



Ha'aheo 675

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



After many hours, days and months of negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement between the Union's labor representatives, Business Manager **Valentino Ceria**, President **Matthew Brady**, Vice President **Benji Panis**, and the Contractors' management officials, the day had finally come for a ratification vote from the Local 675 membership. The current Labor-Management Agreement contract expires after the last day on July 3, 2021.

The Union membership on June 2, 2021 ratified the newly proposed Labor-Management Agreement at a specially held meeting at the **Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial Hall**. The very next day Local 675 Contractors in their special meeting also ratified the

new contract.

The evening began with a review of the various Trust Fund changes in the pension and health and welfare funds which was conducted by Fund Administrator, **Erinn Liu**. Members viewed the educational videos and were also informed to review important mailers and video links sent out to them earlier.

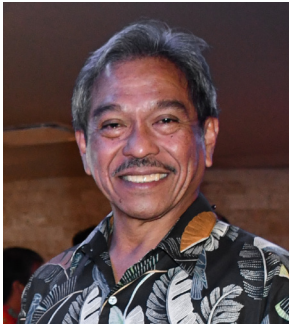
Later in the members-only ratification meeting, Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** proposed the new wage and benefit package in the presentation. Before the vote, he commented, "Brothers, I believe that this five-year proposed contract that we negotiated is a great package. I support it and I am asking all of you to get this

contract ratified tonight!" The members overwhelmingly voted in support to ratify the new contract. The approved five-year Labor-Management Agreement contract begins **July 4, 2021** and stays in effect until **July 4, 2026**. After finalizing, formatting and printing of the new Labor-Management Agreement, the green-colored books will be mailed to all active Local 675 members.

Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** thanked everyone in attendance and thanked his team. President **Matt Brady** later expressed how grateful they were for the confidence the members instilled in them for negotiating a contract they could be proud of.

Business Manager's Message

Valentino B. Ceria



I want to thank all the members who have been enduring and adjusting because of this pandemic but we can be proud to have weathered through the worse of these turbulent times. As more people are being vaccinated, we can feel a

little safer and closer to the new normal.

Another thank you for the overwhelming support and confidence in the new Labor-Management Agreement contract that was recently ratified by members and contractors. The Union's trustees, President **Matthew Brady**, Vice President **Benji Panis** and I worked very hard to negotiate a substantial wage and benefit package for our membership. I also appreciate the help from brother **Chuck Shima** in assisting with the presentation. Mahalo's to the members for complying with the safety Covid-19 protocols and our staff for their assistance.

Congratulations again to the elected delegates going to the **UA Convention in San Diego** to represent Local 675. The delegates have been certified with the UA and listed in this newsletter.

There will be nominations for the International Office at the convention and we will be voting for General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant General President, Vice President (6 positions) and International Representative (34 positions). We will also be voting on resolutions and new or revised laws that will make up the new UA Constitution. I was also privileged to have been appointed to the Convention Credentials Committee by General President **McManus** and General Secretary-Treasurer **Kellett**, and look forward to serve the UA membership.

Locally, I am happy to report that we can finally hold our **Apprenticeship Graduation** once again. This year it will be held at the **Hawaii Convention Center** on **Saturday, July 10, 2021** honoring the graduates of the Fall 2019/Spring 2020 and Fall 2020/Spring 2021. We look forward to seeing the graduates in person.

As always, stay safe and informed by reading all mailers sent to you and visiting our website at www.plumbershawaii.com.

In-Person United Association General Convention

The **40th General Convention** will be held in-person in **San Diego** from **August 23-27, 2021** as announced by General President **Mark McManus**, UA General Office. In order to attend the Convention in-person in **San Diego**, delegates must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by no later than Monday, August 9, 2021.

DELEGATES CERTIFIED!

"We would like to congratulate all the Candidates for the **40th United Association Convention**," said Business Manager **Valentino Ceria**. The election ballot counting was performed on April 20th at 720 Iwilei Road, on the 2nd floor and election results certified by **Randy Shimotsu CPA, LLC**. The top 18 highest vote counts as well as the salaried elected officials will represent Local 675 at the convention, and the remaining 2 will be alternates in case any of the elected delegates is unable to remain as a delegate. Business Manager **Val Ceria** expressed his gratitude and thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve our union and appreciates all those that voted and participated in the election process.

PLUMBERS & FITTERS UNION LOCAL 675
Certification of Results of Election of Delegates to the
40th United Association Convention to be Held the Week of August 23, 2021

I hereby certify that the following candidates for delegates to the 40th United Association Convention to be held the week of August 23, 2021, received the following number of votes by ballot counted on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 720 Iwilei Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817.

Jonathan Lee	203
Kirk Kageno	190
Tracy Tanouye	185
Ronden Numasaki	179
Charles Shima	172
Dean Kobashigawa	168
Troy Sakamoto	167
David K. Kamakea III	164
Scot Minemoto	147
Douglas Kekona	143
Dean Luna	138
Chad Kamibayashi	137
Keenan Wilson	137
Raymond Park	136
James Fan	130
Sheung Man Wong	129
Christopher Ortogero	125
Gavin Villafuerte	118
Keith Yagi	115
Jordan Dawson	112
	<u>2,995</u>

Randy T. Shimotsu
Certified Public Accountant

PAMCAH-UA Local 675 Health & Welfare 100% COBRA Subsidy

The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** provides temporary premium assistance for **COBRA** continuation coverage by subsidizing your full **COBRA** premium from **April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021**. What this means is that if you are eligible to receive the **COBRA** subsidy you will not have to pay any of the **COBRA** premium for the period of coverage you are eligible for.

To be eligible for the premium assistance, you must meet the following requirements:

- Have a **COBRA** qualifying event which is a reduction in hours or an involuntary termination.
- Elect **COBRA** continuation coverage within **60 days** after the date you initially receive your **COBRA** election notice.
- Must not be eligible for Medicaid and not eligible for coverage under any other group health plan (i.e. plan sponsored by a new employer or a spouse's employer.) You may be subject to a penalty of \$250 if you become eligible for Medicare or any other group health plan and do not notify the PAMCAH-UA Local 675 Health and Welfare Plan. If the failure to provide notification is fraudulent, you may be subject to the greater of \$250 or 110% of the premium assistance provided.

The **Trust Fund Office** will provide you with a notice of your eligibility to elect **COBRA** continuation coverage and to receive the premium assistance. This notice will include a "**COBRA Continuation Coverage Election**" form and a "**Request for Treatment as an Assistance Eligible Individual**" form. Please ensure that you complete and submit these two required forms within **60 days** of receipt of these forms. Mailed forms will have specific post-marked due dates indicated on your **COBRA** notice. **COBRA** subsidy assistance will not be provided without these required documents.

SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORMS TO:

PAMCAH-UA Local 675 Health and Welfare Plan
1109 Bethel Street, Suite 403
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please contact our Trust Fund office at (808) 536-4408 if you have further inquiries.

NEW PENSIONERS

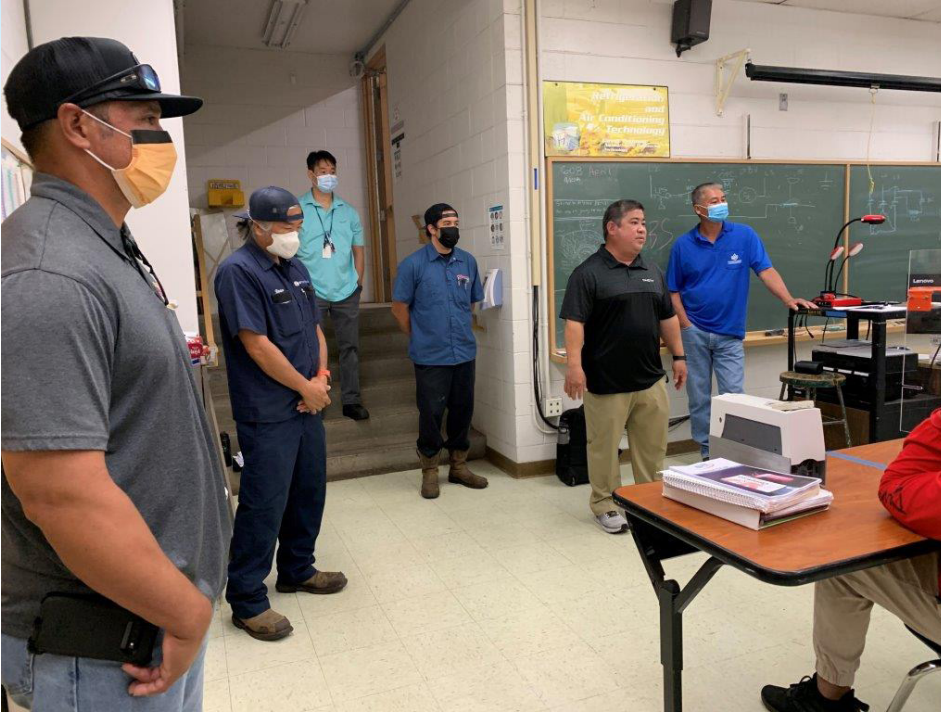
Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

Ruben A. Cabaniero.....	1/1/2021
Keith Teramae.....	1/1/2021
Shelton K. Alcantra	2/1/2021
Reid Nitahara	2/1/2021
Marc Miyasato.....	3/1/2021
Shelton Fujii.....	4/1/2021
James T Inouye	4/1/2021
Terrence Nakata	5/1/2021

Trust Fund Office Announcement

Thank you to our Ad Office for remaining open during the pandemic! The PAMCAH-UA Local 675 Trust Fund Office announced effective July 1, 2021, they will be accepting walk-in services. Members and other individuals entering the office must continue to follow CDC guidelines which include wearing face masks, maintaining a 6 feet distance and taking temperature checks. Mahalo for your understanding of safety precautions to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. They will continue to provide services via telephone and by appointment. Please call the Ad Office at **(808) 536-4408** for phone inquiries or to schedule an appointment. And of course, if you are ill, please stay home!

Training Highlights



Local 675 reaches out to students for Union's career opportunities at Honolulu Community College AC Class. (l-r) Bus. Agent Sam Barrett, Jr., Air Central's Roger Sasaki, HCC AC Instructor, Steven Chow, Island Wide AC, Hubert Matsuda, Asst. Training Coordinator, Dean Kobashigawa and Economy Plumbing's James Fan.

Career Opportunities Outreach Program

Local 675 training representatives presented opportunities the Union has to offer to potential candidates at the Honolulu Community College last month. Other outreach career events attended (some virtually) by Training this year include Dole Middle School, UH Maui College, UHMC Molokai, and Aiea Intermediate School.

Training Announcements

Announcing the 54th and 55th Apprenticeship Graduation at the Hawaii Convention Center on July 10, 2021. Apprentices honored will be the graduates of the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 as well as the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Assistant Training Coordinator **Ronden Numasaki** is continuing his efforts with the plumbing competency training for our members and others in the industry. If you have not completed your training, please contact: On Oahu - Honolulu Community College 845-9296; Neighbor Islands - Hawaii Community College 934-2700, Kauai Community College 245-8313, and University of Maui College 984-3231.

In March, Training Coordinators **Chuck Shima** and **Dean Kobashigawa** participated in the UA Training Coordinators Meeting conducted virtually. Over the two days of the meetings, UA Officers, Training Staff and Industry partners informed coordinators of the changes that may affect training programs across the nation and how to pivot to the new changes. "The meeting was informative,"

according to Training Coordinator **Chuck Shima**, "and we will be anticipating the new changes."

Much Mahalo's to **Barry Lai** and **Air Central** for the generous donation of the Tripe-Lite 33,000 btu CRAC unit for the Iwilei Training Facility. "Barry even covered the cost for delivery. Training will definitely benefit from this addition to our facility," said Coordinator **Chuck Shima**.

Local 675 FCU Annual Meeting

For the second year in a row, our Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting was held virtually on May 6, 2021 via GoToMeeting that was streamed from the Local 675 branch at the Union Office. FCU Board of Director and Secretary/Treasurer **Jenny Lee** and Board Director **Amy Lee-Ortega** were nominated and re-elected for another term. Credit Committee Member **Mira Barcelo** and Supervisory Committee Member **Tracy Tanouye** were both nominated and re-elected. Terms are for three years.

Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 FCU

For a limited time we are offering a special loan rate starting at 4.99% 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 Federal Credit Union.

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.

Maui Moratorium Bill: It May Be Legally Defensible But Is It Good Public Policy?

By Kika Bukoski



The Maui County Council is considering a moratorium (“prohibition”) on the issuance of building permits for the development of new visitor accommodations for a period of two years or until community plans for South and West Maui are adopted, whichever comes first. The stated purpose for this moratorium is to maintain the number of visitors to Maui County until revised community plans can be adopted. The concern raised in the proposed measure centers around the cited impact to climate change that increased visitor counts are causing to Maui County.

Does something that might be legally defensible, mean that its necessarily good public policy? Should our policymakers be looking at public policy that support and encourage growth and opportunity as we claw our way out of the COVID 19 aftermath, or should they be looking at public policy that restricts growth and opportunity in this time of economic uncertainty.

CARE 50 CC 21-232 (“the Bill”), poised to shut down development in a segment of Maui’s economy that accounts for 80 percent of the County’s economic activity and 75 percent of all private sector jobs on Maui (2012 Maui Island Plan adopted in 2012), is making its way through

Maui County Council’s Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee (CARE) Chaired by Councilwoman Kelly King.

Supporters of the moratorium claim the shut down is needed to “stop increasing carbon emissions levels, mitigate climate-change impacts, and limit the rate of global warming by pausing visitor accommodation development and the related increase in tourism” (the Bill as amended). They point to an increasing number of visitor accommodation units as the cause for the increase in tourism counts that result in climate-change impacts and global warming and cite as justification, a policy adopted as a single component of the 2012 Maui Island Plan to, “promote a desirable island population by striving to not exceed an island-wide visitor population of roughly 33 percent of the resident population”, or 1 visitor to every 3 residents. Annual Visitor Research Reports indicate this visitor per capita ratio has been exceeded since 2013.

Opponents to the moratorium suggest that there are other ways to manage visitor growth on Maui without taking such a “drag net” approach that in the end, may not actually produce the desired results, but instead impact economic opportunity and job growth at a time when such issues are critical to Maui’s recovery from COVID 19. There is no data to determine a baseline or even if a problem actually exists and whether such a broad and sweeping policy would actually stop visitor counts or carbon emissions levels as the Bill proposes to do. The drafter of the proposed Bill recently admitted that, “we don’t have the data to connect those points”. To confuse

matters even further, the proposed measure applies to South and West Maui only, allowing planned developments already in the hopper for other parts of Maui to move forward, likely resulting in additional tourists in any case and begging the question of how effective this Bill will really be in stopping the increase of carbon emissions levels, yet alone the increase in visitor counts.

Local 675 supports balanced, well thought out, and effective public policy that not only encourages smart and sustainable controlled growth that protects our island home and resources, but provides a vibrant and sustainable economy to ensure the health, safety, prosperity and well being of its local residents, our union, and its members. Shot-gun approaches and reactive legislation such as **CARE 50 CC 21-232** that cause sweeping impacts to the economy and the community with little or no data to support its general intent or purpose, although legally defensible, is not good public policy and should be reconsidered or withdrawn.

Election season is quickly approaching us once again, which means it’s our opportunity to raise our individual and collective voices once again to support and elect public policy makers that take a deliberate, logical, and balanced approach to public policy making, and those that share our local values and views on matters that are critically important to the well being of our union, its members, and the local residents of Hawai’i. Local 675 will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf towards that end. `A`ohe hana nui ke alu ia ~ No task is too big if done together by all.

Members on the Job



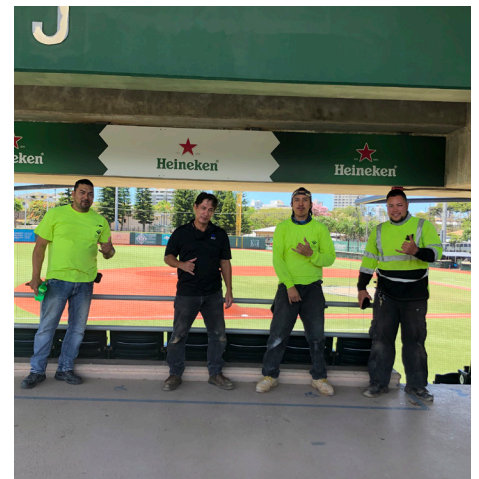
Commercial Plumbing: Members in office project managing, estimating, drawing. (l-r) Shane Henderson, Trustee Mark Suzuki, Rodney Takara, Gavin Daniel-Santos, Kepa Resentes, Troy Hanzawa, Wendall Kailihiwa, Galenn Nitta, Owner Randy Hiraki, Calvin Waiolama, Troy Higashi, Frank Wilhelm.



(l-r) Troy Lum, Warren Ballesteros. **Commercial Plbg.** Hemic Bldg. Renovation. GC: Kadowaki.



Continental Mechanical: (Kneeling l-r) Jason Nakamoto, Doug Kema III, Keith Kotani, Nolan Hirai, Kasey Kaiura, Jon Holts. (Standing l-r) Eric Piena, Dane Amii, Corey Hieda, Clifford Madarang, Brian Miyashiro, Kaipo Lee, Chris Lagutan, Dennis Cobar, Jovencio Balon, Kanai Wailehua, James Matsumura, Brenton Uyeno, Shaun Takayama, Collin Awong, Kirk Inoue, Shannon Pagente, Vince Young, Shaun Onuma, Edward Sistoza, Merto Aglanao, Joseph Kikila.



(l-r) Charles Low, Mike Ryckman, Everett Pico, Kyle Duncan. **Alaka'i Mech.** UH Manoa.



(l-r) Owner-David McCleary, Eric Rita, Aaron Pukini. **Diamond Plumbing Co.** McDonalds, Ele Ele.



Layton Aguon. **Diamond Plumbing Co.** Koloa Village. GC: Shioi Construction.



(l-r) Kalen Borilez, David Olivarez, Jr. **Diamond Plumbing Co.** Kintaros. GC: Barry Arruda.



(l-r) Aaron Correa, Ben Salmo, Iren Segobia, Rey Gascon, Hunter Ortiz. **Dorvin Leis Co.** Kona-Village of Lai Opuu. GC: Coastal Construction.



(l-r) Fire Sprinkler Ftrs: Zian Farius, Keola Silva, Chris Tamayo, Isaac Duhaylonsod. **Hawaiian Dredging.** Bldg 1102, Hickam AFB. GC: Nan Inc.



(l-r) Kendall Calalcal, Reginald Kalilikane. **Honolulu Plumbing Co.** Honowai Elementary School. GC: S & M Sakamoto.



(l-r) Nathan Okamura, Jared Kauihou, Ferdinand Madarang, Elmer Bungcayao, Reggie Maldonado, Elijah Castillo-Galapia. **Pan Pacific Mechanical.** Quad - A, Schofield Barracks.



(l-r) Glenn Shimizu, Tyson Hahn, Mike Mamotos, Bobby Namba, David Calizar, Joshua Olayon, Ikona Sonoda, Nikko Venzon, Lawrence Paas, Randy Agustin, Jonathan Pascual, Louis Smith. **Standard Mechanical LLC.** Azure. GC: Albert C Kobayashi, Inc.



Ha'aheo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Association, Local 675
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Stay Safe from Local 675 Retiree Club

Local 675 Retiree Club breakfast meetings are normally held on the 2nd Tuesdays of February, May, August, and November. The May meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. Since some restrictions have been lifted, the meetings may soon be able to resume. An announcement will be mailed to club members prior to the meeting date. "We look forward to seeing you and encourage everyone to take every opportunity to get vaccinated and stay safe and healthy," said Brother **Willy Kanno**.

Local 675 retirees who retain Local 675 membership are welcome to join the Local 675 Retiree Club. Annual club dues of \$20 include all breakfasts for that calendar year. For more information, call Willy at 487-2773 / 256-0704. **REMINDER - Retiree Club dues paid for year 2020 also covers year 2021.**

NOTICES

July 10, 2021

APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION

Hawaii Convention Center

August 23-27, 2021

40TH UA GENERAL CONVENTION

San Diego, CA

**Check www.plumbershawaii.com for updates.
Please update your mailing address with the Union Office.**

CONNECT WITH US

www.plumbershawaii.com

LOCAL 675 UNION OFFICE

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