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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HGEA awards scholarships to 26 members and dependents

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, the state's largest labor union, recently awarded 26 HGEA Charles R. Kendall and Russell K. Okata Scholarships to HGEA members or dependents who are attending or plan to attend a college, university, or vocational or trade school on a full-time basis. The recipients were selected based on financial need, academic achievement, a personal letter and recommendations.

The following list of 2011-2012 scholarship recipients is divided by island and includes the schools that they are or are planning to attend:

OAHU

\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:

- Thomas K. Cayetano, Central Michigan University - Off Campus Programs
- Tiffany W. Cheung, Princeton University
- AiXiu A. Cooney, Kapiolani Community College
- Brittany K. Kalahiki, Washington State University
- Debra L. Lambert, University of Hawaii - Manoa
- Jovana R.P. Shigetani, University of Hawaii - Manoa
- Allene D. Somera, Oklahoma City University
- Cydnee R. Somera, Union College

\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:

- Alison M. Goo, University of Puget Sound
- Stephen T. Nishihara, University of Hawaii - Manoa
- Kaikuahine K. Respicio, Mesa State College
- Kania A.A. Twyman, Kent State University
- Reid K. Watanabe, University of Hawaii - Maui

(more)

**HGEA 2011-2012 CHARLES R. KENDALL AND RUSSELL K. OKATA
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

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HAWAII

\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:

- Koby K. Carpio-Sugihara, University of Nevada Las Vegas
- Valerie B. Dionne, William S. Richardson School of Law
- Derek K. Kalai, Western Governors University
- Kimberly K. Katada, Loyola Marymount University
- Brooke K. Kise, Northern Arizona University

\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:

- Jordan T. Kaneko, University of Southern California
- Elizabeth S. Lorenzo, Hawaii Pacific University
- Michelle A. Tagorda, University of Hawaii - Manoa

KAUAI

\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:

- Kiah A. Shigeta-Koizumi, Oregon State University
- Mariah Y. Teter, Southern Oregon University
- Reyna E. Teter, Point Loma Nazarene University

\$1,500 Scholarship Recipient:

- Kaitlyn V. Jarry, Purdue University

MAUI

\$2,500 Scholarship Recipient:

- Desiree M. Valencia, University of Hawaii - Manoa

The scholarships are named in honor of former HGEA executive directors Charles R. Kendall and Russell K. Okata, who both worked tirelessly to improve the lives of public employees. In 1966, HGEA established the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship and Education Trust Fund. To date, HGEA has given more than 1,800 awards to deserving individuals. Throughout the year, the HGEA C. R. Kendall Fundraising Committee, composed of HGEA members, holds a variety of events and activities on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island to raise funds for the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship and Education Trust Fund.

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About HGEA

HGEA was founded in 1934 to ensure fair and equitable representation for government employees. HGEA is the largest labor union in Hawaii, with more than 42,000 members. HGEA represents state and county employees in seven bargaining units. HGEA also serves a large associate membership composed primarily of retirees, other state and county employees and officials, and federal and private sector employees.