



Ha'aheo 675

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

Mele Kalikimaka a Me Ka Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

149 Seniors Honored at Year-Closing Celebrations



As Time Goes By: At left, two super-seniors with 55-year Local 675 tie, Donald Lung and Raymond Rodrigues. Photo on right, congratulated by Union leaders Reggie Castanares and Val Ceria on their golden anniversary are Albert Kaopuiki, Brian Benton, Donald Tomimaga, Kenneth Oyama, and Milton Kam. They were among the honored at the Union's Christmas celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. For more photos of other honored celebrants, see inside pages.

Union members in their respective resident counties paid tribute to seasoned colleagues who this closing year have surpassed a minimum 25 continuous years of active affiliation with **Local 675**. The number honored in 2016 totaled 149, the single largest group so far, headed by **Rodrigo Molina**, an active retiree with an amazing 65 years.

The nod to longevity was coupled with **Reggie Castanares'** annual summary of achievements, which the business manager claimed the membership by its unwavering support was fully responsible for.

"Whatever activity was that needed full participation, be it training, politics, benefit upgrades, you all came through," he praised members at each of the separately held year-end celebrations.

Members honored are listed alphabetically by their years of service, as follows:

25 Years (Total 31)

Shelton K. Alcantra, Perry T. Asato, Alexander T. Asis, Steven M. Daguay, Dean M. Fujikawa, Dayne M. Furuta, Aukuso P. Gaisoa, Lenny L.K. Galapia, Randall K. Haga, Edward K. Kaipo, Alward C. Kaopuiki, Carlos A. Kema, Daniel K. Kikumoto, David H. Kurasaki, Harold A. Nakagawa, Neal I. Nakamura, Scot M. Nishikawa, Roy Y. Okamoto, Christopher L. Ortogero, Chris K. Rabanes, Michael N. Sagert, Clyde Sakata, Keith Teramae, Lane M. Tsujiguchi,

Glen K. Uyejo, Carl V. Vogel, Brandt M. Watanabe, Scott A. Whaley, William P. Yee, Todd W. Yokoyama.

30 Years (46)

Guy Y. Agena, Hiram K. Akamine, Rusty S. Aoyagi, Scott Chun, Randy K. Doctorello Jr., Dennis A. Fuertes, Jimmy H. Funai, Nephi K. Gonzales, Gary K. Hayakawa, Derek T. Hirao, Ted T. Ikeda, Kirk M. Kageno, Kurt Y. Kawaguchi, Jonathan K. Kealoha, Ricky D. Key, Herman J. Kila Jr., Kevin M. Kobayashi, Miles K. Koide, Jonathan P. Lee, Myles P. Macadangang, Mel S. Medrano, Sanford M. Minei, David M. Murakami, Jason K. Nishigata, Nathan S. Okamoto, Reid K. Okunaga, Robin R. Oshiro, Frederic A. Pabalan, Victor M. Parina, Leroy Perez, Richard K. Perry, Franklin C. Phillips Jr., Thomas A. Pregana, Edward C. Quon, Michael Ryckman, Ransen K. Sato, Charles E. Shima, George M. Siri, Mark K. Sugai, Cory S. Tanaka, Rylan I. Tanaka, Guy L. Tanodra, Russell I. Tetsutani Jr., Christopher J. Willis III, Mclean Yamashita.

35 Years (20)

Mark K. Angay, Robert R. Ayonan, Steven Esona, Randall T. Freitas, Stephen Freitas, Neal Y. Goya, Michael G. Hart, Keith James, Maurice T. Johnson, Melvin K. Lee, Jeffrey Lew, Dexter G. Lum, Eric S. Marushige, Michael C. McMenemy, Bryan M. Mori, Wayne T. Okubo, Roland Paulino, Larry J. Stone Jr., Dennis M. Tsutsumi, Roger L. Walraven.

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Becoming Aware of New Political Challenges

It has been awhile that labor is facing potentially extreme challenges.

As noted at our membership year-end gatherings, we try to anticipate issues in the coming year by developing solutions favorable to organized labor and also reducing tensions raised by anti-union forces.

We expect in any instance to be positive, in the event our cherished stances are attacked. We owe to our membership and labor in general our best efforts to throttle any attempt aimed at impairing successes we have gained, achieved independently or collaboratively.

This concern comes on the eve of the opening of a Congressional session dominated by hardline Republicans and led by a President whose post-election behavior is intimidating.

Although locally we have a friendly state administration and legislature as well as county leaders and councils, nothing should ever be taken for granted because each sector likewise will face naysayers, depending on the issue.

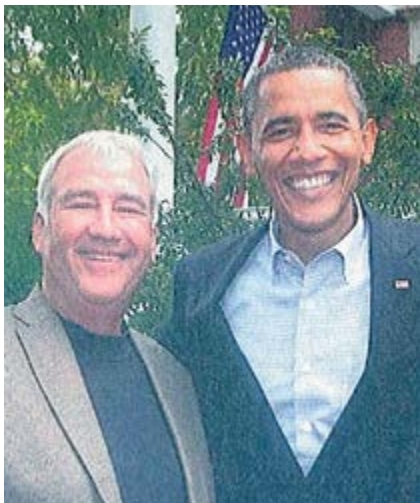
So we have our work cut out requiring your vigorous and unrelenting support when called upon.

As your business manager I have been blessed in that regard. The team we have assembled to face these various political venues possesses the skill and capacity needed to realize our goals. It needs chiefly your wholehearted backing. Much mahalo and a truly happy year for you and your family.



Labor Salutes Two Great National Leaders

Hawaii's labor community expresses its appreciation to two national leaders on the eve of their retirement. Their support was uncompromising and heartwarming throughout their respective reigns.



Bill Hite and President Obama

Our nation and the world will dearly miss President **Barack Obama**. Hawaii's native son was not just the first black ever to occupy the White House. He was truly the symbol of hope for the country's many individuals, groups and organizations that had long felt either oppressed or rarely thought they

were treated as equals. He has set an example of genuine leadership for his successor and hopefully sooner than later, the new Presidency may turn out a surprise. We have our fingers crossed.

Our UA General President the past 12 years, **William**

(**Bill**) **Hite** was the epitome of a well-rounded leader who advanced our national organization to a level that was the envy of his cohorts across the country. All locals and their members have greatly benefited. We are confident his successor, Mark McManus, having worked alongside him, will be as productive and forward-looking.

Congratulations to Our Seniors on Their Longevity

From Shelton Alcantra, among 31 at year-end recording 25 years as an active Local 675 member, to Rodrigo Molina, with 65 years behind him, we perhaps boast of a record number loyal in their work years to a single island brotherhood.

That surmise derives from the fact that we were chartered in 1919 by the United Association to cover tradesmen under its jurisdiction in Hawaii and the outlying Pacific. That's just 97 years ago.

This is not simply bragging, but rather to point out as fact that the families of our membership have all benefited from the most generous coverage built upon since Day One. Little wonder that we have rarely encountered recruitment issues. We're prouder of the acclaim our journeymen remain respected on the jobsite for their extraordinary skills, thanks to a training program second to none.

How Retirees Enjoy Extended Leisure Time

Ha'aheo 675 enjoyed rapping with some senior members at the Union's year-end celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. We were curious how they were spending or would like spending their extra leisure hours. And this is how each said has kept life interesting and pleasant:



Marc Kodama

Marc Kodama, pipefitter retired 2005: "Increased family time, mainly with youngsters and grandchildren, upgrading the house. Can now consider our Retirees Club."

Arthur Fong, plumber now retired 27 years: "Yardwork closest to any thought of real work other than sharing home chores with wife. Am enjoying Retirees Club meetings."



Arthur Fong



Albert Kaopuiki

Albert Kaopuiki, retired 2012 as training coordinator: "Time with youngsters, their school, scouting and hobbies like teaching harmonica and ukulele so far leaves time for anything else."

Milton Kam, Air Engineering general foreman retired 1991: "After pau hana I enrolled at UH-Manoa, earned a BA degree in political science. Family, golfing and Las Vegas kept me busy. To stay happy: keep saving, stick to income and love your family."



Milton Kam

For fun, we made the same inquiry with an active journeyman, **Alan Megia**, with Creative Plumbing. He replied: "I may be on a retirement mode, with 39 years in the trade. So I relate to what a retiree looks forward to -- more leisure with family and time for the youngsters. Fishing is my escape and time with my buddies. When pau with the job, joining fellow retirees would be mellow."



Alan Megia

There you have it, seniors, options that will add more to life.



Maui: Union leaders Reggie Castanares and Matt Brady commend Christopher Ortogero after 25 years as a plumber.

Union Chief Notes Progress In Roundup of Year's Activities

Business manager Reggie Castanares attributed Local 675's progress and growth to the membership in his report at each year-end celebration. He highlighted the following:

Organizing: Welcomed two new signatories, Acme and Ohana Plumbing.

Initiated: 16 journeymen and 213 apprentices, raising the membership, including retirees, to just over 2,267.

In Training: One recruitment yielded the aforementioned 213 new apprentices. Others from among the recently recruited are expected to be officially added to fill urgent manpower requests.

Apprenticeship Program/Staffing: Ronden Numasaki joined staff as an assistant coordinator. The main training office and classes moved from Pearl City to the newly renovated Iwilei Training Center.

Trust Funds: Retained as appointed Union trustees for the various funds are president Valentino Ceria, vice president Matthew Brady, and myself, in the role of business manager, as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Imi Loa Foundation scholarship program: The Union's negotiations with signatories created its scholarship arm in 2013. It has since provided \$41,000 in scholarships to dependents of our members, based on their school achievements and recommendations. For 2016, 12 \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

Mahalo to Stanley and Maureen Chun for Oahu Christmas Photos

Seniors Honored on Notching Another Anniversary Tie With Union Local 675



Oahu (40 Years): Clarence Ing, Jacinto Lagazo, Eric Amii, Barney Gomes, Leonard Aiona, Philip Castro.



Kauai: Nelson Cayetano (55 years), Dennis Jose (45 years), Robert Ayonon (35 years), Miles Koide (30 years)



Oahu (30 Years): Front row, Chris Willis III, Michael Ryckman, Robin Oshiro, Kurt Kawaguchi, Mark Sugai, McLean Yamashita, Chuck Shima, Kirk Kageno. Back row, Guy Tanodra, Thomas Pregana, Randolph Doctorello Jr., David Murakami, Jonathan Lee, Derek Hirao, Ricky Key, Franklin Phillips Jr.



Hilo: Flanked by Val Ceria and Reggie Castanares, Ronald Ho (55 years), Jeffery Nishimoto, Kenneth Toguchi (45 years), Maurice Johnson, Eric Marushige (35 years), James Kualii, Leroy Perez, Rylan Tanaka (30 years), Roy Okamoto (25 years).

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40 Years (4)

Clarence J. Ing, Jacinto L. Lagazo, Earl N. Mauricio, Allan E. Tokoro.

45 Years (18)

Leonard Aiona, Eric Y. Amii, Ronald Y. Arakaki, Philip C. Castro, Craig M. Fukunaga, Barny J. Gomes, Henry M. Hasegawa Jr., Dennis Jose, Arthur M. Kukua Jr., Rodney D. Nicely, Jeffery M. Nishimoto, Stuart S. Osedo, Barney S. Takata, Roger Takeuchi, Wallace K. Tamashiro, Kenneth Y. Tanaka, Kenneth A. Toguchi, Ronald Y. Tomita.

50 Years (8)

Brian C. Benton, Edward D. Freitas, Harry S. Hara Jr., George Hokama, Milton K. Kam, Albert L. Kaopuiki, Jack D. McWherter Jr., Kenneth Oyama.

55 Years (13)

Nelson Cayetano, Warren Q. Chang, Glennwood C. Dias, Ronald J. Ho, Paul H. Kagami, Donald S. Lung, A.R. Nascimento, Kenneth Nishibata, Andy M. Nobu, Franklin C. Phillips, Raymond Rodrigues, Ronald S. Shiira, James K. Yogi.

60 Years (8)

Masao Hirano, Kenneth K. Ishii, George P. Mahelona, Frank S. Masaki, Richard K. Nakaganeku, Herbert H. Ochiai, Toshio Shimahara, Kenneth H. Yoshimatsu.

65 Years (1)

Rodrigo Molina.

Oahu Ohana Conference

Agencies Enthrall Families on Benefits Provided

Eager tots sat down propping a single arm for blood pressure readings as moms watched, anxious for clues regarding their physical well-being. Members feel relieved about the testing even if their youngsters undergo similar exams several times yearly.

“Such diagnosis from agencies like Urgent Care are available where members reside and see such services an important benefit,” said business manager **Reggie Castanares**.

Such conferences, like the one for Oahu-based families at the Dole Pomaikai Ballroom are held in the “backyards” of members. The venue is a popular setting for all the Union’s benefits providers. Even the keiki are accommodated with fun activities. “What’s appealing is the one-on-one relationship for the provider with each individual desiring personal information,” observed retiree **Stanley Chun**.

The event also gives attendees an opportunity to inform families of other timely concerns. For example, Union-backed politicians are invited to meet attendees.

Noted **Matthew Brady**, who emceed at the Oahu gathering: “We’re elated to meet personally with those we support.” Candidates present in October were mayor aspirant **Charles Djou**, Congresswoman **Tulsi Gabbard**, state senator **Donna Kim** and house member **Henry Aquino**.



The “hui” behind the benefits conference, trustees on the joint Local 675-PAMCAH board, from left, Tracy Tanouye, Matt Brady, Kent Matsuzaki, Reggie Castanares, Val Ceria, Mark Suzuki, and Gregg Serikaku (missing-Sam Fujikawa).



Part of the “beef” behind the strength of our trades, the training staff (with spouses alongside), Cara and Rondon Numasaki, Charles Shima, Kirk and Lori Kageno.



Retirees Jonathan Lee and Stanley Chun show delight on their names pulled for their Samsung TV awards.



Oahu (25 Years): Front row, Chris Rabanes, Brandt Watanabe, Perry Asato, Steven Daguay, Scott Nishikawa. Back row, Shelton Alcantra, Alex Asis.



Kona: Mike Sagert, Clyde Sakata (25 Years)

Union's Oahu Fall Benefits Conference Attracts Hundreds



"Start your nest egg with us," Central Pacific Bank reps Shanese Kaneshiro, Colleen Cheung and Arvin Dy plead persuasively.



Urgent Care Hawaii enjoys a busy day checking the blood pressure of health-concerned visitors.



The Plumbers Union table manned by Jenny Lee, Amy and Ava Lee-Ortega offers sweets and programs.



A member and family check out the offerings of Party Pix Hawaii.



Attendees are greeted at the entry by Jocelyn Thomas of the Training Office, and Charlene Passion and Debra Manuel of the Benefits Administrative Office.



Kristin Bryant representing her law office far right, and Beth Lapenia describe the services of Sweep Strategies.

Empowering Your Credit Union for Your Personal Benefit

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Governor, Funding Heads Agree

Repairs, Education Top Budget Items

Government is much like a family when preparing a new year budget. Both review the past year's income and spending and ensure bold action on needs overdue.

"That's the perennial challenge," contends State Rep. **Sylvia Luke**, readying for her fifth year as House finance chairwoman. The legislature convenes its new session Jan. 20.

"My committee colleagues are conscientious and positive about issues of major public concern and have started work on them," she enthused.

Luke equates her job as that of a household head, sharing responsibilities and information her cohorts need to come up with meaningful solutions. "The staff by any measure for its task considered small, includes seven year-round regulars plus 13 hired just during the session," she pointed out.

She and her Senate counterpart, **Jill Tokuda**, envision the 2017 budget closely matching the \$13 billion budget passed this year when lawmakers relied on \$7 billion stemming from state sources and the \$6 billion balance raised

elsewhere, principally the federal arm.

Governor **David Ige** meanwhile has indicated the past year's budget surplus, roughly \$1 billion, has been nearly spent, to the chagrin of public unions expecting pay hikes. The governor's executive (2017-18) budget plans a sizeable increase in funding for education targeting classroom facilities and

infrastructure repairs, both also priorities with the legislative majority.

Luke suggested, in addition, that testimony over extended periods by advocacy groups seeking funding support could help themselves by relying on a designated person to minimize mixed impressions.

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3. Allow up to six to eight weeks to see cash rewards directly deposited into your credit union account.

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Chairs Named for Coming Year

The new year is expected to see chair turnovers at the Legislature and City Council for most committees.

The City Council's major change involves its current chair, Ernie Martin, being replaced by Ron Menor, head of a coalition behind Mayor Kirk Caldwell's agenda.

Likely new chairs: Budget, Joey Manahan; Zoning, Kymberly Pine; Transportation/Planning, Ikaika Anderson.

In the state senate, new chairs will include: Housing, Will Espero; Economic Development, Tourism & Technology, Glenn Wakai; Water & Land, Karl Rhoads; Agriculture/Environment, Mike Gabbard; Human Services, Josh Green; Higher Education, Kai Kahele; Education, Michelle Kidani; Government Operations, Donna Kim; International Affairs and the Arts, Brian Taniguchi; Judiciary & Labor, Gil Keith-Agaran; and Transportation & Energy, Lorraine Inouye.

Chair holdovers are: Ways & Means, Jill Tokuda; Commerce & Consumer Protection, Rosalyn Baker; Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs, Clarence Nishihara; Hawaiian Affairs, Maile Shimabukuro; and Senate President, Ron Kouchi.

House Speaker Joe Souki as of this hour has not disclosed if he plans chair changes.



To Cherish with pride
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Reginald Castanares
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Valentino Ceria
President

Matthew Brady
Vice President

Tracy Tanouye
Recording Secretary

Jordan Dawson
Sentry

Send Contributions/questions regarding Ha'aheo 675 to Editor, Elroy Chun

**Plumbers and Fitters
United Association
Local 675**

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level
Honolulu, HI 96813



Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Monday, January 9, 2017
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
KONA RAP SESSION
Kahakai Elementary School

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
HILO RAP SESSION
Waiakea Intermediate School

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 6, 2017
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
MAUI RAP SESSION
Maui Community College

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
KAUAI RAP SESSION
Kauai Community College

Monday, February 20, 2017
Presidents' Day - Great Aloha Run

MARCH

Monday, March 6, 2017
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Washington Middle School-Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
KONA RAP SESSION
Kahakai Elementary School

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
HILO RAP SESSION
Waiakea Intermediate School

Retirees Name Three New Officers

The **Local 675 Retirees Club** elected three new officers for two-year terms: Vice president, **Derek Hirao**; Secretary, **Elpidio Tivera**; and Director, **Alan Arakaki**.

President **Willy Kanno** noted that business manager **Reggie Castanares** is currently reviewing the status of the Union's pension fund. Members who manned the club booth at the recent Union benefits conference were thanked.

8 New Pensioners Welcomed

Congratulations to latest retirees:

Raymond M. Akimoto	06/01/16
Ryan Y. Asato	08/01/16
Ted T. Ikeda	05/01/16
Daryl A. Ito	08/01/16
Kevin M. Mahelona	08/01/16
Earl S. Ono	07/01/16
Sean S. Tania	08/01/16
Sheldon Y. Tokoro	07/01/16

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

Masao Hirano	10/08/16
Takeshi Kaita	08/09/16
Stanley Kim	09/18/16
Thomas Matsuzaki	11/12/16
Jace Oyama	11/21/16
James Saito	11/19/16
Aldrich Visitation	09/11/16
Jason Yamashiro	08/30/16
Kenneth Yoshimatsu	06/03/16

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Pension, Annuity
Vacation & Holiday

Apprenticeship Training Office 456-0585
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Honolulu, HI 96813

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