



Ha'aheo 675

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

The Pipeline to the Plumbers Union



Front Row (l-r): Kainoa Yamato (Kapolei HS), Rion Bigornia (Kapolei HS), Khe Kavana Kam (Pearl City HS), Shaedyn Quemado (Pearl City HS), Kaulana Usam-Huddy (Mililani HS), Nohea Figueroa (Leilehua HS).
Back Row (l-r): Donovan Maikai (Kapolei HS), Josiah Calderon (Pearl City HS), Eidan Vargas (Pearl City HS), Kobe Higa (Aiea HS), Marilyn Alterado (Trng), Westin Alcover (Trng), Dean Kobashigawa (Trng), Ronden Numasaki (Trng), Suzette Barrios (Trng), Aaliyah Abregano (Leilehua HS), Shania Simer (Leilehua HS).

Twelve chosen students from various local high schools recently received a weeklong educational experience from the first-ever **Pipeline Training Workshop (The Pipeline)** at the Training Facility in Iwilei. During the regular school spring break, from March 18th through March 22nd, the selected students enrolled in the Building and Construction Program at their respective high schools participated in the hands-on specialized workshop. Head Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa**, who conceptualized the idea explained, "This event incorporates all the parts of our Union – the Union leaders, Administration Office, Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association (PAMCA), Retirees Club, Signatory Contractors, Instructors, and Training Department. I feel this is a huge event

for the whole organization to focus on introducing high school kids to a career in the Plumbers Union."

The workshop covered the various skill set of Local 675's classifications – **Plumbing, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration, Fire Sprinkler, and Steamfitter Welder**. The first day focused on Safety which included First Aid and CPR Certification. Later, the Union officers, **Valentino Ceria, Matt Brady, Ben Panis, and Sam Barrett, Jr.** as well as Retiree President **Jonathan Lee** were on hand to talk about their positive, personal journeys as members of Local 675. **Gregg Serikaku**, PAMCA's Executive Director, and **Jaimme Hayakawa** with the Trust Fund Administration Office also spoke on the wages and industry benefits of Union membership with Local 675.

The second day of The Pipeline

covered **Plumbing**. The students experienced hands-on projects that involved soldering and brazing along with pipe tracing with guidance from our top plumbing instructors, retirees, and Union officers. The third day of The Pipeline was **Air Conditioning Refrigeration**. The high schoolers participated in hands-on AC projects which included bending and flaring copper piping. They were also able to pipe up some **Carrier** AC units with the help and guidance of our top AC instructors, retirees, and 675 Union officers. The fourth day covered **Fire Sprinkler**. The high school seniors were able to stack a fully functional fire riser, install branch lines, and lastly install different types of fire sprinklers in a mockup ceiling grid. The students were assisted by fire sprinkler instructors, retirees, and

(continued on page 3)

Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



Business Manager Valentino Ceria and President Matthew Brady congratulate (l-r) Sheung Man Wong (Executive Board), Kawika Johnson (Examining Board), and Chad Kamibayashi (Finance Committee). Our newly elected board members were sworn in on January 8, 2024, at the General Membership Meeting.

Aloha Members!

Last year the By-Laws and Working Rules of Local 675 was finally completed thanks to the hard work of President **Matthew Brady** and the By-Laws Committee. You all should have received the By-Laws and Working Rules handbook in the mail by now.

On Saturday, February 24th, Business Agent **Sam Barrett, Jr.** and I attended the Dry Dock #5 Anchoring Ceremony at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Earlier, I signed the Project Labor Agreement along with other Unions, and **Dragados/Hawaiian Dredging/Orion ("DHO") Joint Venture**. The P-209-Dry Dock 3 Replacement Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii Project ("P209"), is a \$2.8 billion project for the new larger Dry Dock #5 buildout. We are looking at early 2025 when pipefitters will be needed for the job.

Recently, I signed new Labor-Management Agreements with **AG Repair, LLC, Clyde T. Hirata, LLC, and Elite Mechanical, Inc.** The companies are recognized as Local 675 signatory contractors.

The **Plumbers and Fitters Local 675 Maui Fire Special Fund** was an account established last year for donations to assist our members who were impacted by the Lahaina wildfire disaster. The checking account was closed last month in February, and the checks were equally distributed to three members who were directly affected by the fire. Both Business Agent **Ben Panis** and I flew out to Maui to meet with the three Maui members who lost their homes to the fire. The three members who were presented with the checks were **Iokepa Auwae, Curtis Kunishige, and Wilfred Shim.** (see more on page 3)

I want to update you on the progress of the property acquired by the Union. The property is a 2.5-acre fee-simple lot with an existing building on Moanalua Loop in Aiea. I initiated a New Building Committee consisting of myself, President **Matthew Brady**, Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa**, Trust Fund Trustees, **Kent Matsuzaki** and **Mark Suzuki**. We selected an architect, **RM Architects** who we feel will meet our needs and budget. This portion of work will be for the construction of the mezzanine deck

and common areas inside the building. The work will be done by union contractors funded by the Union. Future buildouts for the Training facility will be subsidized by the Training Fund. Our focus right now is on the Training facility since the current lease will expire in mid-2026 at Iwilei. We will be developing classrooms and hands-on work areas that will accommodate all the trades – plumbing, air conditioning and refrigeration, fire sprinkler, pipefitting, and welding. After that, we can focus on moving the Union Office and Trust Fund Administration Office over into the new **Local Union 675 Building**. It will be a "One-Stop-Shop" in a convenient area with lots of parking space. During the year, I will be keeping the membership informed of the progress.

Just to inform you that the 40th Annual **Great Aloha Run** took place on Presidents Day, February 19th. There were 50 participants representing Local 675 this year. We sponsored the entry fees for our members and families and were happy they wore our GAR Union tee-shirts to represent us in the Run.

In this newsletter, we focused on **The Pipeline** event. We see this as a good opportunity to educate the public on the benefits of belonging to our Union and to focus on the students who already show an interest in a trade. I would like to thank Head Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa** and his staff as well as the many volunteers who made this first-of-its-kind program a successful one.

This year's **Imi Loa Foundation** Board of Directors reviewed the finances and decided to increase the Union's scholarship amount from \$1,500 to **\$2,000**, so be sure to check our website www.plumbershawaii.com for more information and other available scholarship opportunities offered to our membership. (see page 5)

Lastly, I want to congratulate former Business Agent **Lance Hayashi** who retired in February of this year. I want to thank him for his loyal service and wish him all the best for a happy retirement.

As always, stay informed, stay healthy, and be safe!

The Pipeline to the Union

(continued from page 1)

Union agents. The last day covered the **Steamfitter Welder** focusing on basic welding skills and hands-on torch cutting and welding. The welding instructors and Business Manager **Ceria** assisted the students with their skilled craftsmanship.

The Training Coordinators pre-assembled the various work stations for each trade and the Office staff even provided daily breakfast, lunch, snacks, and refreshments for all the students, guests, and workers. There was tremendous help from all the volunteers; from the Training instructors to contractors, retirees, and officers, who were on hand to assist with the total training experience. On the final day, the students and their parents attended the special luncheon and proudly received their certificate of completion of the five-day workshop.

They also received many donated items and generous gift cards from our Contractors Association (PAMCA) and the Retiree Club.

Shania Simer with Leilehua High School who was one of two females chosen for this program said, "I really want to be a welder now and will be signing up with the Union." "I like Fire Sprinkler but I'm leaning towards Plumbing," said **Shaedy Quemado** with Pearl City High School. He added, "This was a great experience, and it was worth it. I would recommend this program to other students in my school." Training Coordinator **Dean Kobashigawa** commented, "We couldn't have asked for a better group of high school kids to attend our first Pipeline event. Great attitude, hard-working, on time, early every day, and very teachable. Hopefully, all twelve sign up because they definitely have what it takes to thrive in our industry."

"This new program will educate the

public and help with our apprentice recruitment of students from the high school system. I think we all felt it was a huge success, being the first of its kind, encouraging young people to seek out our trade and make a difference in their future," said Business Manager **Valentino Ceria**. He thanked Brother **Dean Kobashigawa**, his assistant training coordinators **Ronden Numasaki** and **Westin Alcover**, who worked for months building out the hands-on stations along with assistance from the many volunteers. He also thanked staff members **Suzette Barrios** and **Marilyn Alterado** who along with the others, expended their time and effort to make this a successful inaugural program. (more photos on page 4)

**Please follow us on
Training Instagram!**

 **@HI675PLUMBERSAPPRENTICESHIP**

The Pipeline Acknowledgments

A Big Mahalo to all those who contributed their time, assistance, and resources for a successful Pipeline event:

- ★ Local 675 Officers, Trust Fund Administration Office, PAMCA, Retiree Club (Guest Speakers) – Valentino Ceria, Matthew Brady, Benjamin Panis, Samuel Barrett Jr., Jaimme Hayakawa, Gregg Serikaku, Jonathan Lee.
- ★ Plumbing Companies – Hi-Tech Plumbing (Royce Akiona), Commercial Plumbing (Randy Hiraki, Kepa Resentes).
- ★ A/C Companies – Island Controls (Derek Higa, Raymond Park), Heide & Cook (Pono Paahao, Jared Takamori).
- ★ Fire Sprinkler Company – Checkpoint Fire (Nelson Ho).
- ★ Volunteers – Retiree Club – Jonathan Lee, Derek Hirao, Al Tivera, Willy Kano.
- ★ Instructors – Chuck Shima, Dean Luna, Guy Tanodra, Herman Killa, Alan Ibanez, Derek Higa, Raymond Park, Tommy Sakata, Kirk Kageno, Aaron Holtzlider, Eseta Suaava, Roland Paulino, Doug Kekona, Val Ceria, James Fan, Mason Sumida.
- ★ Donated Items: Rex Weeler – Hand Tools, Victaulic – Supplies/Fittings for the Student Projects.
- ★ Vendors – Cosco Supply, TRC Sales, Airgas.



Instructor Raymond Park showing students how to pipe an AC split system.



Head Coordinator Dean Kobashigawa showing the students proper pipe flaring installation.



Instructor Derek Higa teaching pipe bending and pipe flaring techniques to Shania Simer.



Chuck Shima and Dean Luna instruct students on proper chest compressions.



Instructors Aason Holtzlider (left) and Eseta Suaava showing the students proper fire sprinkler installation in a mockup ceiling grid.



Instructor Dean Luna and assistant coordinator Westin Alcover showing the students how to install a fully functional fire riser.



BM Val Ceria showing welding technique to students.



BM Val Ceria demonstrating a lap joint on two pieces of steel plates.



Alan Ibanes (instructor) – Students using the drain camera/toner to locate the piping under the flooring, then using blue tape to layout the piping.



Herman Kila (instructor) instructing Khe Kavana on brazing techniques.



Herman Kila (instructor) showing the procedure for the ProPress tool.



Welding Day Instructors (l-r) James Fan, Roland Paulino, Mason Sumida, Doug Kekona and Business Manager Val Ceria with the students.

Maui Members Receive Assistance from Union

Iokepa Auwae, Curtis Kunishige, and Wilfred Shim, three members who were affected by the Lahaina wildfires, were presented with checks from monies raised by the Maui Fire Special Fund in early February. The three Maui members lost their homes in the wildfire disaster last year. The Maui Fire Special Fund was created for union locals across the mainland to show their support and Aloha to our affected members. Various UA locals nationwide and Canada eagerly donated to the Special Fund.

Business Manager **Valentino Ceria** and Business Agent **Ben Panis** flew to Maui to present the receiving members with the donations. The checks were distributed equally among the three members and were received with much appreciation. "The brothers were very thankful to the Union as well as the UA for the earlier donations and for making this additional assistance possible," said Business Manager **Ceria**.



(l-r) Business Manager Val Ceria, Iokepa Auwae, Wilfred Shim, Business Agent/Repr for Maui Ben Panis.



Curtis Kunishige receives check from Business Manager Val Ceria and Business Agent Ben Panis.

Scholarship Opportunities

We are pleased to announce three scholarship opportunities available to upcoming high school graduates whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member of UA Local 675.

The 2024 scholarships are:

UA Local 675 Scholarship – This scholarship program is to encourage attendance to a 2 or 4-year institution of higher learning. A one-time scholarship of up to **\$2,000** is available to high school seniors and prior year graduates whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is a member of UA Local 675 in good standing. **All submissions must be received by the Union Office and postmarked by June 7, 2024**, with awards to be announced in July. To download the application form, visit our website at www.plumbershawaii.com.

United Association (UA) Scholarship - United Association (UA) Scholarship – The UA Scholarship Trust Fund benefits UA members and their dependents. Up to 112 scholarships totaling as much as \$502,000

will be awarded this year. Scholarships range from **\$4,000 to \$7,500** each. **The deadline for submitting the application is June 12, 2024.** Applications may be submitted electronically through <https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com/>. Paper applications are now available via download at uanet.org (UA member login required).

Hawaii State AFL-CIO 2024 Scholarship – A **\$1,000** scholarship will be awarded to THREE graduating seniors who are currently attending high school in the state of Hawaii and plan to pursue post-high school study on a full-time basis at a university, college, community college, vocational or trade school. **All submissions must be received or postmarked by Friday, April 12, 2024.** For detailed instructions, visit our website at www.plumbershawaii.com.

Please call the Union Office at (808) 536-5454 ext. 222 if you have any questions.

NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

- Todd Y. Shozuya..... 12/01/23
- Rusty S. Aoyagi..... 1/01/24
- David K. Kamakea 1/01/24
- Brian T. Kimura 1/01/24
- Tracy K. Hara..... 2/01/24
- Lance T. Hayashi 2/01/24

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

- Randall R. Mitsui.....1/08/24

Members On the Job



(l-r) Roni Rulona, Quincey Blas, Edsel Lactaotao, Martin Ganitoen, Jordan Solidum, Alekson Augustin, Andrew Lee, Brandon Butler, Owen Kupau – Miranda, Keola Nakamura, Isaiah Manalo, Justin Kaanaana, Ranson Ho. Dorvin Leis Co. The Park on Keeaumoku. GC: Nan Inc.



(l-r) Jordan Ceria, Michael Vasconcellos, Austin Abe, Roycee Calairo. Narito Mechanical. The FY22 Child Development Center Project. GC: Nan Inc.



(l-r) Izac Bastatas, Shogan Espindola – Maio, Andrew Fukui, Cyrus Galdeira. Pan Pacific Mechanical. Sand Island Waste Water Treatment Plant. GC: Hensel Phelps.



(l-r) Conrad Gishitomi, David Kepa–Rapoza, Darin Kawamoto, Gary Failma, Jason Kim, Clint Nahina, Vern Morales, Garrett Cockett, Bryson Indreginal, Martin Kodama, Keola Wilhelm, Jordan Solidum, Ranson Ho. Dorvin Leis Co. The Park on Keeaumoku. GC: Nan Inc.

Members On the Job



(l-r) Gavin Uyeda, Scott Chun, Kawika Calizar, Kawika Johnson, Shane Kano, Kanai Aglipay. **Johnson Controls. Ala Moana Hotel Chiller Replacement.**



(l-r standing) Dennis Cobar, Joseph Kikila, Mamerto Aglanao Jr., Brenton Uyeno, Shannon Pagente. *(l-r kneeling)* Cade McNamara, Charles Manayan, Dylan Villanueva. **A/C Marriott. Continental Mechanical.**



(l-r) Rey Domingcil, Mel Gamiao. **Honolulu Fire Protection. Sage Creamery, Hoopili**



(l-r) Brandon Tonaki, Mike Jacobs. **Central Air System. Kohanaiki Homes, Kona. GC: Armstrong Builders.**



(l-r) Bobby Lum III, Neil Martin. **Commercial Plumbing. Monster Energy Distillery, Kona. GC: KPRS.**



(l-r) Dustin Kubo, Talbert Peyton, Chase Aki, Ronelle Miguel. **Commercial Plumbing. Aloha VA Clinic. GC: Nan Inc.**



(l-r) Jordan Nuttall, Garrett Wong Jr., Clarence Bareng, Jason Miyasaki. **Commercial Plumbing. Aloha VA Clinic. GC: Nan Inc.**



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 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, HI 96813
 (808) 536-5454
www.plumbershawaii.com

VALENTINO CERIA
*Business Manager/
 Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

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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
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News from Local 675 Retiree Club

The next Retiree Club Meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 14, 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	APRIL	<p>Monday, April 1, 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Washington Middle School - Cafeteria</p> <p>Tuesday, April 9, 2024 MAUI RAP SESSION Maui Community College- Laulima Rm 103</p> <p>Wednesday, April 10, 2024 KAUAI RAP SESSION Kauai Community College, Rm OCET 103</p>	MAY	<p>Monday, May 6, 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Washington Middle School - Cafeteria</p> <p>Tuesday, May 7, 2024 KONA RAP SESSION Hawaii Community College - Palamanui Rm 106</p> <p>Wednesday, May 8, 2024 HILO RAP SESSION Waiakea Intermediate School - Rm A3</p>
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