



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000  
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

[www.hgea.org](http://www.hgea.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: July 1, 2014

Contact: Jodi Endo Chai  
Senior Advisor  
543-0029 or 741-4542

### **HGEA awards scholarships to 37 members and dependents**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, the state's largest labor union, recently awarded 37 HGEA Charles R. Kendall and Russell K. Okata Scholarships to HGEA members or dependents who are attending or plan to attend a college, university, or vocational or trade school on a full-time basis. The recipients were selected based on financial need, academic ability, personal letter and recommendations.

The following list of 2014-2015 scholarship recipients, divided by island, includes the schools that they are or will be attending:

#### **OAHU**

##### **\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Tori Nakagawa, University of Hawaii at Hilo
- Samantha Patanapaiboon, Hawaii Pacific University
- Sherice Shiroma, University of Hawaii at Manoa

##### **\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Brittany Balanay, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Joseph A. Choy, Santa Clara University
- Taylor DeMotta, University of Washington
- Alana Freitas, Chapman University
- Meshelle Hirashima, Chaminade University of Honolulu
- Jerolene Ikeda-Bernardo, Chaminade University of Honolulu

(more)

**HGEA 2014-2015 CHARLES R. KENDALL AND RUSSELL K. OKATA SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**

Page 2

**OAHU (continued)**

**\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Colleen Licudine, University of Hawaii - West Oahu
- Chi Hang (Ernest) Lo, George Washington University
- Reece Matsumoto, University of Southern California
- LorMona Meredith, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Kanoelani Padeken, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Danica Quevedo, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Keala Swafford, University of Portland
- Jennie Leigh Yamada, Santa Clara University
- Jordan Yamada, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rihui Yuan, Columbia University

**HAWAII**

**\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Marissa Bonnell, University of Washington

**\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Amanda Agdeppa, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- William Anthony Justo, Hawaii Community College
- Megan McClintock, University of Washington
- Khaila Moke-Sakamoto, University of California, San Diego
- Chad Sakoda, University of Portland
- Chris Silva, Hawaii Community College

**KAUAI**

**\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Tamara Akau, Eastern Washington University
- Nicole Isoda, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Tyra Rapozo, Kapiolani Community College
- Tierra Teter, Whitworth University

**\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Austin Cook, Colorado State University
- Jamie Emoto, University of Southern California
- Angelika Questin, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Ian Souza, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

(more)

## HGEA 2014-2015 CHARLES R. KENDALL AND RUSSELL K. OKATA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Page 3

### MAUI

#### **\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Alia Garcia, University of Hawaii, Maui College

#### **\$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:**

- Taylor Tamanaha, Grand Canyon University
- Kaiuwailani Yen, Chandler-Gilbert Community College

The scholarships are named in honor of former HGEA executive directors Charles R. Kendall and Russell K. Okata, who both worked tirelessly to improve the lives of public employees. Throughout the year, the HGEA C. R. Kendall Fundraising Committee, composed of HGEA members, holds a variety events and activities on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island to raise funds for the Charles R. Kendall Scholarship and Education Fund.

# # #

#### **About HGEA**

HGEA was founded in 1934 to ensure fair and equitable representation for government employees. HGEA is the largest labor union in Hawaii, with more than 42,000 members. HGEA represents state and county employees in eight bargaining units. HGEA also serves a large associate membership composed primarily of retirees, other state and county employees and officials, and federal and private sector employees.