha'aheo 675 to the editor (808) 536-5454*

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**News from Local 675 Retiree Club**

Local 675 Retirees Club cancelled its May 12 breakfast meeting because of COVID-19. The meetings scheduled for **August 11** and **November 10, 2020** are currently pending. If the meetings proceed as scheduled, an announcement will be sent to all Club members 4 weeks prior to each meeting (**no notice = no meeting**).

Traditionally, the Retirees Club holds its annual Foodbank Drive in May. In lieu of donation of food items, the members of the Club generously donated **\$2,950** which was hand-delivered to the **Hawaii Foodbank** on May 8. Kudos to all Club members who participated in this timely and worthy endeavor!

Retirees Club VP **Jonathan Lee**, sewed cloth masks (2 ea.) for all Club members which were mailed out the 2nd week of May. A big Mahalo from all to **Brother Jonathan** for his generosity and helping everyone to stay safe. We welcome all active Local 675 member retirees to join the Local 675 Retirees Club. Call Willy at 487-2773 or 256-0704.

**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

**LABOR UNITY PICNIC - CANCELLED**  
Tuesday, September 1, 2020  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 8, 2020  
**KONA RAP SESSION**  
UH-Palamananui Campus

Wednesday, September 9, 2020  
**HILO RAP SESSION**  
Waiakea Intermediate School

**OCTOBER**

**Monday, October 5, 2020**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, October 6, 2020  
**MAUI RAP SESSION**  
Maui Community College

Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
**KAUAI RAP SESSION**  
Kauai Community College

**CONNECT  
WITH US**

[www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com)

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