



Ha'aheo 675

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

Union's Imi Loa Foundation 2023 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the **twelve** scholarship recipients of the **2023 Plumbers and Fitters Local 675 Imi Loa Foundation Scholarship Fund**. The students were awarded scholarships of **\$1,500** from the Foundation, funded by the Union-Employer negotiated contribution from each contractor of Local 675. Here are the deserving recipients:



Jessika Alexis Agcaoili



Riley Mae Bockrath



Cairah Upulelei Curran



Alyssa Hirayama



Rae Yoshie Kamikawa



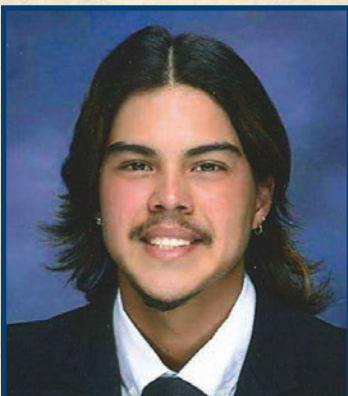
Brooke Ai Kimura



Ryanne Maila Padayhag



Malia Quitoles



Jonah Richardson



Kai Austin Sasaki



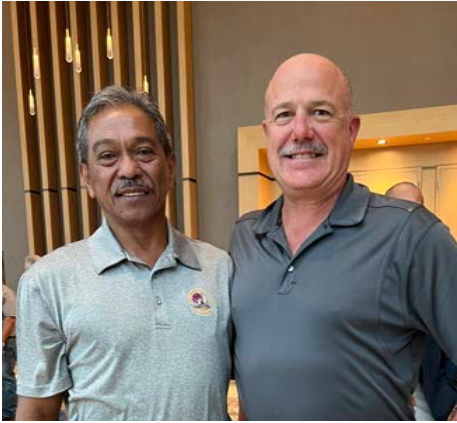
**Jezarae Keohokulani
Teixeira**



Luke Daniel Uganiza

(continued on page 3)

Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



Business Manager Valentino Ceria with UA's International Repr. Aaron Stockwell.

We are all still very heartbroken by the tragic wildfires and devastation in **Lahaina**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families for their loss. We reached out to our members who were affected by the tragedy and stepped up to give help in any

way that we could. Two members lost their homes and one member living in a rental lost everything. Supplies were purchased by the Union to support those in need and shipped out to **Maui**. Together with the assistance of **Ferguson** and **Gordon Mechanical** for transportation; **Commercial Plumbing** and **Dorvin D. Leis Company** for their contributions and coordinated mobilization sites, we were able to help our members and their families with the donated items. Business agents, **Matt Brady**, **Benji Panis**, **Sam Barrett, Jr.**, along with myself and trust fund administrator **Erinn Liu** and **Wendy Hamada** for health and welfare, were on hand on **Maui** to help with receiving and distribution, and answer any questions from our members. A special mahalo goes out to all those who assisted.

General President **Mark McManus** and General Secretary-Treasurer **Patrick Kellett** both called me from the United Association as well as some of the other locals across the mainland offering support and asking where they could donate to our affected members. We sought legal counsel for this special situation, and it was advised to set up an account, **Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Maui Fire Special Fund**. Checks can be made to this fund and sent to our Union office. I would like to add that we met with our UA International Representative **Aaron Stockwell** on **Maui**, who personally presented checks from the UA Relief Fund to the three members who were impacted from the fire. He also had a check for our **Maui Fire Special Fund**, from his home Local 447, Sacramento, CA. This is a rebuilding time so we urge everyone to do everything they can to support our brothers and sisters on **Maui**.

I would like to inform you that the **Labor Unity Picnic** that we have every Labor Day has been cancelled due to the tragedy on **Maui**. Instead, the LUP committee decided to have a **Labor Unity Maui Relief** event on **Saturday, October 28, 2023** at the **Waikiki Shell**. A flyer with more details will be going out to you prior to the event.

On a happier note, congratulations go out to all the winners of the **Union's Imi Loa Foundation Scholarship Fund**. All the recipients are listed in this newsletter, along with their parents or grandparent.

We also send our congratulations to all the **PAMCA** (Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association) Board of Directors who were recently sworn in at their

Installation Banquet held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. President – **Samuel Fujikawa**, Continental Mechanical; Directors – **Curt Balanay**, Preferred AC Service, **Joseph Barrios**, Alaka'i Mechanical, **Jackson Cheng**, HSI Mechanical, **Darryl Kanno**, Elite Mechanical, **Barry Lai**, Air Central, **Kent Matsuzaki**, Economy Plumbing and AC, **Mark Suzuki**, Commercial Plumbing, and **David Fujikawa**, Construction Management Services (immediate past president). High praise to **Gregg Serikaku**, PAMCA Executive Director who coordinated the whole event.

We were able to sign **Best Plumbing and Electric, LLC** as a new signatory contractor after having a Project Agreement with them back in April. They have many projects which 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 our members working for a while. We also signed **Superior Plumbing Service, LLC** in Ewa, and **Plumbing and Solar Systems of Maui, LLC**.

Recently, I signed a Project Agreement for the **Dry Dock 3 Replacement Project at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard** which is now underway. Awarded the job in March of this year, **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 in about a year from now. The completion date is slated for September 2027.

The revision of our **By-Laws** is done, with the appropriate approvals from the General Membership, the United Association, and our legal counsel. I feel a sense of accomplishment along with President **Matt Brady** and the committee for getting the **By-Laws** up-to-date since the last revision back in 1980. The new **By-Laws** will be mailed out to each member in the near future.

I have good news regarding the purchase of **Local 675's** new building. It took some time to find the right location that would house our **Training Facility** and eventually the **Union Office** and the **Trust Fund Administrative Office**. After going through the due diligence and negotiating a decent price, we now have our new building in **Aiea** with lots of parking space. It was the home of the old Holsum Bakery Distribution Center across from Anna Millers Restaurant. The large building sitting on the 2.5 acre lot will need to be renovated to accommodate the new **Training Facility** whose lease at **Iwilei** will end in 2026. Eventually, the **Union Office** as well as the **Trust Fund Administrative Office** will be moving to the new location. More information will follow as we establish a timeline. For now, business as usual at our current locations.

I need to mention that we had the Union's annual **financial audit** completed in May for 2022 and can officially say there were no findings.

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. Please read the correspondence that was sent out to each member for more information regarding the **Pension Plan Benefit Improvement**.

On that note, as always, stay informed, stay healthy and be safe!

Training News



(l-r) Westin Alcover (Training Coordinator), Christopher Ortogero, Dean Kobashigawa (Head Training Coordinator), George Sapla, Ronden Numasaki (Training Coordinator), Christopher Ponce, Aaron Holtzlider, Raymond Park, and Chuck Shima. **UA Instructor Training, Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

FALL SEMESTER 2023 -

August 7 - 8th was the start of the Apprenticeship Program for the Fall Semester. There was a total of 274 apprentices on Oahu and 78 on the Outer Islands. As apprentices return to school, they look forward to learning new skills and gaining knowledge in their specific trades.

UA INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

- On August 10 - 19th, Local 675 Instructors and Training Coordinators attended the 69th Annual UA Instructor Training Program in **Ann Arbor, Michigan**. Each instructor took

courses and certification classes in their respective trades. Among the classes that were taken, Training will now be offering a **NFPA 70E - Arc Flash Awareness** class next year. A well-deserved congratulations go out to Brother **George Sapla**, who completed and graduated from the Instructor Training Program. "We would also like to thank **George** for his commitment to the 5-year Instructor program and his dedication to Local 675 Apprenticeship Training for the last 12 years," said Head Training Coordinator, **Dean Kobashigawa**.

LOCAL 675 APPRENTICESHIP

INSTAGRAM - Local 675

Apprenticeship Training Program recently created an Instagram Page. Brother Dean mentioned, "The Local 675 Apprenticeship Instagram page showcases the great work that is being done out there in the field by our apprentices and members. We also post information about upcoming events, reminders, and testing that Training will be conducting." Check it out and see what the Local 675 Apprenticeship Training Program is all about by scanning the **QR code** on Page 4.

Scholarship

(continued from Page 1)

Jessika Alexis Agcaoili - Honolulu, Oahu (**Pearl City High School**). Granddaughter of **Vernon Tyau** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Lifetime Retiree. Accepted by Chaminade University/Northern AZ University/Colorado State University. **Major** - Interior Design.

Riley Mae Bockrath - Hilo, Hawaii (**Waiakea High School**). Daughter of **Dustin Bockrath** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Hawaii Sheetmetal & Mech Inc., and **Christelle Bockrath**. Accepted by University of Pittsburgh/Penn State/UMASS Amherst. **Major** - Biological Sciences.

Cairah Upulelei Curran - Ewa Beach, Oahu (**Campbell High School**). Daughter of **Richard Curran** (member) Sprinkler Ftr JM - Dorvin D Leis, and **Chameka Curran**. Accepted by Santa Clara University. **Major** - Exercise Science.

Alyssa Hirayama - Ewa Beach, Oahu (**Campbell High School**). Daughter of **Brian Hirayama** (member) Sprinkler Ftr JM - Commercial Plumbing, and **Amber Brown**.

Accepted by West Oahu University/UH Hilo/Hawaii Pacific University. **Major** - Broadcast/Production/General Arts.

Rae Yoshie Kamikawa - Honolulu, Oahu (**Punahou School**). Daughter of **Reed Kamikawa** (member) and **Tricia Kamikawa**. Accepted by Pitzer College. **Major** - Neuroscience/Psychology.

Brooke Ai Kimura - Honolulu, Oahu (**Maryknoll School**). Daughter of **Brian Kimura** (member) Plumber JM - TNH Plumbing, and **Alissa Kimura**. Accepted by Whitworth University. **Major** - Kinesiology/Pre-Occupational Therapy.

Ryanne Maila Padayhag - Ewa Beach, Oahu (**Campbell High School**). Daughter of **Julian Padayhag** (member) Plumber JM - Commercial Plumbing, and **Jennifer Padayhag**. Accepted by Soka University/Purdue University/Fisher College. **Major** - Life Sciences/Pre-Med.

Malia Quitoles - Mililani, Oahu (**Mililani High School**). Daughter of **Valeriano Quitoles Jr.** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Continental Mechanical Services, and **Annabelle Edu**.

Accepted by UCLA. **Major** - Biochemistry (Medical).

Jonah Richardson - Wailuku, Maui (**Mau High School**). Son of **Jason Richardson** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Heide & Cook, LLC, and **Michelle Richardson**. Accepted by Arizona Western College. **Major** - Undecided.

Kai Austin Sasaki - Honolulu, Oahu (**Punahou School**). Son of **Roger Sasaki** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Air Central Inc., and **Maria Aihara-Sasaki**. Accepted by University of San Francisco. **Major** - Business.

Jezarae Keohokulani Teixeira - Ewa Beach, Oahu (**Campbell High School**). Granddaughter of **Donovan Lewis** (member) Plumber JM - Lifetime Retiree. Accepted by Leeward Community College/UH Hilo/UH Manoa. **Major** - Liberal Arts/ Business.

Luke Daniel Uganiza - Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (**Kealahene High School**). Son of **Alexander Uganiza** (member) Refr Ftr JM - Owner-Journeyman, and **Lucia Uganiza**. Accepted by California Aeronautical University. **Major** - Aeronautics.



PLUMBERS & FITTERS APPRENTICESHIP

PAMCAH-UA LOCAL 675

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- STEAMFITTER WELDER

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Maui Benefit Relief



(l-r) Business Manager Val Ceria, Business Agent/Repr for Maui Benji Panis, Waylon Bacos, Curtis Kunishige, Iokepa Auwae, and UA International Representative-CA/HI Aaron Stockwell. The three Maui members were presented checks from the UA.

Local 675 donated three to four pallets of food and supplies each, to two sites for those members and families in need on Maui. "Many thanks go out to **Commercial Plumbing** and **Dorvin D. Leis** for their tremendous donations, and their organization and site distribution of the goods. We also thank **Gordon Mechanical** for transporting the goods on Oahu and **Ferguson** for the transportation on Maui," said Business Manager **Val Ceria**. He added, "We thank our **United Association**

for their assistance in providing check donations to the three **Lahaina** members who lost their homes – Brothers **Waylon Bacos, Curtis Kunishige** and **Iokepa Auwae**. A big mahalo to Brother **Aaron Stockwell**, our International Representative who flew to Maui to meet with us and personally presented the checks to the three members." For those who want to donate, checks can be mailed to the Union Office, made payable to: **Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 Maui Fire Special Fund**.



(Front l-r) BA Matt Brady, BA Sam Barrett, Jr., Scott Saito-Takabayashi, BM Val Ceria, BA Benji Panis, and Jonathan Deguillmo. (Back l-r) Kaha Kauhaahaa, Chris Mabe, Ryan Silva, and Sean Rabang. Commercial Plumbing Warehouse on Maui.



*Goods donated by **Commercial Plumbing** and **Local 675** loaded onto trucks ready for shipping to Maui.*

Members on the Job



(l-r) Mike Bilonta, Dayton Ishimine, Kenny Valdez (sitting), and Ianai Ishimine. **Pan Pacific Mechanical.** Fabricating piping for Guam project.



(l-r) Cowen Takahashi, Quentin Kea, Daniel Dayacos, Richard Devincent, and Rylan Tanaka. **Skippy's Plumbing.** Sage Creamery, Hoopili.



(l-r) Todd Shelton, Donovan Rogers, and Isaac Holbron. **Continental Mechanical-Mechanical Fire Crew.** A/C Marriott.



(l-r) Justin Lam, Alfred Maglinao, Brent Uyeunten, and Eric Piena. **Continental Mechanical.** A/C Marriott.

Melvin Suganuma

(5/11/1930-8/16/2023)



Brother Mel Suganuma with his beloved wife, the late Shirley Suganuma.

The following is a re-print of a story by **Kenny Cabanting** on February 15, 2021 on **HI Now, Growing up in the 'Old Days'**:

Melvin Suganuma grew up in Papakolea in a large mixed Hawaiian and Japanese family. **Suganuma** 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 **Suganuma** 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, and 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. **Suganuma** 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, **Suganuma** recalls the attack vividly. "I'll never forget that day," **Suganuma** said. "The Japanese flew in and were shooting up the place, it was a mess that day." After living through the 'War Days' **Suganuma** 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 **Suganuma** looks back on growing up in 'Old Hawaii' he has just one piece of advice for the next generation. "Work hard," **Suganuma** said. "And live a clean life."

Brother **Mel** was a member of **Local 675** since November 2, 1959, as a pipefitter welder. He retired from the Union Office as a Business Agent and Trustee on January 1, 1999. **Melvin "Mel" Suganuma**, who passed away on August 16, 2023, will always be affectionately remembered as a kind, jolly, and funny guy who loved his wife Shirley, family, his many friends, and lived life to the fullest. We will miss him.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Kauai Holiday Dinner
Sheraton Kauai Resort

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Maui Holiday Dinner
Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Kona Holiday Dinner
Courtyard King Kamehameha Resort

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Hilo Holiday Dinner
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Saturday, December 16, 2023

General Membership Meeting & Holiday Dinner
Hilton Hawaiian Village

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to
the families of deceased members:

Anthony Alterado-Tuquero	2/15/2023
Warren M. LaFrance	6/14/2023
Mike Nua	6/24/2023
Frank T. Shimodoi	7/1/2023
Melvin S.L. Suganuma	8/16/2023

NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the
following pensioners:

Francis Hall	5/1/2023
Ward Kubo	5/1/2023
Mark Smith	5/1/2023
Lance Takara	5/1/2023
Alan Megia	6/1/2023
Brian Miyashiro	6/1/2023
Stanley Gomes	7/1/2023
Alex Shitabata	8/1/2023
Grant Takahashi	8/1/2023



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

www.plumbershawaii.com

VALENTINO CERIA

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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 **November 7th**, 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
MAUI RAP SESSION
Maui Community College

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
KAUAI RAP SESSION
Kauai Community College

Monday, October 16, 2023
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
(NOMINATIONS)**
Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Saturday, October 28, 2023
LABOR UNITY MAUI RELIEF
Waikiki Shell

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 6, 2023
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
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