



Ha'aheo 675

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

The 57th Annual Apprenticeship Graduation



Joining the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Apprentice Graduates are: (front row l-r) Ronden Numasaki-Asst. Training Coordinator, Dean Kobashigawa-Head Training Coordinator, Troy Sakamoto-JATC Member, Lance Hayashi-JATC Member, Matthew Brady-Union Trustee, Valentino Ceria-Business Manager/Union Trustee, Benjamin Panis-Union Trustee, Gregg Serikaku-Employer Trustee, Curt Balanay-Employer Trustee, Sam Barrett, Jr.-Union Trustee, and Westin Alcover-Asst. Training Coordinator.

The annual **Apprenticeship Graduation** dinner celebration was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The 24 honorees were from the **Fall 2022** and **Spring 2023** graduating classes of Plumber, Refrigeration Air Conditioning, Fire Sprinkler and Steamfitter-Welder apprentices. Each graduate was awarded their certificate and was also given a \$100 completion award from Local 675.

Representatives from the Honolulu Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association, and Plumbers and Fitters UA Local Union 675 were present to offer their congratulations to the graduating classes.

Speakers for the night expressed their words of wisdom to each graduate in attendance. Head Training Coordinator, **Dean**

Kobashigawa was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Local 675 President **Matthew Brady** did the invocation but not after addressing each trade and how vital and important their role plays in the community. Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** spoke about their journey through their apprenticeship years and how they should continue to be an asset as well-qualified, trained craftsmen to their employer and the Union. He added, "This is how we sell our Union and this is why Training is the backbone of the Union." PAMCA Executive Director **Gregg Serikaku** who spoke on behalf of PAMCA President, **David Fujikawa**, emphasized the tremendous earnings and benefits they can now reap as a journeyman, thanks to the Union's strategic negotiations. Brother **Dean Kobashigawa**

mentioned a quote from "**the Rock**" **Johnson** who said, "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." Brother **Dean** continued, "I truly believe that this is a true statement that runs through this Union and its members. You will all achieve greatness one day. Just stay consistent."

Business Manager **Ceria** ended the evening by congratulating and accepting each graduate and welcomed them as full-fledged journeymen of Local 675. As Union journeymen of Local 675, they will be recognized not only locally but through the United States and Canada. After five grueling years of school and 10,000 work hours under their belt, the graduates together with their proud families celebrated this joyous occasion.

(continued on page 3)

Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



Business Manager Valentino Ceria addressing the graduating apprentices.

First of all, a well-deserved congratulations to our upcoming new journeymen who celebrated their accomplishment at the **Apprenticeship Graduation** ceremony on June 17th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Thanks go out to Head Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa** and his staff for their dedicated hard work.

I want to share some good news I received recently. I got a call from **Hawaiian Dredging** stating that they were awarded the Dry Dock 3 Replacement at **Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard**. This is part of the 816 billion dollars that **President Biden** promised for the industrial sector, as part of the Infrastructure Bill, and with a Project Labor Agreement in place. This project involves constructing a new graving Dry Dock #5, replacing Dry Dock #3, including supporting facilities – pump stations, water treatment system, crane maintenance area, power, and utilities. The Department of the Navy is looking at an appropriate dry dock capability date no later than January 2028. On the Union's part, we need to prepare and make sure we can provide the necessary manpower for the upcoming work. In April, we attended **Hawaiian Dredging's** Career Fair as they prepare for personnel and manpower for the upcoming work. I

got to meet with **Gerry Majkut**, President of **Hawaiian Dredging**. He said that this project at Pearl Harbor will be about \$2.8 billion dollars. I also talked with **Tom Valentine**, the Division Manager for the Power and Industrial Division. **Tom** mentioned they will be looking for pipefitters, and welders specializing in stainless steel. As you can see, we have to start preparing for their manpower needs.

Also in April, we signed a Project Agreement with **Best Plumbing and Electric LLC**. The projects include the Child Development Center in Schofield Barracks, Mokapu Elementary School Campus Improvements in Kailua, and the Blaisdell Center Redevelopment project on Ward Avenue. Those projects should keep us busy for a while. We also signed **Plumbing & Solar Systems of Maui** as a new contractor.

As you know, Brother **Matt Brady** has been working diligently with the committee, spearheading the revision of the local **By-Laws**, for the last five months. The United Association reviewed our local **By-Laws** and submitted its revision requirements established by the UA Constitution. The last time our **By-Laws** was revised was back in 1980, so it is long overdue and necessary. There were three (3) readings of the **Proposal for New By-Laws or Amendments to the Existing By-Laws** as directed by the United Association. **The third reading was unanimously passed by the General Membership on June 5, 2023.**

On another note, I would like to mention that **UA General President Mark McManus** has approved the mail-in ballot for the various Board positions expiring at the end of this year.

As always, stay informed, stay healthy and be safe!

North America's Building Trades Unions



Pictured above on the top stairs are Business Manager Valentino Ceria and President Matthew Brady along with other Building Trades Union leaders. They visited Hawaii U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (front) and other congressional leaders.

The North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) held its annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. attended by Building Trades Union leaders from all over the country. The focus was on the recent passage of historic laws creating record amounts of infrastructure jobs for skilled trades professionals. Members of Congress were applauded for advancing and protecting policies impacting the next infrastructure generation and the fight

for all building trades working families.

Keynote speakers included **Sean McGarvey**, President, North America's Building Trades Unions, **Marty Walsh**, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, and **Chuck Schumer**, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate. There were many other labor and legislative speakers during this educational conference, but the special guest everyone was waiting for was **The Honorable Joe Biden, President of the United States**. The President labels himself as the most pro-union President in American history, and proud of it. He said, "Wall Street didn't build America. The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class!" **Biden** went on to say that they created more than 12 million new jobs and the unemployment rate is at an all-time record low for construction jobs. He said union workers are going to transform America, and union workers are going to finish the job. **Biden** also mentioned that Intel has committed \$20 billion to build two new chip factories, that's 10,000 jobs – 7,000 construction jobs with prevailing wages. "It's time to finish the job," exclaimed **Biden**, to the chants of, "Four more years! Four more years!"

FALL 2022

Plumber Apprentices

Island of Oahu

Jeremy Marumoto
Duke Orton
Jason Towne, Jr.

Island of Maui

Skyelor Ishikawa
Jacob Kaninau

Refrigeration Air Conditioning Apprentices

Island of Oahu

Aaron Akina
Preston Ceria
Nicholas Inouye
Jason Manzano

Island of Hawaii

Stanley Kang

Island of Maui

Tristian Malano-Rodrigues
Donald Verdi

SPRING 2023

Plumber Apprentices

Island of Oahu

Justin Eli
Bradley Montero

Island of Kauai

Preston Morales

Island of Maui

RJ Hernandez

Refrigeration Air Conditioning Apprentices

Island of Oahu

Joshua Cordero
Christopher Cruz
Emil DeJesus
Zachary Fitzpatrick
Nolan Kometani

Island of Oahu

Scott Lau
Christian Stalcup

Island of Maui

Richard Pabingwit

Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Contest Winners

Plumbing Apprentices

1st Place	Jason Towne, Jr.
2nd Place	Jeremy Marumoto
3rd Place	Bradley Montero

Refrigeration Air Conditioning Apprentices

1st Place	Aaron Akina
2nd Place	Emil DeJesus
3rd Place	Jason Manzano

All Aboard the New Skyline



Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council affiliates try out the new Skyline Rail System.



(l-r) Business Agents, Sam Barrett, Jr. and Ben Panis with Ofc. Mgr. Jenny Lee and Business Manager Val Ceria at the head of the line.

Kapolei High School Plumbers Career Day



Kapolei High School students at the fire sprinkler assembly station.



Students trying their hand at pipe bending and pipe flaring.

Training came with their well-equipped trailer to showcase **Local 675's Apprenticeship Program** at **Kapolei High School** for their **Plumbers Career Day** event on May 10th. This first-time opportunity gave the Building/Construction students three hours to learn about the program and had the opportunity to participate at three different hands-on activities. The three stations consisted of a fire sprinkler riser assembly, a pipe bending/flaring station, and a soft soldering station. The Union Agents as well as the Training Coordinators assisted the selected group of students at each of the stations. The response from the students was great, according to Head Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa**. He said, "The students really enjoyed the experience with the different tools of the trade and the completion of each of the projects at each station. Among their favorite was the soft soldering station where they used the propane torch to perform the actual soldering." Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** added, "This was a great event for **Local 675** and the **Apprenticeship Program**." It was a busy day with many interested students and future recruitment prospects.

Labor of Love Project at Dole Middle School



Jared Solidum with Commercial Plumbing installing the water fountain in the cafeteria.

The annual **AFL-CIO Labor of Love** event returned on April 15th at **Dole Middle School**. Volunteers came from many unions, teachers, staff, students, businesses, and community partners to clean up and repair the grounds, and **Local 675** was proudly represented. Union business agents **Sam Barrett Jr.**, **Lance Hayashi**, and **Ben Panis** graciously used their expertise to get the job done. Brother **Jared Solidum** with **Commercial Plumbing** was also one of the many volunteers on the project. Materials were donated by **Commercial Plumbing**, **Economy Plumbing**, and **Continental Mechanical of the Pacific**. They were able to install a new shower fixture upgraded to ADA standards, a new water fountain in the cafeteria with a bottle fill station, an electric water heater, and wash basin. They even installed a new washer/dryer so the students would be able to wash their clothes and wear clean clothing to school. It was an event everyone could be proud of with a school community of people who were most grateful.

Retirees Get Together



Retirees enjoying the camaraderie at the Retiree Club Meeting (from left) Marc Kodama, McClean Yamashita, Robin Oshiro, Kirk Kageno, Doug Kekona, Tracy Tanouye, and Willy Kaina.

The Retiree Club met on May 9th at the Mililani Golf Club at their quarterly meeting and welcomed the Union and Training staff for their annual updates. "It's always great to see our members enjoying their retired life and able to get together to catch up with others and to stay

informed of their Union. It's a time for the club members to also ask questions," said **President Matthew Brady**.

The Retiree Club just wrapped up their annual Food Drive, successfully donating 150 pounds of food and collecting \$1,420. **Club President Jonathan Lee** thanked everyone for their hard work and contributions.

Brother **Jonathan** mentioned, "We are always looking for new members to expand and to develop more activities." They welcome retirees who retain their Local 675 union membership to join the Retiree Club.

To be a part of the Club ohana, you just pay the annual dues of only \$20.00 which includes all breakfasts for that calendar year. For those interested, please call **Jonathan** at (808) 892-0099.

Hawaii Unemployment - Partial Claims - Change in Filing Requirements

Effective **June 04, 2023**, a change to the filing requirements for **partial unemployment benefits** will take effect. The changes are as follows:

- All claim types including partial claims will now be effective the Sunday of the week in which the claim is filed by claimant. Any request to apply an earlier effective date to a claim, commonly referred to as backdating of a claim, will be addressed through the normal adjudication process.
- Weekly claim filing for partial benefits will be subject to the same filing requirements as total and part-total claims which is no later than 7 calendar days from the week ending date for which benefits are claimed. Weekly claims filed beyond the 7 calendar day period, will be subject to the normal adjudication process to determine whether the untimely filing can be accepted.

Should you have further questions or need assistance, please contact your local unemployment office. Their contact information can be found at: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/contact>

36th Annual Plumbers & Fitters FCU Meeting

The 36th Annual Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Federal Credit Union virtual meeting was held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. The following is the Credit Union election results of the nominated and elected positions:

Valentino Ceria
Susan Fukunaga
Westin Alcover

President/ Board of Director
Board of Director
Credit Committee Member

Benjamin Panis was appointed as the Supervisory Committee Chair by the Board of Directors. They will each serve a three-year term. Mahalo to all attendees and congratulations to our newly elected officers!

NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

- Stanford Ginoza4/1/23
- Jason Rodrigues4/1/23

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

- Albert Fukusawa2/18/23
- George Nakamoto 3/11/23
- Robert Higa 3/21/23
- Roy Shirafuji 3/31/23
- Paul Yeda 4/4/23
- Don Okinaka 4/27/23
- Irvin Pang 5/24/23
- John S. Kurashima 6/11/23

Members on the Job



(l-r) Roger Kanaar, Travis Agbayani, and Reyn Clarke. **Heide & Cook in Hilo.**



(l-r) Elson Lapot, Justin Imura, James Matsumura, Payne Williams, Shaun Takayama, Justin Dano, and Gareth Matutino Jr. **Construction Management Services. Kunawai Terrace, DWV replacement.**



(l-r) Chris Keola, Ryan Takahashi, Jonah Hamada, Jestin Barayuga, Greidan Cadiz, Alani Uyeno, Vanerd Wicklund, Grant Hamada, Lord Elgin Flores, Mikal Yonehara, Scott Nihei Lopes (kneeling), Keaka Fernandez, Japhet Singnoth, Punaoli Maiawa, and Daryl Keawe-Aiko, **TNH Plumbing. Ho'opili Project.**



(l-r) Stephen Brissette, Bronson Abrazado, Keaton Carvalho, Reid Ogata, Charles Hokoana, and Cris Alvaro. **Hi-Tech Plumbing. Brigham Young University Hales #11-13. GC: Okland Construction.**



(l-r) Reginal Yap, Anstin Boutan, and Keba Auwae. **Hi-Tech Plumbing. Kaiaulu O Kupuohi Apartments Jobsite, Lahaina, Maui.**



Ryan Torino (on the left), and Michael Malabon. **Hi-Tech Plumbing. Seafood City Jobsite, Kahului, Maui.**



(l-r) Victor Yi, Joe Duropan and Waylon Bacos (on the left). **Hi-Tech Plumbing. Seafood City Jobsite, Kahului, Maui.**



Stephen Brissette (standing), and Clifton Murakawa. **Hi-Tech Plumbing. Seafood City Jobsite, Kahului, Maui.**



(l-r) Alexander Hirata, Ethan Reyes, Kris Kresge, Bert Watanabe, Freelance Esteban, Alatui (Bulldozer) Luavasa, Ryan (Tiny) Higaki, Dustin Watanabe. **RM Nakamura Plumbing. Ikena - Hoopili Project.**



(l-r) Chris Dacanay, John Holts, Brian Miyashiro, Micah Ono, Reggie Kekai, Ethan Leones, Wesley Hufana, and Ray Palascio. **Continental Mechanical-A/C Construction Depart. Job-P-911 BEQ Project on MCBH. GC: NAN Inc.**



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 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 536-5454

www.plumbershawaii.com

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*Business Manager/
 Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

MATTHEW BRADY
President

BENJAMIN PANIS
Vice President

LANCE HAYASHI
Recording Secretary

SAMUEL BARRETT, JR.
Sentry

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

Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
 Honolulu, HI 96813



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News from Local 675 Retiree Club

The next Retiree Club Meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 8, 2023**, at 8:30 a.m. (breakfast) at the Mililani Golf Clubhouse. Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.

Brother **Tommy Sakata** recently joined as a new club member. 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 **Jonathan Lee** at (808) 892-0099.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 5, 2023
KONA RAP SESSION
 Hawaii Community College - Palamanui Rm 106

Wednesday, September 6, 2023
HILO RAP SESSION
 Waiakea Intermediate School - Rm A3

Monday, September 11, 2023
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Washington Middle School Cafeteria

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
MAUI RAP SESSION
 Maui Community College - Laulima Rm 103

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
KAUAI RAP SESSION
 Kauai Community College - Rm OCET 103

Monday, October 16, 2023
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/
 NOMINATIONS**
 Washington Middle School Cafeteria

CONNECT WITH US

www.plumbershawaii.com

LOCAL 675 UNION OFFICE

1109 Bethel Street
 Lower Level
 Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 536-5454

TRUST FUND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

1109 Bethel Street
 Suite 408
 Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 536-4408

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING OFFICE

720 Iwilei Road
 Suite 222
 Honolulu, HI 96817
 (808) 456-0585

CREDIT UNION

1109 Bethel Street
 Lower Level
 Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 537-9135