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Please consider increasing your PEOPLE and Kendall Scholarship contributions by filling out payroll deduction forms that you can get from your state directors. These are additional ways we retirees can support our union, and increase funding to fight cases like *Janus v AFSCME*.

We eagerly await the courts decision but with uneasy feelings especially after reading Adam Liptak's article in the 2/23/18 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* that "the Supreme Court is back to full strength with Trump's appointment of Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, and most observers believe the new justice will join the court's other conservatives to deliver a decision that will hurt public unions." As you recall, the U.S. Senate blocked President Barrack Obama from appointing a Justice with the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia in 2015.

For more information including a Janus Tool Kit, please visit [janusvafscme.org](http://janusvafscme.org).

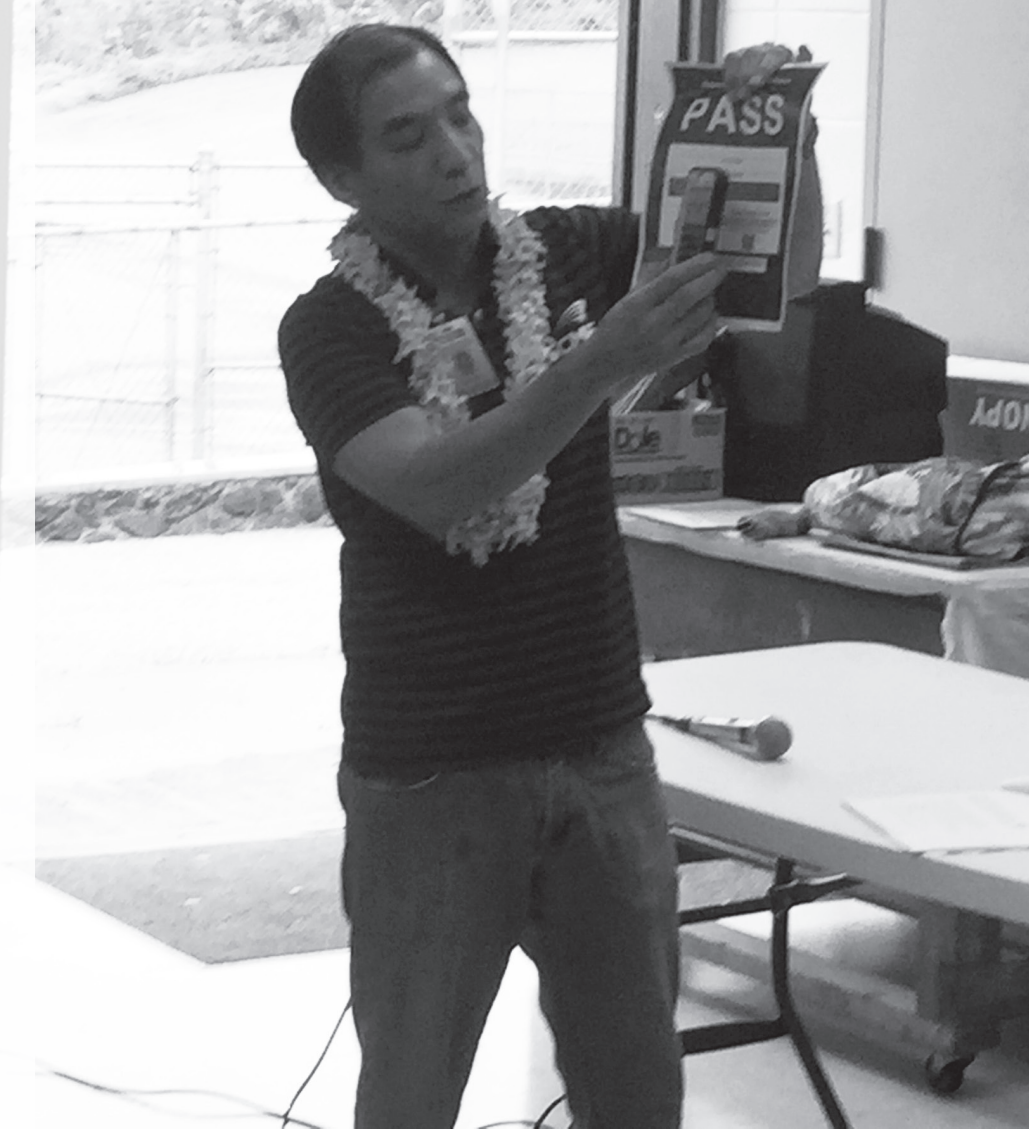
*Trivia information: Janus was a Roman divinity, guardian and deity of gates, commonly represented with two heads (one looks to the future, the other to the past) because every door looks both ways. January was named after Janus.*



Hawaii Government Employees Association  
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Excluded member  
Peter Oshiro  
from the State  
Department of Health  
explains to  
Windward District  
members how the  
statewide placards  
program was  
implemented.



## EUTF REMINDER

EUTF reminds HGEA Retiree members (spouses/partners) enrolled in Medicare Part B to please submit a copy of your Social Security Administration (SSA) letter showing your monthly Medicare Part B premium for 2018 so that you will be reimbursed the correct amount.

For more information, please visit the EUTF website at [eutfhawaii.gov](http://eutfhawaii.gov).

## Statewide Excursion

Interested in going with other HGEA retirees on a Hilo day trip? We are tentatively planning for early summer.

Please contact Tammy at the HGEA office, (808) 543-0054 if you are interested.



Beginner ukulele classes tentatively to begin in May for four weeks. Please contact Tammy at (808) 543-0054 if you are interested.



## WORDFIND national parks week

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| American Samoa | Lake Clark      |
| Big Bend       | Mammoth Cave    |
| Bryce Canyon   | Mount Ranier    |
| Crater Lake    | North Cascades  |
| Death Valley   | Olympic         |
| Everglades     | Pinnacles       |
| Glacier Bay    | Redwood         |
| Grand Canyon   | Rocky Mountains |
| Grand Tetons   | Sequoia         |
| Haleakala      | Shenandoah      |
| Isle Royale    | Yellowstone     |
| Joshua Tree    | Yosemite        |
| Kenai Fjords   | Zion            |

D D B B A I O U Q E S D O O W D E R P J  
 C F M Q O A O B I U N P K I H E K C V H  
 H O O Y Y V H N O T I W B A E A A C Q O  
 G E G N L W O N O N A P O R Y T E Y A Q  
 M N T K V C Q Z N Y T D T H Z H K C L U  
 K R A L C E K A L G N A F K B V A G E O  
 J E O X Z V C N K A U A S A A A L L U W  
 D I Q U Q L C A N H O T C K M L R A S I  
 J N S C E Z Z E S I M O S E L L E C X Z  
 G A E S D Q H O V O Y Y R N C E T I V U  
 I R D B Z S J A W A K I Q A Q Y A E L R  
 B T A C G D R I Z V C T R I G D R R N N  
 P N L N O I Z Q N A O H E F O W C B Y J  
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 N O R T H C A S C A D E S O Y S G Y S G  
 F M E O A L A K A E L A H R M J W S E L  
 Y W V S Q M U N L Y F L M D P M E W M U  
 V A E V O E L A Y O R E L S I V A G I S  
 J G R A N D T E T O N S O B C I I M T K  
 R F V R U M N G E E N O T S W O L L E Y

# HO`OLAHA

PUBLICATION OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE

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## HO`OLAHA

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## A MESSAGE FROM RETIREES UNIT ADMINISTRATOR

As of this writing, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* case, which could overturn the 1977 unanimous Supreme Court ruling in the *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* case that upheld mandatory dues for public employees. This means that without fair share, the choice become full dues or nothing.

The Right-to-Work groups are rallying their forces to discourage union participation which will mean working for less pay and benefits, less safety and health protections not to mention job security. So what has HGEA along with AFSCME been doing to counter the attacks of the right to work groups such as Alec, the Koch Brothers, FreedomWorks, Americans for Prosperity to name a few? The AFSCME and HGEA Strong campaigns began over two years ago with staff and leadership training. We trimmed our budgets to be more lean and continue to identify ways to streamline our work. We remain vigilant at the legislature and will have a strong political action campaign after the session concludes. We took our message of unionism to our membership via Lunch + Learns, one-on-one conversations at work places, island division meetings, and pop-up worksite visits, and trained leadership to engage with workers and members. The strength of bargaining unit contracts, the benefits and worksite protections within those contracts are because of the strength of unions at the bargaining table. A strong legislative program helps secure the funding for the contracts and a strong political action program helps elect the legislators that support unions. Higher union wages raise wages for everyone in the community. But retirees know it is not just about wages, but the health benefit package at retirement, which may be even more important. While Article XVI, Section 2 of the Hawaii Constitution states that "membership in any employees' retirement system of the State or any political subdivision thereof shall be a contractual relationship, the accrued benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired," it took the unions' effort and lobbying to have their health benefits be recognized as part of the benefits.

So what can we all do to keep unions, specifically HGEA, as relevant today as when we started by the Board of Water managerial employees in 1934? Retirees Unit President Ruth Walker stated very clearly at the Never Quit 2017 Retiree convention – keep active, get active and join the PEOPLE (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality) program. These are very basic, tangible ideas that each one of us can do individually. We can regularly attend meetings or activities, begin attending meetings and activities and then sign up or increase your donation level for PEOPLE. These three simple goals by President Walker will not only keep retirees engaged in life but also tremendously strengthen our union. Can we count on each one of you? Share your newsletter with your friends and ask them to join us. Participate in our outreach program when in your community or one of our classes or activities at the union hall. Support our community action program by volunteering and most of all support our endorsed HGEA candidates.

In Solidarity,

*Mahie*

## CHAPTER NEWS

### OAHU

**April 26, 2018:** Crochet club at 9:00 a.m.

**June 21, 2018:** General Membership meeting, 9:00 a.m. at the HGEA meeting hall. Please call in attendance to Retirees Unit 543-0054.

Interested in playing Hanafuda? Please contact Edwina at 808-218-2457 or Helen at 226-4858 or helenrauer@hawaiiantel.net.

Please support Kendall Scholarship with the purchase of McDonald's, Jack-In-The Box and 7-11 coupon books, Big Island Candies crunch bars and HGEA cookies. Kendall Scholarship Golf Tournament is looking for volunteers. Please call Arlene Shimokawa at 551-8745 or hiresidence@msm.com for details.

### KAUAI

**May 14, 2018:** Movie Day. Call 245-6751 to RSVP.

**June 8, 2018:** Executive Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., HGEA office.

**June 18, 2018:** General Membership meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the HGEA hall. The Kauai Legislative team will be in attendance.

**July 9, 2018:** Movie Day. Call 245-6751 to RSVP.

### MAUI

**May 16, 2018:** Movie Day at 9:30 a.m., HGEA office.

**June 19, 2018:** General Membership meeting at 9:00 a.m. UPW Hall. Door prizes and current information will be discussed.

### BIG ISLAND

**April 14, 2018:** East Hawaii Special Olympics.

**May 12, 2018:** East Hawaii NLC Food Drive. Airport Post Office from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**June 20, 2018:** General Membership meeting, 9:00 a.m. at HGEA Hall.

Mahalo to the seven retirees who braved the rain and wind to help with East Hawaii Keiki ID at the Kamehameha Schools Hoolaulea. Also, mahalo to the 13 retirees led by Elsie who went up to Puuwaawaa in Waimea to weed, water and remove invasive species to allow the native plants to grow.

Please check with Elsie Iida at 959-6794/936-2013 for time, place and to volunteer.

# WALKER WRITES

## Who is Janus? What is *Janus v AFSCME* all about?

Union members especially have been aware about the *Janus v. AFSCME* court case that was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, February 26. If you are following this case, you will know that Mark Janus, a child support specialist from Illinois, is claiming that having to pay union dues deprives him of his First Amendment rights from freedom of speech.

The Supreme Court decision will be rendered by June 2018, and according to observers, the court has sent strong signals that it agrees with Janus. The Trump Administration joined this cause with financial support from the Koch brothers who are fighting to kill public sector unions and proposing to abolish fair share fees (agency fees) saying they violate workers' free speech rights.

Janus' lawyer claims the case is about freedom of speech and association, and that Janus is objecting to pay "fair share fees" (agency fees) which unions charge to administer collective bargaining related activities and to ratify negotiated agreements, as examples, and to avoid "free riders."

Is it unreasonable to ask that members pay "fair share fees" if the union negotiates pay raises and improved working conditions that benefit all union members whether they pay the full union dues or not?

## What can we retirees do?

Retirees can play active roles by partnering with active members in one-on-one conversations and encouraging members who are fair share enrollees to remain at full membership. This will help keep our union strong. The #HGEA Strong strategy is in coordination with the #AFSCME Strong campaign, as goals are similar. Both efforts are projected to create a strong union and strengthen members' commitment to the union.

Continued on page 5

## Oahu Crochet Club

The Crochet Club will begin monthly classes on the following Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at the HGEA 1st floor hall:

**April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26 and August 23, 2018.**

Bring your projects or just your enthusiasm to learn something new, and join the group!

