



**A F S C M E**  
LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

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: February 20, 2014

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

### **HGEA and DLNR team up to plant rare Haleakala Silversword**

Volunteers from Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) Maui Community Action Committee will join together with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to transplant about 100 rare Haleakala silverswords on Saturday, March 1, 2014. Their efforts will help to increase this threatened species population by outplanting within the State Forest Reserve.

"Our members look forward to participating in this activity because it's a hands-on way to help preserve this native plant species and our environment," said Jessica Gleason, HGEA Maui Island Division's Community Action Committee Vice Chair.

Before silverswords were officially named a "threatened species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1992, they were driven to near extinction from excessive grazing by cattle and goats, as well as other human influences.

HGEA members and DLNR staff will be prepping and planting silverswords propagated by the National Park Service.

If your community group is interested in native planting projects, contact Forest Management Supervisor Lance DeSilva (873-3980) of DLNR's Maui Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

# # #

#### **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.