



# Ha'aheo 675

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



Mark McManus - UA General President



Patrick H. Kellett - UA General Secretary-Treasurer



Michael A. Pleasant - UA Assistant General President

## Official Convention Call

The Official Convention Call was issued by the UA General Officers announcing the Fortieth Convention of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO. Given the uncertainty created by COVID-19 and the paramount interests of the United Association in protecting the health and safety of the delegates and all persons with whom they have contact, the General Executive Board exercised its authority under Section 11 of the United Association Constitution to empower the General President to select, and take any and all steps necessary in his judgment to implement, one of three formats for conducting the Convention:

1. A fully in-person Convention that will convene on Monday morning, August 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California;
2. A Convention in which delegations are permitted to send a certain number of delegates, as determined by the General President, to participate in the Convention in-person in San Diego, California during the week of August 23, 2021, while all other delegates participate

virtually (i.e., remotely); or  
3. A fully virtual Convention in which all delegates participate virtually during the week of August 23, 2021.

In light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the UA encouraged local unions to conduct the Convention Delegates Election by mail ballot. In January, Local 675 sent out a Nomination and Election Notice for Local 675 Delegates to the 40th Convention of the United Association. The nominations were accepted by mail or email from January 25, 2021 to close of business on February 12, 2021 and received by the Election Committee. A notice of the nomination informational meeting was sent to all members which was held by video conference on February 9th.

A meeting of the nominated candidates was held on February 17 at the Iwilei Training site. Ballots for the election were mailed out on March 19, 2021 with a deadline to be received at the designated post office box no later than Monday, April 19, 2021. Counting of the ballots will take place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Results will be posted by April 22 on the website [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com). If you have any questions, please email to

[election@hilocal675.com](mailto:election@hilocal675.com) which will be forwarded to Election Chairman Donovan Lewis or President Matthew Brady.

## Retirement Announced for Long-Time UA International Representative



On behalf of the entire United Association, General President McManus offered his gratitude to Brother Robert J. Lamb for his many years of leadership and service to the United Association. Brother Lamb retired as UA's Director of Information Technology. Prior to his election in 2011 as an International Representative, he had served for four years as a Special Representative in California and Hawaii. Brother Bob Lamb has always felt a special bond with Hawaii and Local 675. We honor him and wish him a well-deserved retirement.

## Business Manager's Message

Valentino B. Ceria



Retired UA International Representative, Bob Lamb and his wife Jeannette, with Business Manager Val Ceria.

We usher in the new year with optimism and renewed hope even as we still face the realities of the pandemic, political discord and some uncertainty in our lives. Things are looking brighter though with the vaccines in place, and of course, a new president to take the lead. Please do not let your guard down on the jobsites, in public and at home with your families. We ask that you continue to follow CDC and Prevention guidelines in terms of wearing a face covering, practicing good hand hygiene, keeping a minimum of 6 feet of social distance from others and avoiding large social gatherings.

On behalf of Local 675, I sent a letter to the State Department of Health for approval in moving our members up a tier to receive the COVID vaccine earlier, being that we are essential and on the front lines for public health and safety. We requested for a Category 1B status. Many of you may have already received calls for vaccinations.

Recently, the UA was invited to the White House to meet with the President and Vice President among other AFL-CIO and North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) leaders. Our General President Mark McManus and others expressed concerns regarding America's energy future such as the canceled Keystone

XL pipeline project, the future of other pipelines and current new nuclear facility reactors. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka believes if the President shuts down other pipelines he'll pair it with job creation that will be greater than the number of jobs lost. The White House responded, "President Biden has proposed transformative investments in infrastructure that will not only create millions of good union jobs but also help tackle the climate crisis."

On other matters in the Oval Office, President Biden announced his Executive Order rescinding the radical changes fostered by anti-union groups to our apprentice programs known as IRAPs (industry-recognized apprenticeship programs). This was a big win for all UA members coordinated by the UA last year protecting our apprenticeship programs.

Also heard in the Oval Office was discussions on the current relief package and a second recovery bill. More recently on March 11, President Joe Biden signed into law the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill that in part will provide desperately needed relief to working class families as well as state and local funding to jumpstart the economy.

The United Association General Convention held every five years is slated for August 22 through

August 27, 2021 in San Diego, California. The UA is hopeful that the ongoing distribution of COVID-19 vaccines may make it possible to convene in person but the UA is concurrently preparing for possible virtual and semi-virtual Convention formats. Also mentioned in this newsletter, in light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, the UA encouraged local unions to conduct the Convention Delegates Election by mail ballot. Counting of the ballots will take place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 by a third party, Shimotsu & Company, CPA's, LLC. Results will be posted on our website [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com). Again, if you have any questions, please email [election@hilocal675.com](mailto:election@hilocal675.com).

We are at the same time diligently continuing our labor-management negotiation meetings for a new collective-bargaining agreement by July 2021. Once finalized, the members will be notified of a ratification meeting which should be scheduled sometime in May or June of this year.

As a reminder for those interested in applying for the Local 675 Scholarship Program and the UA Scholarship Program, please check online at [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com) for information on how to apply. Qualifications are listed on the site and also in this newsletter.

Not everyone may know, but March 11 was World Plumbing Day, a day to promote the role plumbing has in our daily lives and to bring awareness to the public about the importance of safe, clean, and functioning plumbing systems that we may take for granted. We recognize and acknowledge not only the plumbers who install the systems, but our plumbing inspectors, contractors that employ our members, their staff, and others who support us in the field. A Big Mahalo to all of the essential workers, our members for what you do to keep us safe!

# Training Highlights



*Business Manager Val Ceria with training coordinators Kirk Kageno and Dean Kobashigawa on the right.*

There was a total of 434 apprentices registered for the Spring 2021 semester which included 36 new apprentices. Here is the breakdown:

Oahu:	349
Maui:	40
Hawaii Island:	28
Kauai:	17

Distance learning continues on Oahu for the Spring 2021 semester due to the pandemic. Honolulu Community College felt it was necessary to continue online training. Outer islands are meeting in-person with daily health and safety check-in in place. Hands-on training also continues in-person

who may be interested in the trades, to apply by completing an on-line application at [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com).

New Training coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa** started this year in January. Brother Dean is a 23-year AC/Refrigeration Journeyman mechanic, a 13-year PAMCAH instructor, and a UA Star-certified and graduate of the UA instructor training program. "We welcome Brother **Dean Kobashigawa** and look forward to working with him in the Apprenticeship Training program," said Head Training Coordinator **Chuck Shima**.

complying with health and safety guidelines.

Training conducted on January 30, 2021, an Apprenticeship Recruitment testing and interview process. This was the first recruitment for the new year. Members can inform any potential candidates

# Scholarship Opportunities

We are pleased to announce two scholarship opportunities available to upcoming high school graduates whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member of UA Local 675. The 2021 scholarships are:

**UA Local 675 Scholarship** – This scholarship program is to encourage attendance to a 2 or 4-year institution of higher learning. A one-time scholarship of up to \$1,000 is available to high school seniors and prior year graduates whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member of UA Local 675 in good standing. All submissions must be received by the Union Office and postmarked by June 11, 2021, with awards to be announced in July. To download the application form, visit our website at [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com).

**United Association (UA) Scholarship** – The UA Scholarship Fund benefits UA members and their dependents. Up to 112 scholarships totaling as much as \$222,000 will be awarded this year. Scholarships range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 each. The deadline for submitting application is June 9, 2021. Applications will now only be accepted electronically through <https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com/>.

Please call the Union Office at (808) 536-5454 ext. 222 if you have any questions.

## COVID-19 State of Hawaii Vaccination Updates

Details on vaccine distribution and supply are being regularly updated with new guidelines from the CDC and other authorities.

Please keep informed by visiting: [HawaiiCovid19.com/vaccine](http://HawaiiCovid19.com/vaccine)

You can also check the following websites to schedule an appointment:

<https://covid.queens.org/vaccine/>

<https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/hph-covid-19-updates/vaccine-update/>

## 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.

## Government and Community Affairs Update



Kika G. Bukoski

Each year the state legislature convenes and holds session between January and May. Each year during these legislative sessions there are thousands of Bills introduced that impact Hawai'i's residents...some in a good way, some in a bad way... some directly, and some indirectly. This year is no different, with nearly three thousand Bills being introduced and working its way through the legislative process.

Generally, a Bill once introduced requires public hearings and three readings in each chamber before it can become law. Even then, Bills passed by the legislature are subject to Governor approval or disapproval. The legislative process can be a rather complex process, but one that is designed to give the public as much access and opportunity to provide input to ensure that Bills eventually adopted in law serve the greater good of Hawai'i.

**Local 675** actively engages in the legislative process, not just at the state level, but also at the local county and federal level. Year round efforts and resources are focused on tracking, monitoring and participating in discussions that have the potential of affecting local, state, or federal policy that directly or indirectly impact **Local 675's** mission and purpose, but more importantly its ability to serve its members.

After review of nearly three

thousand Bills introduced in both the House and Senate, **Local 675** has narrowed its focus down to just under one hundred Bills that we continue to either track, monitor, or actively advocate in support or opposition. The following are just a few such Bills of interest that continue to make its way through the process.

House Bill 550 House Draft 2 (**HB550 HD2**) generally requires where feasible and cost-effective, the design of all new state building construction to maximize energy and water efficiency.

**Local 675** supports measures like **HB550 HD2** which align with efforts to preserve our most valuable natural resource ("water") while protecting health and safety, and as such, works very closely with the International Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (**IAPMO**) who publishes the Uniform Plumbing Code which guides the installation of plumbing systems in the built environment, and who provides codes and standards, such as the Water Efficiency and Sanitation Standard (WE Stand) that optimize water use practices and efficiencies while maintaining protection of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

House Bill 1392 House Draft 1 (**HB1392 HD1**) proposes to exempt interns enrolled in a Department of Education (DOE) program from prevailing wage law (chapter 104, HRS) on public works projects.

Prevailing wage laws (**Davis Bacon Act**) were enacted in the 1930's during a time when government-funded construction projects had become a **race to the bottom**. Contractors would bring in low-wage, low-skilled workers from outside of a community to do public works jobs. Prevailing wage law changed this by creating a pathway to economic self-sufficiency and bridge to the middle class America. Hawaii adopted Chapter 104, HRS in 1055, commonly known as the "**Little**

**Davis Bacon**" Act, to provide stable wage rates and a fair and equitable bidding process for publically funded construction projects in Hawaii.

**HB1392 HD1** creates competitive pressure towards lower wages, displacement of regular employees and apprentices that rely on labor hours worked to satisfy apprenticeship requirements, and potential worksite liabilities for paid and/or unpaid minors on active publically funded construction sites.

Although **Local 675** supports intern/pre-apprentice programs that help expose young adults to the construction trades, we don't believe exemptions from prevailing wage laws on public works projects will in any way impede their success. We will continue to aggressively advocate against measures like **HB1392 HD1**, or any measures that attempt to erode or minimize policies that protect the health, safety and welfare of our members.

In addition to legislative matters, **Local 675** works with developers and government agencies to support projects that provide our members with local job opportunities. Currently, we are working with developers of proposed projects in **Kaka'ako** as they seek project approval from the Hawaii Community Development Authority (**HCDA**). These projects (Ulana Ward Village and The Park Ward Village) will provide affordable and market level condominiums and an estimated 687 jobs per year during construction.

**Local 675** will continue to work diligently and strategically on behalf, and in service of its members. Your input and comments are welcome and very much appreciated. *'A 'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia ~ No task is too big if done together by all.* **Kika G. Bukoski**, Director of Government and Community Affairs.

## Mel Sukanuma recalls 'Old Hawaii'



Lifetime retiree members Mel Sukanuma (on right) with fellow retiree Arthur Fong at the Retirees Club meeting.

Former Officer and Business Agent now retired, Brother Mel Sukanuma recalls "growing up in the old days" with words of wisdom.

(The following is a reprint of a Hawaii Now TV Health segment.)

Melvin Sukanuma grew up in Papakolea in a large mixed Hawaiian and Japanese family. Sukanuma along with his six brothers and two sisters struggled like many local families in early Hawaii, and early on made his living shining shoes down in Waikiki. At just 11 years old in the early 1940's Sukanuma would start his work day at 7:00 AM and work until the evening.

In those days shining shoes could earn you up to 50 cents a day, as he and his brothers collected the earnings at days end, put them in a poi bag and returned home to Papakolea to share amongst their large family.

On Dec. 7, 1941 their lives changed forever. Sukanuma along with his brothers were down in Waikiki shining shoes the way they had always done, when they first witnessed the attacks of Pearl Harbor on that tragic day. Even all these days later and at 90 years old, Sukanuma recalls the attack vividly. "I'll never forget that day," Sukanuma said. "The Japanese flew in and were shooting up the place, it was a mess that day." After living through the 'War Days' Sukanuma went into the union and his trade led him into pipe fitting and plumbing.

After over 50 years of membership he now has a lifetime connection to the local union here in Hawaii. As Sukanuma looks back on growing up in 'Old Hawaii' he has just one piece of advice for the next generation. "Work hard," Sukanuma said. "And live a clean life."

## Dues Payment Reminder

As a reminder, member's monthly dues shall be payable by the first of each month. You must pay your monthly dues in order to maintain membership in Local 675 and the United Association (UA). Failure to pay the monthly dues will result in a Suspension and an eventual Expulsion from the Local. The rules for suspension and expulsion from membership for non-payment of dues are set forth in the UA Constitution. **SEC. 157** states, "A member owing over three (3) months' dues shall automatically be suspended from membership without notice of any kind..." **SEC. 158(a)** states, "A suspended member becomes in good standing and his suspension is lifted by the payment of all back dues through the current months together with a \$50.00 reinstatement fee..." **SEC. 159** states, "Any member in arrears for dues for a period of six (6) months shall stand expelled..." If you have any questions, please contact the Union Office at 1-808-536-5454.

## NEW PENSIONERS

*Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:*

- Ruben A. Cabaniero.....01/01/2021
- Jon Fujiuchi.....11/01/2020
- Peter V. Russo.....11/01/2020
- Kingsley Simeona..... 10/01/2020

## *In Memoriam*

*Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:*

- Raymond Rodrigues Sr. .... 02/13/2021
- Adam Duncan ..... 02/03/2021
- Terrence Nicely..... 01/12/2021
- George Alameda Jr. .... 12/25/2020
- Charles Kusaka ..... 12/13/2020
- Teodorico Mendoza.....11/27/2020
- Fred Perry ..... 08/28/2020
- Richard Kaya ..... 08/01/2020

# Members on the Job - Kauai



(l-r) Kristopher Manuel, Garen Itamura, Brandon Hirota, Aaron Acorda, Lee Nishimura, Jay Sakoda, Galen Itamura. **Oahu Air Cond.** Kauai Ofc.



(l-r) Dennis Morales Jr., Preston Morales, Nathan Morales, Dennis Morales Sr., Roni Rulona, Micah Morales. **D. Leis Co.** KR2 Kauai. GC: Unlimited Construction.



(l-r) Brandon Kong, Derrick Oshiro, Justin Imura, Isaiah Manding, Chris Sagucio, Patrick Buck, Layne Santiago, Ben Santiago, Kain Silva, Mel Medrano. **D. Leis Co.** 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Princeville. GC: Layton.



(l-r) Corey Fernandez, Tyran Valencia, Teddi Kashima. **Commercial Plbg.** Kauai Airport-Ticket Lobby. GC: Shioi.



**Kauai Air** - Stetson Igne



(l-r) Nelson Cayetano, Noah Morales, Dennis Jose, Jr., James Javinar, Ronnie Akau, Richard Cremer, Tom Kanehe, Travis Kanehe, John Maxam. **D. Leis Co.** 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Princeville. GC: Layton.



(Back L-Front R) Kale Almaraza, CJ Medeiros, Alan Kahanu-McNeeley, Tom Shalawylo, Kaiwi Machado, Taylor Ryan, Cheydon Jacobs. **Kauai AC.**



(l-r) Akemi Kashima, Miles Koide, Jonathan DeDeguilmo, Paul Kenolio, Jacob Kaninau, Jesse Mc Cleary. **Commercial Plbg.** Pua Loke Kauai. GC: Layton.



**Kauai Air** - Dayne Pagan



**Dorvin D. Leis, Co.** - Mike Nuemiller



**Heide & Cook** - Mercer Cacal



(l-r) Darrell Bucsit, Nathan Ramos, Zayden Sarmiento, Travis Talbo, Byron Andrade. **Gordon Mechanical.** Target at Kukui Grove. GC: Swinerton.



(l-r) Peter Brzezowski, Kendall Gorospe, Scott Carr, Jonah Sague-Mendez, Donovan Rogers. **D.Leis Co.** 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Princeville. GC: Layton.



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

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

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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**

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**Stay Safe from Local 675 Retirees Club**

Local 675 Retirees Club breakfast meetings are normally held on the 2nd Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. The February 2021 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. When permissible, the breakfast meetings will resume. Notices for upcoming meetings will be mailed to club members prior to the meeting date. Mahalo for your patience and understanding!

Local 675 retirees who retain Local 675 membership are welcome to join the Local 675 Retirees' Club. Annual club dues of \$20 include all breakfasts for that calendar year. For more information, call Willy at 487-2773 or 256-0704.

**NOTICES**

**Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings are cancelled until further notice.**

**Check [www.plumbershawaii.com](http://www.plumbershawaii.com) for updates.**

**Please update your mailing address with the Union Office.**

**CONNECT WITH US**

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