



# Ha'aheo 675

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

## Embracing the Past and Welcoming the New Year



Celebrating 60 years of service (l-r with leis): **John Nagasawa**, **Thomas Kawamura**, **David Hee**, **Leonard Low**, and **Ernie Kondo**, along with officers **Benjamin Panis**, **Valentino Ceria**, and **Matthew Brady**.



70 years of service awardee **James Castro** and 65 years of service awardee **Alvin Alana** with Business Manager **Valentino Ceria**.

The year ended with the last General Membership Meeting and Holiday Dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The headliner for the celebration was Grammy nominated **Henry Kapon** and **Friends** who played a mixture of his greatest hits and Christmas songs. The Union members and guests stayed till the very end to enjoy the surprise concert.

Besides having the legendary **Kapon** on board, **Rodney Villanueva**, comedian emcee, had the audience roaring with laughter as he made his way through the agenda. He introduced Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** to give his year-end report, and in amazement said, "I can't believe he memorized

the whole thing!" (see Business Manager's Message).

The more than 800 members and guests enjoyed the entertainment, food, camaraderie, and of course, all the door prizes that were given out throughout the night. Every prize was \$50 or more – all gift cards or cash. The lucky grand prize winner received a \$1,000 gift card from Costco. "This year the entertainment was the best ever, the food was good, and most of all I won a prize!" said Brother Tracy Tanouye.

The service awards recipients who attended the festive holiday dinner celebration were honored for their years of dedicated service starting from 25 years with the Union, and five-year increments thereafter. Members who reach 50 years of

service with the Union receive a gold UA watch and receive the high honor of lifetime member status, not having to pay Union dues anymore. The highest service was 70 years awarded to **James Castro**, shown in the above photo, **Gilbert Masuda**, and **Thomas Nakano** who were not present.

The Neighbor Island holiday dinners were held in early December and service award recipients were also honored on each island. Photos of the recipients who were in attendance are posted on Pages 6 and 7 with the total listing of awardees on Page 7.

The year came to an end with successes, accomplishments and celebrations, as we welcome in a bright new year!



## Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



*Business Manager/FST Valentino Ceria was honored by Honolulu Community College for his achievements as a graduate of HCC, at the Honolulu Country Club in October.*

Happy New Year to the members and ohana!

I want to thank you all for your loyalty and support, working together through times of difficulty, and for managing to make the past year a successful one.

Let me recap the year by first addressing the tragic wildfire devastation in **Lahaina** which is still in our thoughts

and prayers. Unfortunately, four of our members lost their homes and belongings. The Union purchased supplies along with some of our contractors and was able to help our members and their families with the donated items. The Agents and I traveled to Maui to help with the distribution of the purchased supplies. UA General President **Mark McManus** and General Secretary-Treasurer **Patrick Kellett** called me, as well as business managers from other sister locals across the mainland offering support. We created an account called the **Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Maui Fire Special Fund** where people as well as the mainland UA local unions could donate monies to support those affected. UA International Representative **Aaron Stockwell** flew to **Maui** and personally presented checks from the **UA Relief Fund** to the four members who were impacted by the fire. We received checks from various UA locals and even one from our brothers and sisters from the **UA Canadian Office**. I'm glad that I was able to personally thank General President **McManus** and the Canadian Director **Terence Snooks**, when I attended the **UA-MCAA** conference in September. Just this past October, we had the **Maui Relief Benefit Event** which replaced the Labor Unity Picnic this year. Donations from this Halloween-themed event went toward union members devastated in **Lahaina**.

In the beginning of 2023, we celebrated with our new **Governor Josh Green** and **Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke** whom we had committed to with early endorsements. We send out endorsements of candidates in our newsletter every year. I cannot stress enough the importance for our members and family to go out and vote for the candidates we support. If we have the right people in office who are pro-labor then it makes it easier for us when we fight for, or against bills that affect our trades in the construction industry.

Also at the beginning of the year, I signed a Project Agreement for the **Dry Dock 3 Replacement Project** at **Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard** which is now underway. A joint venture between **Dragados/Hawaiian Dredging/Orion JV** will build the \$2.8 billion **Dry Dock 5**, a new larger graving dock.

**Hawaiian Dredging** will be needing pipefitters targeted for early 2025, so we will need to prepare for that.

As you know **Kakaako** is booming with new condo projects still coming up. When you pass there you can see all the new buildings which are part of **Howard Hughes Corp.'s** 60-acre master-planned community, with nine mixed-use residential towers. There is a lot of work still coming up in **Kakaako** and all around Oahu. The Neighbor Islands are also busy and are monitored by our business agents assigned to their respective islands. **Matt Brady** for Hilo, **Sam Barrett, Jr.** for Kona, **Ben Panis** for Maui, and **Lance Hayashi** for Kauai. So outlook for construction state-wide is still going very strong into the year.

We were happy to sign **four** new contractors we organized to add to our list of Signatory Contractors. **Plumbing & Solar Systems of Maui**, **Best Plumbing & Electric, LLC**, **Superior Plumbing Service, LLC**, and **Michels Pipeline, Inc.** The new contractors bring in considerably more work so that our membership can be gainfully employed.

The Union made a significant purchase this year by acquiring a building and property in **Aiea**. It was the home of the old Holsum Bakery Distribution Center across from Anna Millers Restaurant. The large building sits on a 2.5-acre fee-simple lot, with lots of parking. It will be renovated to accommodate the new **Training Facility**, whose lease at **Iwilei** will end in 2026. The focus now is the **Training Facility** renovation but eventually, the **Union Office** as well as the **Trust Fund Administration Office** will be moving to the new location. For now, it's business as usual at our current locations.

I am happy to announce that the **Local 675 By-Laws** has been completed thanks to our President, Brother **Matt Brady** who worked all year spearheading the revision and the **By-Laws** committee, to revise the **By-Laws** that was last revised in 1980. It was approved by the **United Association**, legal counsel, and the members who attended the General Membership Meetings. So, this was a major accomplishment. The **By-Laws** should be mailed out this year.

Also, great news regarding the **Pension**. The benefit unit dollar credit value, voted on by the **Trustees**, is now **\$100** for the **August 2022 – July 2023** fiscal year, instead of the **\$48** base. Hopefully, the market stays up, into the new year.

At this time, I would like to congratulate the 12 worthy recipients of the **Local 675 Imi Loa Scholarship** who were showcased in the last **Ha'aheo** newsletter. To date, we awarded **\$122,500** in scholarships since 2013. We increased the scholarship dollar amount from \$1,000 to **\$1,500**. For the 2024 scholarships, the application will be posted and available to download on our website, **plumbershawaii.com**, beginning of **March 2024**.

In closing, I hope to see more of you at the Union meetings and Union functions. Let's be more proactive this year, more involved, more supportive, and that's how we start to build a stronger Union. Please be safe, stay healthy, and I wish you all a joyful New Year!

# TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 2024

## APPRENTICESHIP DATES

### Spring 2024

Start Classes January 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

### Recruitment Testing –

(Plumbershawaii.com to apply)

January 26<sup>th</sup>

### Graduation (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Hilton Hawaiian Village

### Fall 2024

Start Classes August 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

## MEDICAL GAS CERTIFICATION – IWILEI TRAINING FACILITY

40 HR –  
32 HR INSTRUCTIONAL,  
8 HR HANDS ON EXAM

\*Please call training for availability.

## BACKFLOW CLASSES – PEARL CITY TRAINING FACILITY

### BACKFLOW CERTIFICATION – 40HR

January 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

April 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

July 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

October 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

### BACKFLOW RE-CERTIFICATION – 16HR

January 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

April 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

July 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

October 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>

## SECTION 608 TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION (EPA)

### OAHU

February 24<sup>th</sup>

May 18<sup>th</sup>

August 31<sup>st</sup>

November 23<sup>rd</sup>

### OUTER ISLAND

\*Please call training for availability

## FIRST AID / CPR CLASS – ALL ISLANDS

### OAHU

June / July – Saturday classes

### BIG ISLAND

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Hilo (Manono Campus)

### MAUI

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Maui College

### KAUAI

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Kauai Community College

## NFPA 70E (ARC FLASH) CERTIFICATION

### OAHU

May 11<sup>th</sup>

## FLAMMABLE AND MILDLY FLAMMABLE REFRIGERANT (LOW GWP REFRIGERANT SAFETY)

### OAHU

June 15<sup>th</sup>

**PLEASE CONTACT THE TRAINING OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (808-456-0585). SPACE IS LIMITED FOR ALL CLASSES. PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN THE CLASS.**

# Retiree Club Welcomes Humana Group Medicare



Retirees listen to Humana representatives (l-r) Justin Puckett-Market Leader, Joselyn Li-Provider Engagement, and Herman Hoi-Broker Relationship Mgr, Hawaii, along with our Trust Fund Administrator Erinn Liu and Asst Administrator Jaimme Hayakawa.



Retiree President Jonathan Lee receives a check for \$5,000 for the Retiree Club from Business Manager Valentino Ceria on behalf of Local 675.

At the Retiree Club Meeting in November, Humana representatives attended to answer any questions or concerns from the retirees regarding the Humana Group Medicare PPO (Preferred Provider Organization) plan. Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** along with his staff, business agents, **Matthew Brady, Benjamin Panis, Samuel Barrett, Jr., and Lance Hayashi**. Trust Fund Administrator, **Erinn Liu** and Assistant Administrator **Jaimme Hayakawa** were also present to address any questions or inquiries. They discussed PPO benefits, additional benefits, hospital care, physician and facility services. This Humana plan is for those members on Medicare only. If you have questions about your plan, check your Evidence of Coverage document or call the Human Group Medicare Customer Care team at **888-908-6518, M-F, 7a.m.-7p.m.**, Hawaii time. For additional tools and resources, visit [Humana.com/GroupRetirees](https://www.humana.com/GroupRetirees).

## In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

- Michael R. Bourke.....10/8/23
- Melvin T. Tawata.....11/14/23
- Kenneth Ishii ..... 12/4/23

## NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

- James Kualii .....9/1/23
- Robert Koscik.....9/1/23
- John Tanaka .....9/1/23
- Joe Gamatero..... 10/1/23
- Mason Makishima ..... 10/1/23



# Labor Unity for Maui Relief – In Support of Our Community

The **Maui Relief Benefit Event** (in place of the Labor Unity Picnic for 2023) was held on October 28 at the Waikiki Shell. There were a variety of food tents, treats at all the Union tents, games for the kids, and continuous live music on stage throughout the night. Local 675 once again served the popular refreshing Samurai ice cream and Ju-Mui icy pops. "This year we added something new – the beanbag toss game, poop-shaped beanbags with the open toilet bowl as the target. Kids as well as the adults had fun playing the game for prizes," said Business Agent **Sam Barrett, Jr.** who spear-headed the Union's participation. Business Manager **Val Ceria** commented, "I think everyone enjoyed themselves at this Halloween-themed fundraiser to benefit the members affected by the **Maui** wildfires. This worthy event was all free for our Union members and their families."





# Community, Our Ohana





# Congratulations to All the Service Award Recipients

## Oahu



**25 years:** (l-r with leis) **Douglas Ota, Elmer Yasay, Daven Suzuki,** and **Dean Kobashigawa,** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



**30 years:** (l-r with leis) **Rick Curran, Gavin Villafuerte, Troy Higashi,** and **Gregory Kaya,** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



**35 years:** (l-r) **Todd Shelton, Cliff Sasano, Gavin Konishi, Douglas Kekona, Chad Kamibayashi, Norman Taylor, Brian Kimura,** and **Samuel Barrett, Jr.** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



**40 years:** **Gary Nam** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



**45 years:** **Aleann Kaopuiki** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



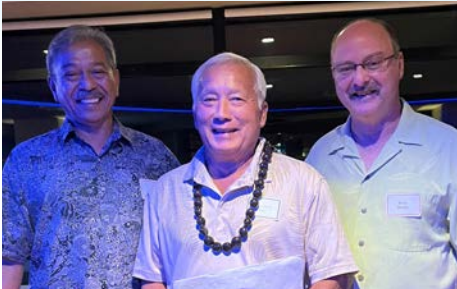
**50 years:** **Arnold Hatzenbuhler** and **Donovan Lewis,** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



**55 years:** **Mike Kurashima, Edwin Sugai,** and **Elpidio Tivera** with officers Ben Panis, Val Ceria, and Matt Brady.



# Neighbor Island Holiday Celebrations



**Kauai** – Business Manager Val Ceria and President Matt Brady congratulate **Stanford Lau (55 years)**.



**Kona** – Business Manager Val Ceria and President Matt Brady congratulate **James Morton (60 years)** and **Tracy Pokipala (30 years)**.



**Hilo** – Business Manager Val Ceria and VP Ben Panis congratulate **Marc Miyasato (30 years)** and **Scot Minemoto (40 years)**.



**Maui** – **Raymond Silva, Jr. (30 years)** and **Wally Heirakuji (60 years)** with Business Manager Val Ceria and President Matt Brady.



**Maui** – Business Agent **Ben Panis** emceed while (l-r) Asst Trng Coordinator **Ronden Numasaki**, Bus Agent **Sam Barrett, Jr.**, Office Manager **Jenny Lee**, and Asst Trng Coordinator **Westin Alcover** assist with the prizes.

## Honoring the 2023 Service Awards Recipients

### 25 YEARS

ALBERT ANDRADE, IV  
RYAN K CHING  
BLANE T FURUTA  
COSME N GANIR JR  
JAMIE K HAGIO  
KAMAKALANI HAN  
RYDE I HIRANAKA  
TODD M KAJIWARA  
DEAN Y KOBASHIGAWA  
DUKE K MIER  
ROY T MIYASAKI  
LESTER K OMURA  
DOUGLAS T OTA  
JOEL PP REYES  
TODD H SUGITA  
DAVEN H SUZUKI  
VANERD T WICKLUND  
ELMER E YASAY

### 30 YEARS

ALAN D ABELLA  
LAYTON AGON  
RUBEN A CABANIERO  
EDWARD B CALLEJO  
JAVIER A COBAR  
RICHARD P CURRAN JR.  
JEFFREY D HARRIS  
BRYAN N HAYASHI  
WAYDE T HAYASHI  
TROY A HIGASHI  
KEN T KAIO  
GREGORY Y KAYA  
TROY S KOBASHIGAWA  
TOM KOCO  
PATRICK J LUTAO  
KEVIN A MAKIZURU  
KELLY SCH MIYAHIRA  
MARC N MIYASATO  
GARRETT M NOBU  
LON H OKINO  
ROBERT PAGAN, SR.

### CURTIS PATTERSON, JR.

TRACY POKIPALA  
JASON M RODRIGUES  
RAYMOND C SILVA JR  
GAVIN D VILLAFUERTE  
KEITH K YAGI

### 35 YEARS

PABLO K ANTOLIN  
SAMUEL E BARRETT, JR.  
ROBERT BK BISHOP  
KEONI J CANO  
RAY V FONTANILLA  
DEAN FREITAS  
GLENN H FUCHIGAMI  
DAVID K HEE  
WENDALL K KAILIHIWA  
CHAD S KAMIBAYASHI  
DOUGLAS K KEKONA  
BRIAN T KIMURA  
ERIC L KONDO  
GAVIN S KONISHI  
GARRETT HW LUM  
JOEY T NAKAGAWA  
ANDREW A NAKASONE  
ROBBIE A OKAZAKI  
GLENN P OLARTI  
RUSSELL H OYAMA  
JOHN POLISCHECK, JR.  
BRIAN P RONQUILIO  
CLIFFORD Y SASANO  
TODD A SHELTON  
ALEX S SHITABATA  
CLAY A SHITO  
NORMAN A TAYLOR, JR.  
JUANTEZ J WILLIAMS  
KEN Y YOSHIDA  
GALEN H YOSHINAGA

### 40 YEARS

ALAN K ARAKAKI  
RAYNOLD J CORREIA

### KENNETH M HAYASHI

HERMAN KJ KANG  
WESLEY T KUROIWA  
WOO IK LEE  
SCOT M MINEMOTO  
GARY O NAM  
TERRY H OYE

### 45 YEARS

STEVEN J FUJITA  
GARY I HARAGUCHI  
ANGUS S KANESHIRO, JR.  
ALENN M KAOPUIKI  
DAN KAWAMOTO  
ERROL T OKUNO  
WALTER S OSHIRO  
JOHN P ROSARIO

### 50 YEARS

WESLEY T HAMASAKI  
ARNOLD HATZENBUHLER  
DONOVAN E LEWIS  
CLYDE M MINAMISHIN  
SCOTT S MINESHIMA  
WAYNE F NAKAGAWA  
ROBERT NECEDA  
CALVIN K NOMURA  
JAMES VALDEZ  
JOEL YANAGIDA

### 55 YEARS

STEVEN K ANGAY  
CHARLES TL CHUNG, III  
EARL D DE SILVA  
ROY P FREITAS  
WAYNE H KAWAKAMI  
MICHAEL A KIYABU  
RICHARD J KUNIYOSHI  
MICHAEL W KURASHIMA  
RONALD LH LAU  
STANFORD GL LAU  
CLAYTON H MACHADO

### MYLES H MISHIMA

ALLAN H MURAKAMI  
ROBERT NAGAMINE  
GLENN Y NAKASHIMA  
DEREK M OSHIRO  
ALLEN H SAKUOKA  
DANIEL D SHIROMA  
EDWIN S SUGAI  
MARK T TAMASHIRO  
WAYNE KS TANI  
ELPIDIO R TIVERA  
ALVIN K TONOUCHE

### 60 YEARS

DAVID HH HEE  
WALLY M HEIRAKUJI  
THOMAS K KAWAMURA  
ERNIE M KONDO  
EDGAR T LEETEG  
LEONARD L LOW  
JAMES H MORTON  
JOHN L NAGASAWA  
ALLEN T SAGAWA  
KENNETH TSUJI  
ROGER H TYAU

### 65 YEARS

ALVIN J ALANA  
CLARENCE O KAWAMOTO  
ROBERT M MAKIMOTO  
HARRY F NAKAGAWA  
RICHARD M NAKAMA  
GEORGE SUYEMOTO  
MELVIN K TAWATA  
WALLACE T YAMASHITA

### 70 YEARS

JAMES CASTRO  
GILBERT MASUDA  
THOMAS NAKANO



Ha'aeo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Association, Local 675  
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**VALENTINO CERIA**  
*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'aeo 675 to the editor (808) 536-5454*

## Plumbers and Fitters United Association Local 675

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## News from Local 675 Retiree Club

The next Retiree Club Meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** (breakfast) at the **Mililani Golf Clubhouse**. Meeting starts at **9:00 a.m.**

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.

<b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	<b>JANUARY</b>	Monday, January 8, 2024 <b>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> Washington Middle School Cafeteria	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Monday, February 5, 2024 <b>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> Washington Middle School Cafeteria	<b>MARCH</b>	Monday, March 4, 2024 <b>GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> Washington Middle School Cafeteria
	Tuesday, January 9, 2024 <b>KONA RAP SESSION</b> Hawaii Community College	Tuesday, February 6, 2024 <b>MAUI RAP SESSION</b> Maui Community College		Tuesday, March 5, 2024 <b>KONA RAP SESSION</b> Hawaii Community College		
	Wednesday, January 10, 2024 <b>HILO RAP SESSION</b> Waiakea Intermediate School	Wednesday, February 7, 2024 <b>KAUAI RAP SESSION</b> Kauai Community College		Wednesday, March 6, 2024 <b>HILO RAP SESSION</b> Waiakea Intermediate School		

<b>CONNECT WITH US</b>	<b>LOCAL 675 UNION OFFICE</b>	<b>TRUST FUND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b>	<b>APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING OFFICE</b>	<b>CREDIT UNION</b>
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