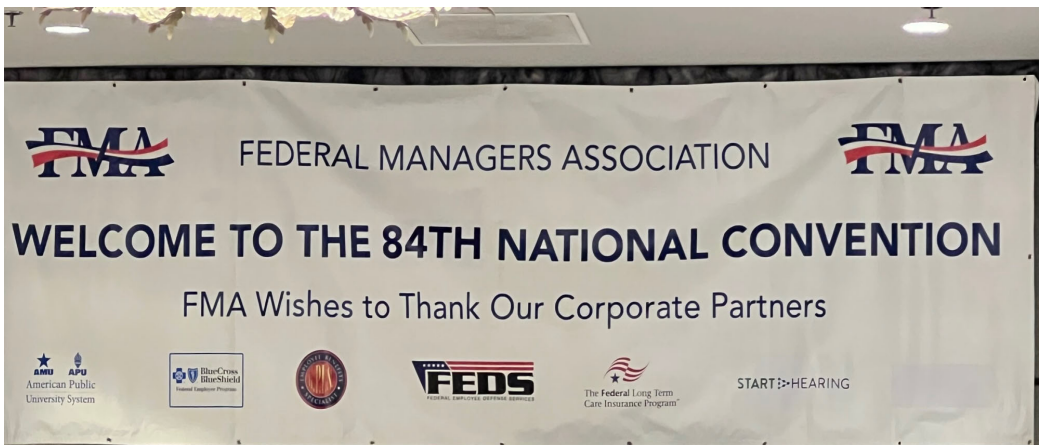


# FMA CHAPTER 19 NEWS

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SPECIAL  
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## *In this Issue:*

- National Conference Report
- Legislation Tracker
- Upcoming Events & KOKUA PLEASE

## National Conference Report

On a cool Saturday afternoon, Pres. Nomana Angelo, 1st VP James Andrade, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Ryan Umemoto and Dir. Jacob Choo met at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to depart for our national conference and a day on the hill in Washington DC. Our group was definitely feeling the excitement for what was ahead of us. When we finally arrived at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, we were instantly chilled to the bone, especially Jacob, wearing shorts.

We checked into the hotel and then headed to the conference location for registration. We were greeted at the registration table by Latorea Wilson, FMA's Finance and Administrative Manager. She gave us our welcome packet of information for the conference, and then we mingled with the people also near the registration table, who happened to be the Portsmouth contingent. As we migrated to have a few drinks with our new friends, we spotted others who appeared to be a large convention group, and it turned out to be Norfolk contingent. We made our introductions and ended up going out to dinner with them at a nearby restaurant as one big new family.



*Tim Bergeron (PNS), Nomana, Peggy Hatcher (Army), Jacob*



*James, Jacob, Nomana in Region 3 Breakout Session*

On Monday, when the actual convention started, we networked with the attendees in the lobby. We then had a day full of FMA related discussion, talks, and breakout sessions within regions. We met our Region 3 Director, Peggy Hatcher. She took a liking to us, and Eddie Franco from her agency just happened to have a first cousin who is one of our PHNSY brothers (Jeff Franco, Code 740). National Officer nominations were taken early in the day, but only the President and Secretary positions were up for election. Craig Carter was unopposed for President. Current Region 1 Director Chris Lombardi and current Region 2 Secretary Sue Thatcher ran for Secretary, with Chris Lombardi coming out on top in votes. Other elections were held within the Regional Breakout Sessions, where Jacob Choo was elected for Region 3's Deputy Director.

**Upcoming Events  
and  
KOKUA PLEASE**

- 1. General Meeting:** April 28  
Held every other month on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each even month at the Navy League HQ. Zoom meeting link will be sent via email.
  - 2. Shipyard Commander Meeting:** April 6
  - 3. Adopt a Highway:** May 14  
This will be Ryan Umemoto's first stint as the new Adopt a Highway Coordinator. Please support.
  - 4. Fishing Tournament:** July 16  
More info to follow.  
Thomas Chow coordinating.
  - 5. Chapter Scholarship applications:** June 30  
For High School Seniors and College/Grad school students. Members, their children and grandchildren are eligible.
  - 6. KOKUA PLEASE E-Board** is planning on both a Fund Raiser and possibly a Golf Tournament. More to follow.
  - 7. KOKUA PLEASE:** One of the General Meetings this year will focus on Retirement Financial Planning. Do's and Don'ts- Please send specific topics of interest to Eric Kimura or contact any E-Board Member.
  - 8. KOKUA PLEASE:** In addition to updating our website, we would like to establish a Facebook and Twitter account. Anyone with expertise and/or willing to help, please contact E. Kimura or any E-Board member.
  - 9. KOKUA PLEASE:** Promote Leadership Excellence by nominating a deserving 1<sup>st</sup> line Supervisor to be awarded the B. Cravalho Supervisor of the Quarter.
- Next issue:** June 10

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Tuesday was our 24 degrees training session, so I was glad to spend the day indoors. We were provided with information about employee assistance, training management, accountability in performance versus conduct, and we also got to meet OPM's Director Keiran Ahuja. Our FMA partners such as GPIS, who provides us no-cost benefits and retirement planning assistance were there to re-educate us all on aspects that they believe we should be pointing out to our members. We plan to have them provide us with another round of presentations for our member's awareness.

Wednesday was our Day on the Hill. We had planned to meet 3 of Hawaii Congressmen face-to-face and one via Zoom meeting, but all lawmaker were unexpectedly pulled away for various important reasons. We did meet with the office staffers, who gave us the Congressmen's perspectives on our issues and their requests for information. The dialogue provided us good insight into how they viewed our problems, and allowed us a chance to ensure we follow up on short-fused items when we return. One takeaway of importance for me from our talk with Tim Nelson of Representative Case's office was that they are very willing to be creative in how we solve a problem such as workforce development. We went into the discussion thinking only one way to attack the issue, but they came prepared with an innovative longer-term strategy that we should further investigate. \*\*\*Mind-blown\*\*\*

**Congressional Quiz**

- a) How important are staffers?
- b) What is an authorizer and what is an appropriator?
- c) What is the importance of having multiple delegations sponsor a bill?
- d) What is the importance of a committee assignment?



*Ryan meets OPM Director Ahuja*



*Walking to the Rayburn House Entrance*



*President Nomana Angelo working hard for Managers*

We will explain more about the approach proposed by Representative Case's office (Tim Nelson) at our General Meeting.

On Thursday, we flew out of Ronald Reagan Airport very early in the morning so that we could make our connecting flights. Of course, the weather changed for the better as we were leaving, and it was a much more pleasant 50-ish degrees in the morning. We did get to see some very beautiful Cherry Blossoms. And besides being cold for islanders, it did not rain (Hard) much. And we definitely did not sweat, except for Nomana during his 1:00 am morning workouts. We completed our goals of networking, better understanding how we can be more effective, and establishing that we will be back prepared to make an impact. It was a great trip, but it's always better to be back in Hawaii-nei.

Ryan Umemoto

### Answers to Congressional Quiz

- a. The importance of Staffers (Very Important!) The Staff members of each Congressman and Senator perform the vital work of researching, validating issues, making the recommendations and then briefing each of their respective Principals on the appropriate position as well as the strategy to accomplish the legislation. It is how most issues come before the members of Congress. It is almost more important to spend time with the staffers than it is to get your picture taken with the member of Congress.
- b. Authorizers and Appropriators – (key roles). Most committees in Congress work on developing the legislation or “law” that expresses the will of Congress. Members of these committees are usually known as “authorizers.” In addition, there are two committees, one in the Senate and one in the House, that figure out and propose how much of the Nation's budget and sometimes when money will be used to support each of the statutes approved. Members of these two committees are known as “appropriators.” Both roles are important. Hawaii has been fortunate to have relatively senior members on both the Senate Armed Services and the House Armed Services Committee (Hirono and Kahele), as well as on the Senate Appropriations and House Committee on Appropriations (Schatz and Case).
- c. Importance of multiple Co-Sponsors. (Very Important) With 535 members of both the Senate and the House, the typical odds for any work of legislation or budget initially faces a 1 in 535 chance of succeeding. Indeed, most bills do not even make it to the floor for a vote. Having multiple co-sponsors improves the odds tremendously, especially if the geographic and party affiliation is broad and includes both parties. If all four shipyards work together, it is possible to have up to 9 separate delegations co-sponsoring. (Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, depending on the issue, could have Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island support).
- d. Importance of Committee Assignments. (Very Important) Most Bills, when proposed, are initially routed to Committees. A member has to be on the committee to actually work on it and his or her seniority, helps to determine the priority of consideration. Most Bills don't make it out of Committee. (Again, having multiple co-sponsors increases the chance that a member will have the seniority or influence someone on the Committee to have a bill considered by the Committee).

## House of Representatives

1. **Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act (H.R. 6398)**  
A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 5.1 percent, and for other purposes.
2. **Chance to Compete Act (H.R. 6967)**  
A bill to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes.
3. **Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act (H.R. 564)**  
A bill to provide paid family and medical leave to Federal employees, and for other purposes.
4. **PLUM Act (H.R. 2043)**  
A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes.
5. **SHIPYARD Act (H.R. 2860)**  
A bill to appropriate an additional amount to improve the Navy shipyard infrastructure of the United States.
6. **Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 4268)**  
A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes.
7. **Preventing a Patronage System Act (H.R. 302)**  
A bill to impose limits on excepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.
8. **Equal COLA Act (H.R. 304)**  
A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost of living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.
9. **Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (H.R. 3076)**  
A bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.
10. **Fair COLA for Seniors Act (H.R. 4315)**  
A bill to provide for cost-of-living increases for certain Federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the elderly.
11. **Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 2337)**  
A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide an equitable Social Security formula for individuals with noncovered employment and to provide relief for individuals currently affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision.
12. **Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021 (H.R. 5834)**  
A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to replace the windfall elimination provision with a formula equalizing benefits for certain individuals with noncovered employment, and for other purposes.

**13. Merit Systems Protection Board Empowerment Act of 2021 (H.R. 1224)**

A bill to reauthorize the authority of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and for other purposes.

**14. Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act (H.R. 2988)**

A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify and enhance protections for Federal Government whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

**15. Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (H.R. 82)**

A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

**16. Strengthening the Office of Personnel Management Act (H.R. 6066)**

A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to reaffirm the role of the Office of Personnel Management as the leader for civilian human resource management in the Federal Government, to encourage innovation in the Office's management of human capital, to strengthen the Office's ability to support Federal human capital management as a strategic priority, and for other purposes.

## Senate

**1. Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act (S. 3518)**

A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 5.1 percent, and for other purposes.

**2. Chance to Compete Act (S. 3423)**

A bill to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

**3. Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act (S. 1158)**

A bill to provide paid family and medical leave to Federal employees, and for other purposes.

**4. PLUM Act (S. 857)**

A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes.

**5. SHIPYARD Act (S. 1441)**

A bill to appropriate an additional amount to improve the Navy shipyard infrastructure of the United States.

**6. The Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2021 (S. 2727)**

A bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

**7. Honoring Civilians Killed in the Line of Duty Act (S. 3487)**

A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, and for other purposes.

**8. First Responder Fair RETIRE Act (S. 129)**

A bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear material couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled.