



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

Hawaii District HSTA-R

HI-LITES

March/April 2014



President's Annual Report

Hawaii District HSTA-R had a highly successful year in 2013-

2014. We began with an executive board meeting in August where we set a proposed budget and calendar for the council to vote upon. Both were approved at our September meeting.

I have attended events for the West Hawaii Community Club and the active HSTA whenever possible to encourage them in their efforts of serving members.

I worked with the HARA organization to establish protocols for retired seniors in the State labor unions. I replaced the former member, Wayne Joseph. Steve Ono accepted the challenge of being the vice president of the group.

I attended Board of Directors, Retirement Issues Committee, and Presidents' meetings at the state level to help our members stay better informed. I also joined the state Education caucus to learn what active teachers want and how they are planning to function under a new State caucus for Democrats.

In October we had a new members' party and invited all of our newer members to come enjoy food and fellowship. We also participated in the Institute Day meetings by sharing of the pre-retirement workshop with active teachers. It was so successful that we ran out of room for participants to sit and materials to pass out to them.

In January, the West Hawaii Community Club put on an annual meeting at the Regency that was well attended. It was planned by JoAnn and Virginia and ran effortlessly. We were able to tour the facilities and

participate in a great luncheon that pleased all who attended. Speaker from the County came and spoke on senior aging and services available.

In February, we met in Hilo at Nani Mau for our East Hawaii annual meeting which was put on by Avis and her fantastic crew. Door prizes and good food abounded. Members from Hilo Medical Center Board came and spoke about what they are doing to address the need for doctors in rural areas and ways we can help them.

Later in February, we went to O'ahu to lobby our legislators. We are really pushing to keep the School of Pharmacy in Hilo and provide them with a building to complete their accreditation. We are encouraging all members to write to their senators and house members to encourage them to support the school as well.

In service,
Niyati Brown, President

Election Results – 2014-2016

Hawaii District Council – President – Cynthia “Niyati” Sallee-Brown, Vice President – Avis Mortemore, Secretary – Lorraine Hora, Treasurer – Lois Shimizu, Council At Large – Arleen Yoshimura, Bonnie Burke, Kim Springer, Myrna Watanabe

Hawaii District delegates to State Delegate Assembly – Virginia Halliday, Stephen Ono, Lois Shimizu, Kim Springer, Bettye Wakabayashi, Arleen Yoshimura, and Myrna Watanabe – alternate.

HSTA-R delegates to HSTA Convention – Sharon Mahoe, Justin Wong, Roger Takabayashi, Jean Dobashi, Vaughn Tokashiki, **Stephen Ono, Lorraine Hora**, Susan Hagiwara, Linda Mew, Robert Hu, Jeanne Fukuoka, and Janice Bond – alternate.

HSTA-R delegates to NEA-R/NEA Representative Assembly – Odetta Fujimori, Justin Wong, Roger Takabayashi, Vaughn Tokashiki, Jean Dobashi, Yvonne Linda Tavares, **Stephen Ono – alternate, Lorraine Hora – alternate.**



“LIVE WIRE”

By: Arleen Yoshimura

On February 5th Our Son and His Wife Blessed Us with Our Grandson...Our First Grandchild and Our Lives were changed forever. We have embarked on Our Amazing Journey into Grandparenthood.

Kade came a week early so we weren't there when He was born, but we were able to meet him, hold him and completely love him when he was a week old. He instantly warmed our Hearts and Touched Our Very Soul.

Kade is such a cute and adorable baby. I can just carry him all day and watch his changing gestures and expressions. The day that we left, we saw him smile, he opened his eyes and lifted his head.

Life begins at birth...and when Kade was born, I felt like my life began, too. It was as if I was being given a second chance at life so I could do things with the knowledge & experience that I've gained throughout the years.

So as we go forward into the future, we have a New Baby in Our Lives... a new purpose to keep Ourselves Healthy and Fit so we can enjoy quality time with Kade and help Him Make His Dreams Come True, just as He is Making Ours.

I know now that having a Grandchild is truly the Lord's Special Gift... The Best Blessing which is Absolutely Wonderful and Brings Sheer Joy with a Love Like No Other. It really Brings New Meaning to the words “Love & Cherish”. We are truly grateful for this Special Blessing.

EUTF/Hilo Medical Center Foundation Update Meeting – Avis Mortemore

HSTA-R Hawaii District is hosting an informational meeting on April 3, 2014, at the ILWU Harry Kamoku Hall on Lanikaula Street.

9:00 – 10:00:AM – Hilo Medical Center panel, Dr. Ted Peskin, Wayne Kanemoto, and Julie Tulang will share updates on the Hawaii Health System Corporation-Primary Care Training Program (a doctor residency program in Hilo).

10:00 – 12:00 PM – EUTF staff member, Sherrie Rivera, will be on hand to present information about our Employer Union Trust Fund and answer questions about our health care. VEBA questions will not be addressed as this is only EUTF related information.

Call **Niyati @776-1714** or **Avis @ 959-7920** to let us know you will attend. We want a head count for refreshments.

HGEA and UPW retirees will be joining us. Come and learn about the mission of the Hilo Medical Center Foundation and about our State health care organization, EUTF.

SAVE THIS DATE: APRIL 3, 2014!

State Director's Report –Lorraine Hora

The Legislative Action Team met with various State Legislators on Lobby Day, February 20. They discussed several bills impacting retirees, including funding for permanent buildings to keep the School of Pharmacy on UH-Hilo campus and additional funding for a doctor residency program scheduled to receive its first four doctors in July, 2014, at the Urgent Care Center in Hilo. This is a certified program to help address the need for doctors in our rural areas.

The Board also discussed and passed several New Business Items that will be presented, for approval, to the delegates at the HSTA-R State Delegate Assembly in April.

Another major concern discussed by the Board was the number of “Void” ballots received in our recent mail-in election for HSTA Convention and NEA-R/NEA Representative Assembly delegates. Surely, as gracefully aging seniors, you could

not have forgotten how to properly mark a ballot. Place an “X” inside the box and vote for not more than the stated number printed on the ballot. However, over 60 ballots were invalid because of scratch outs, use of whiteout, written personal comments, written in names, etc. Next election, please be one who votes correctly. Every vote counts.

West Hawaii Annual Meeting - JoAnn Iwane

Approximately 30 members of HSTA-R/WH-CC met on Friday, January 31st at the Regency at Hualalai Senior Living Residence. Hawaii Council President, Niyati Brown, provided a short synopsis of HSTA-R activities island-wide. She was followed by State Treasurer, Beverly Gotelli, who updated members on statewide activities. Stephen Ono provided information on Government Relations to the members. Our guest speaker was Angie Onaka from the County Office of Aging who provided us materials and information on activities and services provided to seniors by the County of Hawaii. Door prizes followed. A wonderful lunch was served followed by a tour of the facility by Katherine Roberts, Director of Marketing.

East Hawaii Annual Meeting – Avis Mortemore

The 2014 General Membership Meeting was held in the patio of Nani Mau Gardens. 50 members and guests enjoyed the lovely view and weather. Joe Tanaka and “friends” provided pre-meeting ukulele accompaniment to joyful singing and fellowship. Joe was recognized for his long standing role as an active Council member as well as for his tireless work for COLA Fairness. Thank you Joe.

A raffle brought some friendly competition and excitement. The collected \$345 will be donated to the American Cancer Society in memory of our district's late past president, Wayne Joseph.

The business portion was conducted by President Niyati Brown. District elections were completed. Introductions of the present HSTA-R District Council members were made. Our guest panel members were Wayne Kanemoto, Vice Chair of the Hilo Medical Center Board, Dr. Ted Peskin, head of the Acute Care at HMC, and Julie Tulang, Director of the HMC Foundation. This panel brought to light the need for support for the Hawaii Health System Corporation-Primary Care Training Program.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by the Coconut Grill chefs and door prizes were given out. Joe and his “ukulele friends” closed the meeting with the singing of “Hawaii Aloha”, a fitting way to end a fun and informative day.





Lorraine Hora
648 Hinano St
Hilo, HI 96720

Stamp



New Members

Welcome Dana Sewake, Kim Springer, Dorothy Hough, Sherrie Yamaguchi, Charles F. King and Joan Derbyshire. May you enjoy days of less stress and more sleep. Please join us for our activities.

Hawaii District Council 2013-2014

President - Cynthia Sallee-Brown

Vice President – Avis Mortemore

Secretary – Lorraine Hora

Treasurer – Lois Shimizu

Council At-Large – Y. Joe Tanaka

Bettye Wakabayashi

Arleen Yoshimura

Myrna Watanabe

Joyce Hirata

Betty Ann Yoshimura (1)

Gary Kaku (1)

Ingrid Nishimoto (1)

WHCC President –JoAnn Iwane

State Gov't Relations Co-Chair –

Stephen Ono

Memoriam
Faith T. Louie

State Website:

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