



Ha'aheo 675

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

Local 675 Endorses Lt. Governor Josh Green for Governor and State Representative Sylvia Luke for Lt. Governor



(l-r) Willy Kano, Elpidio Tivera, Lance Hayashi, Donovan Lewis, Jonathan Lee, Bus. Mgr. Val Ceria, Lt. Governor Josh Green, Alan Arakaki, Natalie Castanares, Sam Barrett, Jr., Matt Brady, Tracy Tanouye, Ben Panis, Derek Hirao, Kika Bukoski.

Local 675 recently announced its endorsement of current Lt. Governor **Josh Green** for Governor and State Representative **Sylvia Luke** for Lt. Governor. Both Green and Luke have been consistent supporters of Local 675.

In an endorsement ceremony in mid February, Business Manager Val Ceria along with members of his staff and retirees welcomed Josh Green's candidacy for Governor and spent some time discussing important issues facing our industry, our local union, and our members.

"Green's commitment to Hawai'i's working families are sincere and genuine," said Business Manager Val Ceria. "In the coming years, we look forward to working with Josh to invest in our water infrastructure and to do our part to ensure that our families have safe, secure, and clean water resources. . . to take a role in water conservation and technological efficiencies, and to build the Hawai'i that our families deserve."

Local 675 also announced its support for veteran legislator and

Chair of the powerful House Finance Committee, Sylvia Luke for Lt. Governor. After serving nearly 25 years as a legislator in the legislative branch, Repr. Luke decided it was time to implement the laws that she helped to adopt by joining the administrative branch.

"Sylvia has been a good friend of Local 675 and we look forward to working with her as Lt. Governor," said Ceria. "We are confident she will use her vast years of experience, creating laws and policies that govern our state, to actually implement and put those

laws and policies to work to improve the quality of life for our members."

This election is a pivotal one for our Union and our members. Coming out of the pandemic and revitalizing our economy is essential to our Union's continued success and growth. Working closely with the Governor and Lt. Governor will help ensure short, mid, and long term viability of our Union. It's important that our voices are heard in the ballot box and that Local 675 support those that support Local 675.

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(l-r) Business Manager Val Ceria, State Representative Sylvia Luke, Vice President Benji Panis, President Matt Brady.

Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



(l-r) Vice Pres. Benji Panis, Pres. Matt Brady, Lt. Gov. Josh Green, Bus. Mgr. Val Ceria.

I would like to personally announce to the members that Local 675 has committed to supporting **Josh Green** as the next Governor of Hawaii and State Representative **Sylvia Luke** as Hawaii's next Lt. Governor. After interviewing candidates for the respective positions, we feel they will best serve our interests and the State of Hawaii. At the endorsement ceremony for Josh Green last month, we made the announcement along with some of our retirees attending. But it's also important that our voices are heard in the ballot box.

Just to inform you that we have completed the sale of the Iwilei Training Building late last year. The

Iwilei building was initially purchased with trust fund monies but over time due to low rate of return, was not generating the kind of income to adequately help support the funds, especially the Pension fund. The Board of Trustees needed to make the difficult decision to sell. The Iwilei Training Facility is currently in business as usual and renting the same space until a decision can be made about future operations. Rest-assured, besides the Iwilei location, we still have the Pearl City Training Facility and Honolulu Community College for classes.

I am happy to announce that we have increased the UA Local 675 Scholarship Fund awards from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for deserving high school seniors and prior year graduates whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member of Local 675 in good standing. The scholarship application is now available on our website www.plumbershawaii.com, so please take advantage of this opportunity. (See article on Scholarship Opportunities in this issue.)

Lastly, with more and more restrictions being relaxed, we hopefully may be able to hold our Holiday Christmas dinners at year-end. Let's keep our fingers crossed and continue to practice safety measures. If you are medically able, please get vaccinated as well as boosted, and stay safe!

Uniform Plumbing Code Board of Directors Meeting (Lahaina, Maui)

Local 675 Business Manager **Val Ceria** and Director of Government and Community Affairs **Kika Bukoski** recently met with the Chief Executive Office and Executive Board of Directors for the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) at their annual Executive Board meeting held in Lahaina on the island of Maui to discuss industry initiatives, successes and challenges.

IAPMO is the developer and publisher of the Uniform Plumbing Code which is the recognized and adopted plumbing code in Hawai'i, and serves as the backbone of the plumbing industry by establishing minimum plumbing standards and practices within the built environment. IAPMO is a code developer and publisher who seeks input and guidance from a cross-section of industry stakeholders, including plumbing inspectors, master and journeyman plumbers, and plumbing engineers.

Recognizing the value in coordinating efforts and pooling resources, Local 675 has developed a very strong working relationship with IAPMO, its staff and executive team in an effort to maintain and improve the plumbing industry in Hawai'i and maximize our service to the health, safety, and general welfare of



(l-r) Dave Viola (IAPMO Chief Executive Officer), Val Ceria, Kika Bukoski, and Dave Gans (IAPMO Executive Board President).

the community. Local 675 remains committed to working with IAPMO and other industry partners to protect the integrity and credibility of the plumbing industry in Hawai'i.

Training Highlights

Career Fair

Training participated in a career fair at Leilehua High School on February 10th and had a chance to speak to students about our apprenticeship program. The students were informed of the skills, qualifications, and education requirements needed in applying for the training program. "There were many students interested in our union and overall, this was a good experience at Leilehua High school with the exposure of our apprenticeship program at the high school level," said Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa**.

Training Classes

The following are continuing training classes offered to all Local 675 members:

Backflow Prevention Classes

Certification and Re-certification classes for Backflow Prevention are conducted at the Pearl City Training Facility.

Certification class dates: September 19-23, 2022

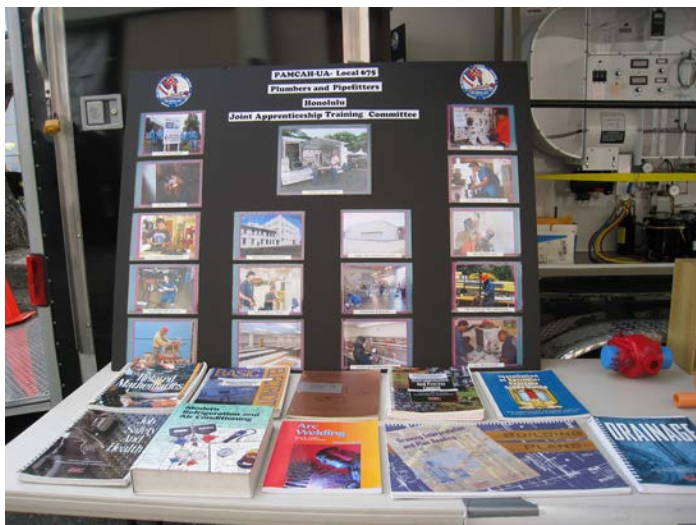
Re-certification class dates: July 7-8, 2022 and October 13-14, 2022

CPR/First Aid

On-going Saturday classes on Oahu and Neighbor Islands. Class space is limited, so call the Training Office at (808) 456-0585 to find out class availability.

Recruitment

Recruitment is currently open for applications. For those interested, go to www.plumbershawaii.com. Go to Apprenticeship Program, then acknowledge



and continue to the application process. There is a \$20.00 application fee. The next recruitment testing will be in July, so apply soon. If you have any questions regarding registration, please call the Training Office at (808) 456-0585.



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You can make a difference by hanging a banner on your fence, placing a sign in your yard, wearing a T-shirt, sporting a bumper sticker on your vehicle, or volunteering in some way. For more info, please contact Kika G. Bukoski at (808)536-5454 extension 233.

Please vote for Josh Green and Sylvia Luke and tell your friends and family to do the same.

FCU News

Consolidate Debt and Save

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.

Local 675 Celebrates Heart Health Month ~ Recognizes Retiree Jonathan Lee



(front l-r) Dean Kobashigawa-LU675 Training Coord., Lance Hayashi- LU675 Bus. Agent, Val Ceria- LU675 Bus. Mgr., Lt. Gov. Josh Green, Danny Obrero, Jonathan Lee, Donald Yata, Donna Lee, Matt Brady- LU675 Pres., Benji Panis- LU675 V. Pres., (back l-r) Kika Bukoski- LU675 Dir. Govt. Affairs, Rick Bruno, M.D.- Am. Heart Assoc., Don Weisman- Am. Heart Assoc., Sam Barrett, Jr.- LU675 Bus. Agent

The Plumbers and Pipefitters UA Local 675 along with Lt. Governor **Josh Green** (who also happens to be an Emergency Room Physician), and representatives from the American Heart Association recently recognized the heroic efforts and quick thinking of retired Local 675 member **Jonathan Lee** in helping former Local 675 member, **Danny Obrero**, survive a cardiac arrest incident.

On November 4, 2021, Mr. Obrero suffered what was later to be diagnosed as cardiac arrest while participating in a golf tournament with Lee. Aware of what had just occurred, Lee immediately began administering CPR/First Aid from previous training he had received as a member of Local 675. With no AED on-site, Lee knew that every second was critical. As he continued to administer CPR, another good samaritan who was also golfing that day and just happened to notice what was going on, came over to offer additional assistance. This good samaritan just happened to be retired City and County EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), **Donald Yata**.

Together Lee and Yata continued to administer CPR/First Aid until first responders arrived and transported Mr. Obrero to Wahiawa General Hospital where he later recovered and was eventually released. Hospital staff stated that Mr. Obrero would likely not have survived had CPR not been administered as quickly and aggressively as it was. Mr. Obrero is undergoing therapy and recovering more and more every day.

Heart Disease is the number one cause of death in Hawai'i. Of the more than 350,000 cardiac arrests that occur outside the hospital each year in the U.S., only about 1 in 10 survive to hospital discharge, according to American Heart Association statistics.

February was Heart Health Month. In recognition of Heart Health Month and in recognition of the heroic efforts by Jonathan Lee and Donald Yata, Local 675 would like to extend a heartfelt mahalo to both of these individuals for their quick yet calm thinking, and to Mr. Obrero, a full and fast recovery. We look forward to seeing you back out on the golf course soon.

Scholarship Opportunities

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 **\$1,500** 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 10, 2022**, with awards to be announced in **July**. To download the application form, visit our website at **www.plumbershawaii.com**.

United Association (UA)

Scholarship Fund - We are pleased to announce that the United Association Scholarship Trust Fund is gearing up for the 2022-2023 academic year scholarship awards. Up to 112 scholarships totaling as much as \$222,000 will be awarded this year, including 106 for students pursuing undergraduate studies and up to six for students pursuing graduate studies. Scholarships range from **\$1,500 to \$5,000** each. Generally, dependents of UA members who are pursuing a post-high school education at an accredited college or university may apply for a scholarship (please see eligibility requirements and award criteria in the detailed

instructions found with the application). **The deadline for submitting applications is June 9, 2022.**

Applications are exclusively accepted electronically through **https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com/**. The application is now live and potential applicants can check that website and click on the Login icon at the top right corner for additional instructions to access and submit applications. Note that upon logging in, users should be sure to click on the scholarship titled 2022 United Association Scholarship.

Awards will primarily be based on academic achievement and potential, personal achievement, and community involvement. Financial need may also be considered. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Applications will be judged by an independent and impartial Selection Committee, comprised of distinguished members of the community. The Selection Committee may request information concerning the financial circumstances of applicants and use this information in the award of scholarships. Also, note that because UA scholarships

do not automatically renew each year, receiving an award in one year does not guarantee you awards in future years.

In addition, six scholarships will be given to "Second Chance" awardees. Those selected will be students whose academic achievement is not the best in their region, but who demonstrate they want another chance at an education to advance their potential for higher-paying employment.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Fund, and look forward to awarding our next round of scholarships to our deserving UA students.

Hawaii State AFL-CIO

Scholarship - A **\$1,000** scholarship will be awarded to three graduating seniors who are currently attending high school in the state of Hawaii and plan to pursue post-high school study on a full-time basis at a university, community college, vocational or trade school. All submissions must be received or postmarked by **April 22, 2022** to **statefed@hawafcio.org** or by mail. Please see our website at **www.plumbershawaii.com** for more information.

NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

- Alexander Asis.....1/1/2022
- Kirk Kageno.....1/1/2022
- Douglas Kekona.....1/1/2022
- Curtis Patterson.....1/1/2022

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

- Tatsuo Kubota.....12/17/2021
- Melvin M Masaki.....1/10/2022
- Patrick Serikawa.....1/16/2022
- Barney S Takata.....1/23/2022
- Charles Ota.....3/02/2022

Members on the Job



(l-r) Sidney Reyes, Matt Rodrigues, Sheldon Sojot, Ryan Yanagihashi, Peter Lakbok, Anthony Biscoe. **Honolulu Plbg.** Hawaii State Veterans Housing. GC: Nan Inc.



(Front l-r) Joel Acoba, Chasen Hamasaki, Matt Soueira. (Back l-r) Kendall Kishida, Mike Nua, Garrett Wong, Aaron Kusoga, Jason Taniguchi, **Commercial Plbg-Plbrs.** 902 Alder Street.



(l-r) Sean Schmidt, Alexi Chistekoff, Tory Mikamura, Byron Andrade. **Gordon Mech.** Waikiki Lilia Market. GC: Swinerton.



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



(l-r) Jet Nieva, Royce "Kainoa" Butler, Jordan Quarto. **Commercial Plbg.** Waikiki Lilia Market. GC: Nordic.



(l-r) Isagani Balatico, Mhar Ancheta, James Ganigan, John Yanuaria, Kamaka Hookano, Shayne Takata, Brian Kuniyoshi. **Alaka`i Mech AC.** 902 Alder Street. GC: Kobayashi.



(l-r) Kawika Johnson, Kanai Aglipay, Scott Chun, Ian Aoyama, Shane Kano. **Johnson Controls.** Honolulu Park Place Cooling Tower Replacements.



(l-r) Jay Tamayoshi, Edmond Abarca, Seth Louis, Sean Tamayoshi. **Commercial Plbg-F/S.** 902 Alder Street.



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



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News from Local 675 Retiree Club

“We haven’t been able to hold meetings so far but when more restrictions are lifted, we will consider starting up our quarterly meetings again,” said newly-elected Retiree Club President **Jonathan Lee**. Some of the retirees from the club recently volunteered their time to attend and help support the **Josh Green** for Governor endorsement ceremony along with Local 675 officials.

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 (808) 487-2773 / (808) 256-0704 or Jonathan Lee at (808) 892-0099.

NOTICES

**DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC,
 ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

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

CONNECT WITH US

www.plumbershawaii.com

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