

Ha'aheo 675

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

Pipeline to the Plumbers Union' *Inspiring the Next Generation*



Training Staff with Graduates of the Oahu 2025 'Pipeline to the Plumbers Union' Program.

The Pipeline to the Plumbers Union program kicked off spring break for 12 outstanding high school students on Monday, March 17, and continued throughout the week, culminating in a special graduation ceremony on Friday, March 21. These students, all currently enrolled in the Building & Construction Pathways program, were selected from Leilehua High School, Pearl City High School, Kapolei High School, Moanalua High School, and Waipahu High School.

The program serves as a "crash course" in Hawaii's piping industry, providing hands-on experience in the Union's trades classifications and one-on-one mentorship from industry experts. The entire program took place at the Training Facility in Iwilei.

"We wanted to offer a program that provides high school students with a direct career path into our trade," said Head Training Coordinator, **Dean Kobashigawa**. Originally implemented last year, the program has already proven to be a success, with more than half of its graduates joining the Union as apprentices.

The first day of the program focused on safety, with students earning their CPR and First Aid Certification. They then heard from Union leaders, including Business Manager Val Ceria and Business Agents Matt Brady, Benji Panis, Sam Barrett, Jr., and Sheung Man Wong, who shared personal stories about their journeys within the Union. Erinn Liu (continued on Page 4)

Business Manager's Message | Valentino B. Ceria



Business Manager, **Val Ceria**, attended the Aloha & Appreciation event hosted by Mayor **Rick Blangiardi** and his wife as a thanks to all his supporters.

Aloha Members.

I want to announce **Samuel Barrett, Jr.**, as my new Assistant Business Manager. Brother **Sam** has been a member of the Union for nearly 37 years. He started in the Union Office as a Business Agent in 2019 and currently oversees Kona. I am confident that Brother Sam will do well in the position.

The Hawaii Legislative Sessions convened on Wednesday, January 15. **Emmanuel Zibakalam**, our Legislative Liaison, presented the bills that affect our industry in a meeting with the Union Team. We reviewed and will continue to monitor certain bills moving forward. In February, we focused on a House Bill that would impact our Uniform Plumbing Code. In this bill, the IPC undermines the UPC. **Emmanuel** updated us and confirmed that this bill will be deferred.

After receiving national support for the Lahaina Wildfires, we believed it was crucial to help those affected by the LA Fires that impacted so many in January. **Aaron Stockwell**, International Representative, shared details about the LA Fires and how we can assist. We made a \$5,000 donation to the Labor Community Services (LCS), a non-profit organization that collaborates with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor to support union members and their families. The donated funds will be used to provide essential items for those affected.

Construction continues to gain momentum. In February, we recruited and sent out pre-apprentice plumbers and AC technicians who passed their tests. Recruitment is now focused on additional requests for more plumbers.

Regarding the status of our new Union Building in Aiea, the Project Manager, **Emberly Valgardson**, is overseeing

the Request for Proposals for a general contractor for the renovation. We are working to finalize the project plan and specifications for the building. After that, we will select a general contractor for the project.

The Oahu Member Benefits Conference took place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Ballrooms. It included a buffet lunch, prizes, giveaways, and family activities. Our healthcare carriers, Union representatives, and Trust Fund benefits representatives worked collaboratively to make this event a success for our members and their families. Members who attended had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about their benefits. (See Page 6 & 7)

The second annual Pipeline to the Plumbers Union event featured in this issue, occurred at the Training Center from March 17 to March 21. Twelve students from various high schools enrolled in Building and Construction pathways had the chance to gain valuable hands-on experience. This event has once again demonstrated its success, inspiring many participating students to consider careers in our trade.

We established an Instagram page for the Union in early February. This will help us stay current and connect with our members and community. If you have an Instagram account, you can follow our page at 'Plumbers and Fitters Hawaii.'

Instagram — @PLUMBERSANDFITTERSHAWAII

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

Scholarship Announcement

UA Local 675 Scholarship – This scholarship program encourages 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 6, 2025,* with awards to be announced in July. To download the application form, visit our website at www.plumbershawaii.com.

United Association (UA) Scholarship – The UA Scholarship Trust Fund benefits UA members and their dependents. Scholarships range from \$4,000 to \$7,500 each. *The deadline for applying is June 12, 2025.* For detailed instructions, visit our website at www. plumbershawaii.com.

If you have any questions, please call our Office at (808) 536-5454 ext. 222.

Neighbor Island News

Hilo

Currently, the renovations of the **Waiakea Uka Gym** are nearly complete. It looks good and is expected to become one of the more frequently used gathering places for Parks and Recreation athletic events. **Hilo High School's** new football field and track facility is an \$11 million upgrade that is coming to completion by general contractor Nan Inc. It features artificial turf for football and a state-of-the-art rubberized track for track and field athletes. Thanks to the Benioff Foundation, the **Hilo Benioff Medical**

Center's project budget increased from \$50 million to between \$90 and \$100 million. The facility will include 19 intensive care beds and an additional 36 beds. Commercial Plumbing and Standard Mechanical are on the project.

A new 36,000-square-foot medical facility, the **Kea'au Benioff Health Center**, will be located on 9 acres of land near Kea'au High
School. The health center will offer urgent care, primary care,
specialty care, behavioral healthcare, and imaging services. The
\$60 million project is anticipated to be completed in 2028.

Local 675 participated in the "Labor of Love" project, a community initiative that unites labor organizations to give back by providing essential rehabilitation services to local schools. Business Agents

Matthew Brady, Sam Barrett, Jr., and Sheung Man Wong installed a drinking fountain and a water cooler with a water bottle filler as a donation for Pahoa High School on Monday, March 24.

- Matt Brady, Business Agent



Business Agents **Matt Brady**, **Sheung Man Wong**, and **Sam Barrett, Jr.** volunteered their time and installed a water fountain outside Pahoa High School's cafeteria as part of "The Labor of Love" project.

Kona

Mauna Kea Beach Resort is a current project. Dorvin D. Leis is working on the Tower, which is still ongoing with its major renovation of plumbing, AC, and fire sprinkler. Commercial Plumbing is also on-site, working on the common areas, which includes renovating the restaurant, bar, and restrooms. Kona Hospital is currently undergoing renovations and expansion of the pharmacy, oncology, and special services buildings, with Commercial Plumbing.

Lai O Pua Hawaiian Homes Phase 3 is underway. Our contractor is managing all phases of the work. Dorvin D. Leis is present on site. The general contractor is Coastal Construction.

A new housing project in Waikoloa, **Na Hale Makoa** in the Kama Koa Nui subdivision, is projected to begin. The project consists of 139 one, two, and three-bedroom units. The General Contractor is Moss and Hi-Tech Plumbing is on the job.

- Sam Barrett, Jr., Business Agent

Kauai

The 95-unit affordable housing project, Lima Ola Workforce, located near Eleele, was completed in late 2024. Gordon Mechanical handled the plumbing, fire sprinkler, and air conditioning scopes.

Current ongoing projects include **Kai Olino Phases 1 and 2 in Port Allen**, which will provide 75 much-needed affordable rental units. Hi-Tech Plumbing and Honolulu Fire are on-site. Commercial Plumbing is installing underground plumbing for the new **Silverwest in Hokuala**, which will feature 210 hotel rooms.

Here's an update on upcoming projects. The long-awaited **Coco Palms** redevelopment is now tentatively slated to start in mid-2025, pending permitting and design. The plumbing, fire sprinkler, and AC piping work is slated to be done by 675 contractors. The **Rice Street Apartment project in Lihue**, a four-story mixed-use building consisting of 66 affordable rental units, is also tentatively slated to start in mid-2025 pending relocation of the existing Central Pacific Bank, permitting, and design. The plumbing, fire sprinkler, and AC piping work is projected to be done by 675 contractors.

- Sheung Man Wong, Business Agent



Business Agents installed a water cooler with a water bottle filler between classrooms in one of the school buildings at Pahoa High School. (l-r) **Sam Barret, Jr., Matt Brady, Sheung Man Wong**.

Maui

Current projects with Hi-Tech Plumbing include **Kaiaulu O Kapuohi**, an affordable rental complex located mauka of the Lahaina Gateway Shopping Center. The general contractor is Meryl Group Construction. Phase 1 is complete, and Phase 2 of the project is expected to finish by this summer. The complex will feature two family-friendly community centers where residents can enjoy community gardens, BBQ picnic areas, and walking paths, all planned to be completed by the end of this year.

Hale O Piikea, an affordable multifamily rental housing project in Kihei, is also in progress. Moss Construction is the general contractor, with Phase 1 anticipated to be complete by this summer. Phase 2 will commence at the end of this year, and Phase 3 is set to begin at the start of next year, 2026. This housing project will provide 90 affordable housing units for residents and will include a computer lab, a community center building, and an onsite laundry facility.

Hale Pilina is a 178-unit affordable housing project scheduled to start at the end of next year, 2026. Maryl Group Construction is the general contractor. The project is planned for a new fiveacre lot in Kahului. The complex will comprise two three-story buildings and two four-story buildings.

- Benji Panis, Business Agent

Organizing Updates

Welcoming Our New Apprentices

Oahu

Brian Domingo Dorvin D. Leis Plumbing **Riddik Enos** Oahu Plumbing & Sheet Metal Refrigeration David Hee Jr. D&C Plumbing Inc Plumbina Kaulana Moefu Jr. Pan-Pacific Plumbing, Co. Inc Sprinkler Fitter John Hunter Nekota Air Central Inc. Refrigeration Elijah Ogrisseg **APB** Construction Steam Fitter **Ezekiel Telea** Oahu Plumbing & Sheetmetal Refrigeration Ke'ehukai Terlep Island Wide A/C Service, LLC Refrigeration Kanoa Zarko Pan-Pacific Plumbing, Co. Inc Plumbing

Hawaii Island

Chysen Ignacio-Mattos Dwayne Matsumoto LLC Refrigeration

Kauai

Matthias Davis Gordon Mechanical LLC Plumbing



Members getting sworn in during the January 27, 2025 Executive Board Meeting.

(I-r) Elijah Ogrisseg, Ke'ehukai Terlep, Kanoa Zarko.



Member Initiations at the February 24, 2025 Executive Board Meeting.

(I-r) Brian Domingo, Riddik Enos, David Hee Jr, Kaulana Moefu, Hunter John Nekota & Ezekiel Telea.

'Pipeline to the Plumbers Union'

(continued from Page 1)

from the Trust Fund Office provided insight into the benefits available to Union members, while **Gregg Serikaku**, Executive Director of PAMCA, explained how contractors collaborate with the Union to ensure the best working conditions. Additionally, **Jonathan Lee** spoke on retirement benefits and the Retirees Club, which he leads.





Day two marked the start of hands-on training, beginning with Plumbing. Students practiced brazing and soldering copper pipes and fittings and worked with PEX and ProPress connections. They also learned how to inspect and lay out drain piping using a locator and inspection camera. The morning session was followed by guest speakers from Local 675 signatory plumbing contractors, including Commercial Plumbing, Furuta Plumbing, and Hi-Tech Plumbing, who shared insights into their careers and achievements.









On day three, students focused on **Air Conditioning** and **Refrigeration**, completing an AC split unit installation.

Day four introduced them to **Fire Sprinkler Systems**, and on the final day, Business Manager **Val Ceria** led



a **Welding** demonstration. Students learned to cut steel on a flat bar using a torch and practiced stick welding. This hands-on experience was a highlight of the program, leading up to the special graduation ceremony attended by parents, teachers, and even the Vice Principal of Leilehua High School. Each student received a certificate of completion and their CPR/First Aid Certification Card. Business Manager **Val Ceria** also delivered closing remarks to celebrate the students' achievements.

Several students shared their experiences:

Mark Yadao (Junior at Leilehua High School): "I really enjoyed working with students from other schools and realizing all of the opportunities we were given. I enjoyed AC the most because it was like a puzzle—figuring out how to connect the unit was really fun."

Ikaika Armstrong (Senior at Moanalua High School): "I liked learning about all the benefits the Union offers. It's like a full circle, and all the Union officers are very supportive. I'm just glad to be here—it's a blessing, not everyone gets this opportunity. I'm thinking about joining the Union after high school and pursuing a career in AC."

Dean Kobashigawa, Head Training Coordinator, along with Training Coordinators Ronden Numasaki, Westin Alcover, Troy Taniguchi, and staff members Suzette Barrios and Marilyn Alterado, worked tirelessly behind the scenes leading up to the event and throughout to ensure it ran seamlessly. The success of this program would not be possible without the dedication of the Training team, and volunteers who generously gave their time and resources to mentor the next generation. "The

only reason we can continue to grow this program each year is because of our entire Training team. I couldn't do it without them," said **Dean Kobashigawa**. "We are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers and donations that make this opportunity possible for the students."

Excitingly, this year the program will be expanding to Maui, offering the Pipeline to the Plumbers Union program during the school's summer break for students on the island. This expansion will provide even more young people with the opportunity to explore a promising career in the piping industry.

Please Follow us on Training Instagram! @ @HI675PLUMBERSAPPRENTICESHIP





Training team at the Pipeline Graduation – Another successful event! (*l-r*) Westin Alcover, Ronden Numasaki, Dean Kobashigawa, Marilyn Alterado, Troy Taniguchi, Suzette Barrios.



Graduates of the Pipeline to the Plumbers Union – High school Juniors and Seniors from various high schools.

Membership Benefits Conference

We kicked off March with the PAMCAH-UA Local 675
Membership Benefits Conference. The event took place on
Saturday, March 1st, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Ballrooms.
Members had the opportunity to learn more about their
benefits and ask questions related to health and welfare,
annuity, and pension plans. Our healthcare carriers also
presented specific benefit information for our members. The
day was filled with entertainment by the **Braddahs**, who served
as emcees, putting on a show and providing plenty of laughter.
The local musician group 'Imua' performed live, while members
and their families enjoyed a buffet lunch.



Business Agents Benji Panis, Sheung-Man Wong, and Sam Barrett Jr. at the member check-in desk distributing swag bags.

Members won exciting prizes, including Yeti coolers, Beats headphones, and Blackstone grills. The grand prize was a \$500 Hawaiian Airlines gift card. Keiki enjoyed fun activities, including balloon making, movies, games, and crafts. Additionally, there was a photo booth for families to capture fun-filled memories, plus an assortment of snacks and swag bags were passed out to enjoy.

"Getting together with all former plumbers, seeing families and staff. Most importantly, learning about the benefits information. The food, goodies, and the comradeship - getting to see old friends again was what I enjoyed most," said **Elpidio Tivera**, member and retiree.



The Braddahs put on a show with audience participation from Member Jasiah Alcover.



Member Dennis Macaibay with family.



Member Isaac Manalo and family.



Member Jon Fry and spouse with Business Agent, **Matthew Brady**.



Members Patrick Chong and Darryl Yamashiro with their Local 675 Swaq Bags.



Member Reynaldo Palacio won an Igloo cooler in the giveaway drawing.



Member Robert Pagan won the Grand Prize giveaway: a \$500 Hawaiian Miles Gift Card.







Keiki and families enjoy fun activities like balloon making, games, crafts, a photo booth, and more.







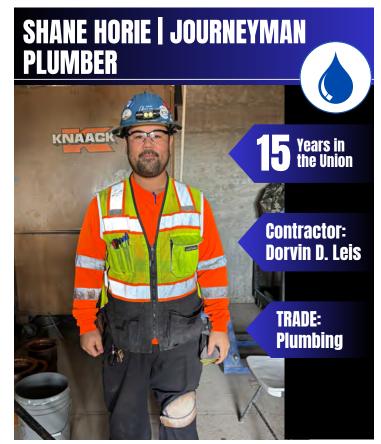






Healthcare vendors such as HMSA, VSP, and HDS were present to answer member questions and provide valuable benefit information. Free health screenings were also offered.

Member Highlight



What interested you in joining the union?

For me, the benefits were the most enticing part about joining the union. Plus a better pay opportunity. Specifically the job security and retirement were the main perks.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The opportunities to learn and grow. I started as a maintenance worker at the **Aulani Resort** project and with the help of my foreman and supervisors along the way I was able to grow to where I am today.

What advice would you give to an apprentice?

Show up every day, have a good work attitude, and be willing to learn. This will set a strong foundation.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Working out at the gym and shooting at the Gun Range on the weekends.

What is your go-to lunch spot?

Hamada's General Store or Sunset Texas BBQ

Members On the Job



Halawa View Apartments. Commercial Plumbing. GC: Nordic PCL.

Members On the Job



The Park Ward Village. Commercial Plumbing. GC: Albert C. Kobayashi.
(I-r) Ethan Hirayama, Jordan Deveraturda, Abel Akiu, Talbert Payton, Christian Castillo, Brian Hirayama & Joel Acob.



Earl's Kitchen & Bar Waikiki. Superior Plumbing. GC: Swinerton Builders. (I-r) Keith Ishitani, Camreyn Hornos, Sam Barrett Jr., Russell Bell, Nicole Bell, Harold Callejo, Reese Bell, Kirk Kaopuiki.



Halewiliko. RM Nakamura. GC: Unlimited Construction. (I-r) Ryan Higaki, Charles May, Andrew Rabanes, Leland Leong.



Honouliuli WWTP. Economy Plumbing. GC: Hawaiian Dredging. (l-r) Shaun Tanabe, Alan Agres.



Honouliuli WWTP. Hawaiian Dredging Fire Sprinkler. GC: Hawaiian Dredging.

(I-r) Isaiah Taumua, Keola Silva, Jensen Mata.

Members On the Job



Halewiliko. RM Nakamura. GC: Unlimited Construction.
(I-r) John Ritz Gabriel, Pau Moenoa.



First Hawaiian Bank Cooling Tower Replacement. Oahu Plumbing. GC: Nordic PCL. (I-r) Kristopher Gellert, Ezekiel Telea.



Kona JM, Destine Punihaole with Islandwide Mechanical Service Inc. doing service in Waikoloa Queens Marketplace.



UH Manoa's The Residences. Commercial Plumbing. GC: Swinerton. (I-r) Roy Dunlap, Jared Matsumoto.



UH Manoa's The Residences. Gordan Mechanical. GC: Swinerton. (I-r) Emerick Agtina, Ranon Aquino.



UH Manoa's The Residences. Pan Pacific Mechanical. GC: Swinerton. (*l-r*) Sherwood Ikeda, Felix Acevedo, Bryce Tsuruma, Troy Anderson, Michael Marzo, Kale O'l Williamson.



 $\label{lem:complex} \textit{Queens Emergency Room Renovations. Dorvin D. Leis. GC: Hawaiian Dredging.}$

(l-r) Keawekuloa Leong, Micah Kahoohanohano, Makana Angay, Jason Kim & Randy Yamauchi.



The Park on Keeaumoku. Dorvin D. Leis. GC: Nan Inc. (I-r) Justin Eli, Glenn Titsworth Machado



The Park on Keeaumoku. Dorvin D. Leis. GC: Nan Inc. (I-r) John Velasco, Michael Guillermo

Members On the Job



Ka Haku. Dorvin D. Leis. GC: Nordic PCL.

(I-r) Brian Domingo, Eric Masumori, Sam Owens, Chandler Nakata, Chance Akamichi, Justin Kaanaana, Keola Nakamura.



Kai Olino. Honolulu Fire. Hi-Tech Plumbing Corp. GC: Unlimited Construction.

(I-r) Honolulu Fire: Danny Sugita, Allen Ucker. Hi-Tech Plumbing: Victor Yi, Cris Alvaro, Clif Murakawa.

NEW PENSIONERS

Congratulations and happy retirement to the following pensioners:

Kevin Fujimoto	8/2024
Daniel Freitas	9/2024
Benjamin Manuel	9/2024
Craig Shiratori	9/2024
Derek Y Ota	10/2024
Richard Devincent	11/2024
Jeffrey Y F Chun	1/2025
Carlos A Kema	1/2025
Chris K Rabanes	1/2025
lan A Reyla	1/2025
Shane Henderson	2/2025
Ira Kobayashi	2/2025

Dues Payment Reminder

As a reminder, member's monthly dues shall be payable by the first of each month. You must pay your monthly dues to maintain membership with Local 675 and the United Association (UA). Failure to pay the monthly dues will result in a Suspension and an eventual Expulsion from the Local. The rules for suspension and expulsion from membership for nonpayment of dues are outlined in the UA Constitution. SEC. 157 states, "A member owing over three (3) months' dues shall automatically be suspended from membership without notice of any kind..." SEC. 158(a) states, "A suspended member becomes in good standing and his suspension is lifted by the payment of all back dues through the current months together with a \$50.00 reinstatement fee..." SEC. 159 states, "Any member in arrears for dues for a period of six (6) months shall stand expelled..." If you have any questions, please contact the Union Office at 1-808-536-5454.

In Memoriam

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of deceased members:

Takeyasu Kaneshiro	12/26/2024
Jerry Harada	12/29/2024
Walter Yamamoto	1/14/2025
Pablo Antolin	1/22/2025
Alan Arakaki	2/21/2025



Ha'aheo 675 is the official publication of the Plumbers and Fitters United Associaton, Local 675 1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 536-5454

www.plumbershawaii.com

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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 Tuesday, May 13th 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.



(I-r) Mark Angay, Woo Lee, Douglas Kekona.



(I-r) Douglas Kekona, Roland Paulino, Mark Angay, Mackey Yamashita.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, April 14, 2025 **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 **KONA RAP SESSION** Hawaii Community College - Palamanui Rm 106

> Wednesday, April 16, 2025 **HILO RAP SESSION** Waiakea Intermediate School - Rm A3



Monday, May 5, 2025 **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Washington Middle School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 MAUI RAP SESSION Maui Community College-Laulima Rm 103

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 **KAUAI RAP SESSION** Kauai Community College, Rm OCET 103

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LOCAL 675 UNION OFFICE

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

TRUST FUND ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING OFFICE **OFFICE**

1109 Bethel Street Suite 408 Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 536-4408

APPRENTICESHIP

720 Iwilei Road Suite 222 Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 456-0585

CREDIT UNION

1109 Bethel Street Lower Level Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 537-9135