



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- President's Message
- Past, Present, Future Events
- Retiree's Spotlight

## President's Message

Aloha everyone, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2022! I hope that this message finds you safe and well.

The first quarter of 2022 has flown right by and we're almost halfway through the year! I'd like to start off by giving the biggest MAHALO to the Executive Board and Officers this year, and for those who have so diligently served in years prior, as they have all been hard at work to serve our community and HRPS to truly make it a better place.

As we continue to emerge from the challenges faced throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is really exciting to see what the future has in store for all of us.

Here's to a great first Quarter! Looking forward for more excitement to come!

- AJ Paresa,  
President, 2022



# Events

## January 2022

New Year, New Me Hike @ Ka'ena Point



## February 2022

Community Service @ Pu'uloa Springs  
President's Day Paddle Out



## March 2022

Haku Lei Workshop



## Upcoming Events:

- 33rd Annual Silver Streaks Sunrise Walk for Seniors
- April Social Event
- "July is Parks and Recreation Month" Poster Contest

# Retiree's Spotlight

## This Quarter's Spotlight: Joyce Spoehr!



*What drew me into recreation?*

I trained as a teacher with a degree from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. But then reality came when I went job hunting. All the teaching positions in Honolulu were primarily taken by "Baby Boomers." So, having been an athlete in college, I looked at recreation as a profession. I started coaching at the high school level.

Then our family moved to the Cook Islands where my husband wanted to complete his Master's thesis. We lived on the island of Rarotonga where I applied for the hotel manager job and got it. It was the only hotel in the whole country. We returned to Hawaii in 1972. No teaching jobs! No jobs on Oahu! My husband found a job in Hilo and I worked at the Naniloa Hotel at the front desk. We moved back to Oahu in 1976. Again no teaching jobs, Finally in 1978 I got a job at the Richard's Street YWCA as the director HPER. And in 1982 I started working for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation.

*Any advice to young recreation directors?*

- (1) Always be open to learn new things. My first haku lei was 6" long and 6" wide! The moral of the story is "Don't give up."
- (2) Keep up with changes. When I started playing women's basketball, we only played half court and could only dribble three times. Today that has changed completely and we all stand in awe of the current University of Hawai'i's women basketball team.
- (3) Get to know your community. Where you work becomes your professional "home." Learn who the leaders are and what your professional community's strengths are.
- (4) Treat your staff as your extended family. Never reprimand your subordinate staff (if you must!) in front of others. Remember your staff is the bridge between you and individual members of your community.

*What keeps me going?*

I enjoy working with people. My senior hiking participants were always so happy that they could go on hikes. They never could do it alone but together they could. I also greatly enjoy making lei; particularly haku lei and lauhala weaving. Teaching lei making also makes people happy while learning new skills. One of my students placed in the May Day lei contest and that made me exceptionally happy. My lauhala weaving is what I do for fun and keeping my brain active. I do believe that when one gets older or has the ability to volunteer, volunteer work is most fulfilling. I volunteer at Honolulu's Foster Botanical Garden. For exercise I have always run (though today I walk more than run) and enjoy Hawaiian canoe paddling.