

CHAPTER NEWS:

KAUAI CHAPTER: EMAIL TIMMY ALBAO AT TLALBAOSR@HAWAIIANTEL.NET

- Monday, May 2, 9:30 AM - Movie Day. RSVP to Joni at 808-245-6751 by April 27
- Monday, June 13, 10 AM - General membership meeting. HGEA conference room

MAUI CHAPTER: EMAIL STEVE CRISS AT STPLSD69@YAHOO.COM

- Friday, April 22, 5 PM - Virtual Bingo. RSVP to Maui office by April 18
- Tuesday, June 14, 9 AM - General membership meeting
- Thursday, July 21, 5 PM - Virtual Bingo. RSVP to Maui office by August 5
- Tuesday, August 9, 5 PM - Hanafuda. RSVP by August 5

HAWAII CHAPTER: EMAIL EVELYN TOGASHI AT ETOGASHI@HAWAII.RR.COM

- Saturday, April 9, 11AM - 4 PM - West Hawaii Civic Center, ti-leaf lei for Memorial Day
Call Rachel at 808-895-0496 for details
- Saturday, April 9, 6 - 8 AM - Special Olympics, Waiakea High, 10 to 15 volunteers needed
Email esiida@netscape.net ASAP
- Friday, April 15 - County of Hawaii Easter, Hilo High School

- Saturday, May 14 - Stamp Out Hunger, site undecided

- Wednesday, June 8 - Chapter Board Meeting
- Wednesday, June 15 - General Membership Meeting
- Wednesday, June 15, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Hilo Hooganji, RSVP to Evelyn 808-959-6727 by June 3

OAHU CHAPTER: EMAIL AVA KRIDLER AT VOLKSWAGONBUG102@CS.COM

All activities begin at 9 AM RSVP to Oahu Office

- Monday, April 4, May 9 & June 6 - BINGO
- Tuesday, April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17 & June 7 & 21 - Tai Chi
- Wednesday, April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18 & June 1 & 15 - Ukulele
- Tuesday, April 12 - Movie Day: Jungle Cruise
- Wednesday, April 13 & 27, May 11 & 25 & June 8 & 22 - Line Dancing
- Thursday, April 14 - Kupē'e Making
- Thursday, April 28, May 26 & June 30 - Craft Class

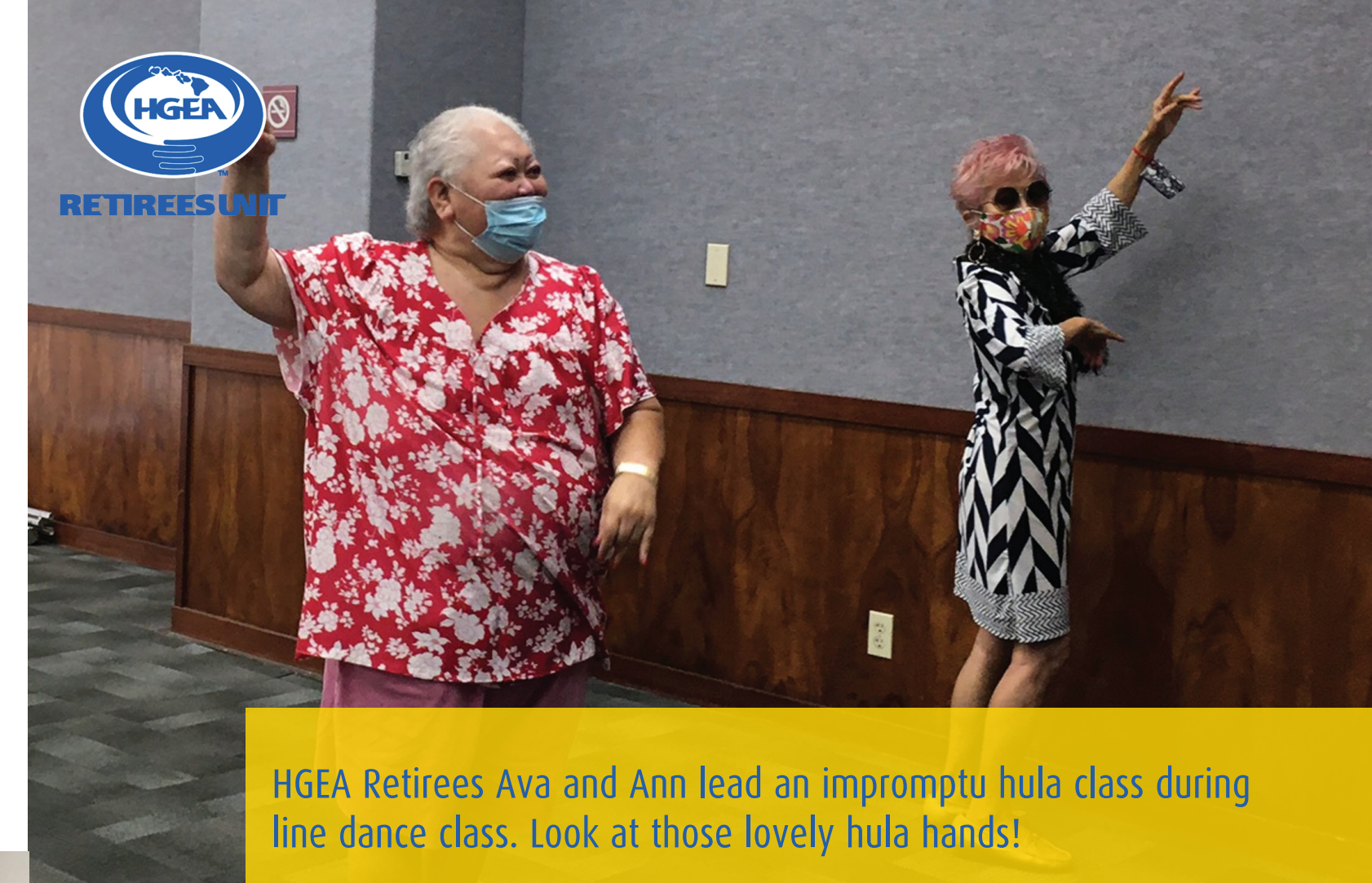
- Thursday, June 9 - Chapter Board Meeting
- Thursday, June 16 - General Membership Meeting

Tuesdays at 8:30 AM. Please call Tammy to confirm. - Mah Jong



Hawaii Government Employees Association
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HGEA Retirees Ava and Ann lead an impromptu hula class during line dance class. Look at those lovely hula hands!



Ti Leaf lei making January 29 at WHi Civic Center

This a photo of our Ti leaf lei making class in West Hawaii that was conducted on January 29, 9 AM - 4 PM. Our retirees were Gay Okada, Claudette Serion, Henriette Chong of Kona and Elsie Iida of Hilo. Actives were Rachel Alices, Jeannie Kutsunai of Kona and Cindy Hara of Hilo.

These leis will be draped for the West Hawaii and Kohala Veterans Cemetery on May 30.

HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR



In the Chinese Zodiac, 2022 is the Year of the Tiger. Tiger people were born in the 12-year cycle from 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 and 2022. A few characteristics are courageous, energetic, love a challenge or competition and are prepared to take risks. I hope we have a lot of Tiger people as we head toward our mid-term elections where your energy will be greatly appreciated.

Before going further, I would like to echo President Lee Saunders message of standing in support with the people of Ukraine in opposition to Russian Aggression. The International Executive Board passed a resolution expressing our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, including a strong condemnation of Putin's aggression and our support for economic sanctions designed to cripple the Russian economy. AFSCME's belief in human rights - wherever in the world they may be threatened- demands that we do what we can. We hope that you will consider a contribution to international relief organizations that are moving humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine.

It was exactly two years ago that HGEA closed to in-person meetings. The Retirees Unit held their State Board of Directors meeting in March 2020 and the next day we went into quarantine mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seniors were the first authorized to get vaccinations and you sure did, understanding the importance to your families and communities. As we now look to conduct in-person meetings and activities, we will only be successful if we continue to "follow the science". For now, mask wearing is optional at all HGEA functions. I do look forward to meeting in person again, sharing a lunch or learning a new skill or idea from our activities. Please call the HGEA offices to RSVP and to check if there are any changes just in case we cancel or postpone an activity due to restrictions.

The 31st legislature began on January 19th with minimal celebration as the Capitol was not opened to the public. The good news is that the Capitol reopened on March 7 but may be adjusted due to evolving Covid19 changes. For HGEA Retirees, there are no take away's to report that would diminish any of your benefits to current members in the ERS. However, there are two bills that would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursement for new hires and their spouses effective July 1.

(Continued on next page...)

There are several bills from the Kupuna Caucus and other senior groups that support Long-term care, assisting caregivers, criminal offenses against seniors and Senator Brian Taniguchi's bill relating to Hawaii Retirement Savings plan for private sector employees that do not have an employer sponsored retirement plan. As you know from our March press conferences, the State Board of Directors approved the endorsement of Josh Green for Governor and Sylvia Luke for Lt. Governor. This action followed the unanimous recommendation from the State Political Action committee made up of members from each unit including the Retirees and Excluded Units. Please watch for our complete list of endorsements as the Island PAC's and State PAC continue their candidate interviews. All the interviews are open to any member, and questions can be submitted to the PAC Committee's on each island.

President Fleming's priority continues to be membership recruitment. I humbly ask each of you to reach out to your former coworkers, family and friends to ask them to join our unit. As I have often stated, we are stronger in numbers. The work didn't end when you retired, so we must continue to be our own advocates to protect our pension and medical benefits. As ERS members, you fought for your hard -earned benefits in your bargaining unit contracts. As retirees that strength comes in numbers, the larger our group is, the stronger our voices are. That makes a world of difference as legislators look to balance budgets. WE have found that when you ask someone one on one to join you as a retiree member of HGEA most people will say yes. Bring a friend with you to our next activity or meeting, share your newsletter with them, call me or any of your chapter board members to meet them. Also I ask you to please join our PEOPLE program for just \$8.40 a month. This AFSCME program is what attempts to level the playing field against the billionaire dollars spent on getting candidates elected. It is another way retirees can participate in the campaign process especially when many cannot get out to canvass or physically help in a campaign. Again call me or any chapter board member to become a PEOPLE member. As Board Director and MVP PEOPLE member Aileen Obina stated many years ago, "she participates in PEOPLE to protect her hard earned benefits and personally asks that you join her in support of this program to protect benefits for all of us". All, 100% of the State Board and Chapter board members and HGEA staff are MVP PEOPLE members. Please join us today! You can send a check payable to PEOPLE for \$100 for a year membership or \$8.40 a month. Include your jacket size and AFSCME will send a green PEOPLE jacket. Thank you in advance of both the Retiree Unit and PEOPLE membership program.

If you are interested in conducting a class from crafting or cooking or sewing, cleaning, pruning, canning drawing or planting, in other words just about anything you are willing to teach, please reach out to me or any chapter board member. It just needs to be done in a classroom type of setting, with supplies that are easily available or provided would also be helpful. This is a great way to get to know other retirees and a great way to bring new members to join our group.

As a reminder, if you are paying a higher Medicare Part B premium (the standard is 170.10 for 2022) please submit your Social Security Administration letter to EUTF, 201 Merchant Street. Ste 1700 Honolulu 96813.

Thank you for your support of the Retirees Unit.

In solidarity,

Mahie

WORDFIND

NCAA teams that won march madness

The first winner, University of Oregon over Ohio State University, 46 - 33, March 27, 1939.

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