



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

Hawaii District HSTA-R

# HI-LITES

April 2017

## President's Message



I hope this newsletter finds you well. I bet you're dying to know what your HSTA-R president has been up to. Well, I paid a visit to some of our Big Island legislators, and conducted our annual meeting. All is well at the state capitol, and the meeting went well.

Update on my goal of walking 2017 steps this year: As of March 26, I have completed 499 miles, exceeding my goal for that date by 30 miles. I'm hoping that you all are keeping active. You can walk in place while watching TV - stand up during the commercials and move. Or, you can wave your arms or lift weights (filled water bottles are fine) while seated. Drink lots of water to flush your body of toxins. No one can afford to get sick.

Do you have a hobby? If there something HSTA-R can offer you? Let me know if there's a class, activity or excursion you might be interested in. The best way to contact me is via email <kimkspringer@gmail.com> or text at (080) 987-9982. You can also call and leave a message at that number.

Until next time - take care. Perform a RAK (Random Act of Kindness). Treat yourself to something nice, because you deserve it. Call a friend you haven't seen in a while.

Aloha,

Kim



## Pre-Retirement Cadre Report

Lois Shimizu

Our Pre-Retirement Presentation was held during the Hilo Chapter Institute Day on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Keaau High School Library. The hour presentation went very well! Avis Mortemore and Lois Shimizu were the presenters.

This year we had a larger turn-out of 83 teachers. Majority were elementary teachers. There were 6 teachers in the Contributory Plan, 17 Non-Contributory, the others in Hybrid, and one teacher left it blank; possibly unsure which ERS plan.

There were 37 teachers with 21 or more years of service of which 9 had 30+ years. 33 teachers indicated that they have 5 or less years before retiring, and one will be retiring this year. It was nice to see a large number of teachers -- 19 teachers with 10 or more years before retiring -- attend to get an early start on pre-retirement information! Several teachers attend this workshop more than once and have expressed appreciation for the presentation.

\$10 gift cards were available to teachers who signed up as a Pre-Retired NEA-R lifetime subscriber. Four gift cards were presented.

There continues to be a positive interest in our Pre-Retirement presentation. Teachers were very appreciative for the valuable materials and information. They commented that the materials and charts for calculating pension and sick leave credits were very helpful. Learning about the points that need to be considered before retiring was appreciated. They continue to seek the latest information in order to make wise decisions and choices when planning for their Best Years.

A big mahalo to Marlyn Akiona, Bonnie Burke, Karlen and Steve Ono, and Gary Kaku for their assistance at the sign-in table, passing out handouts, and helping teachers determine which retirement plan they may be in. We also thank HSTA President Dawn Raymond and Chair of Institute Day Chris Ho. Our wonderful student helpers who assisted us with our technology needs by running the power point slides were Aiyana Wessels., Chayna Yoshida, and Lauren Prudholm. With these awesome volunteers supporting us, we had another successful pre-retirement presentation!!

# 2017 Teachers' Institute



**Safety Tips from Hilo Community Police: To reduce the threat of auto theft:**

- Remove your keys from the ignition and take them with you.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Never hide a second set of keys in your vehicle.
- Park in attended lots.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Never leave your vehicle running, even if you will be gone for only a minute.
- Completely close all windows of parked vehicles.
- Do not leave valuables or paperwork in plain sight.
- To eliminate drawing unwanted attention to contents in your vehicle, place packages or bags and other tempting items – especially cell phones and other electronic equipment—out of sight.
- At home, park your vehicle in a locked garage, if you have one.
- Back a rear-wheel-drive vehicle into your driveway to make it more difficult to tow.
- When parking on the street, turn your wheels toward the curb to make it more difficult to tow.
- Set the emergency brake to make a parked vehicle more difficult to tow.

**To reduce the threat of theft or identity theft:**

- When shopping, do not leave purses or bags unattended in shopping carts. All it takes is a split second for a thief to walk by, remove your bag and flee undetected. Shoppers should keep their bags or purses on their person and zipped or snapped shut.
- When paying for merchandise, be wary of openly displaying checkbooks or credit cards, as they contain vital financial information that identity thieves can write down or photograph with smart phones. If paying with cash, avoid openly displaying the contents of your wallet.
- When approaching your vehicle to load your purchases, keep at least one hand free to open your trunk or doors. While loading your packages, do not leave your handbag or purse unattended.
- Do not leave any papers with personal information in your car. Even blank papers might tempt a thief to break into your car in an attempt to steal your identity.

**ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS !**



Chair Report  
Hawaii District Elections HSTA-R  
2017-2018

Ingred Nishimoto was elected to the district council. Those chosen to go to the Delegate Assembly in Honolulu this year were: Jo Ann Iwane, Niyati Brown, Steven Nemeth, Colleen Wallace, Karlen Ono, Merle Okabe and Wil Okabe.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia “Niyati” Sallee-Brown  
Chair



Kim K. Springer  
1722 Kaiiao Street  
Hilo, HI 96720



stamp

If you have any suggestions regarding retirement issues, please email Gary Kaku at [kakug001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kakug001@hawaii.rr.com) with your concerns so he can take them to the RIC. (Retirement Issues Committee) Your input is important to us.



**Memoriam**

Annie Kahikilani Akau  
Kathleen Louise D'Amico  
Sophia Lorenzo Bumanglag  
Fujio Taketa

**Hawaii District Council 2016 – 2018**

President – Kim Springer  
Vice President – Stephen Nemeth  
Secretary – Lorraine Hora  
Treasurer – Lois Shimizu  
Council At-Large – Betty Ann  
Yoshimura  
Gary Kaku  
Ingrid Nishimoto  
Cynthia “Niyati”  
Sallee-Brown  
Bonnie Burke  
Cheryl Kiefer  
Julie Countess  
WHCC President – JoAnn Iwane  
State Director – Stephen Ono

**Welcome New Members**

HSTA-R Hawaii District welcomes Harrilyn Chun-Akana, Merle K. Okabe, Amy M. Okino, Ada A. Kubo, Diana L. Radich, Ellen T. Walker, Susan E. Barton, Martha A. Sunderland, Jana E. Bennett, Pamela K. Hughes, Catherine V. Sinclair, Deborah Toyozaki-Maehira, Pamela G. Smith, Thomas E. Stuart, Deborah J. Cummings, and JoAnn Ishida who transferred from Oahu District. Wishing you happy retirement days. Hope to meet you at our activities.

**State Website:**

<http://www.hstaretired.org/>  
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