

# HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association

Hawaii Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

## *Opening Comments Word from our President Paul Luersen, AICP*

### **Aloha Hawaii Chapter Members!**

As I begin a two-year term as your chapter president, I want to thank Mary Alice Evans for serving as our president the past two years. As you can read in her “Parting Comments” message in our past newsletter, much was accomplished by the chapter and its volunteers under her leadership. So, thank you Mary Alice for staying on the Executive Council as the immediate past president so our members can still benefit from your leadership and experience. And thank you members for electing Vice-president **Kimi Mikami Yuen** and Director-at-Large **Kathy Sokugawa** to chapter leadership positions. Together with our current officers and committee chairs as well as new committee chairs and volunteers I know we will continue to strengthen our chapter. Our first meeting is scheduled for Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. As the term begins, here are some initial thoughts. There are a lot of good things we already do and some new things we could do. Please send me your thoughts – call me at 440-0201 or send me an email at [paul.luersen@ch2m.com](mailto:paul.luersen@ch2m.com).

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawaii Chapter**

Yes, look at our website link (About APAHI) – we were founded in 1962. Some members have suggested we celebrate the anniversary in ways that inform the community on the value of planning. For example, we could interview some of the early members and Fellows to publish a series as a column in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* in 2012. We could also provide examples of past plans in an historical retrospective. Someone suggested radio spots, perhaps on *HPR-Hawaii Public Radio*. How about an exhibit at HCPO 2012? There are lots of great ideas. Now, we need some volunteers to plan and implement a program. Let me know if you are interested in leading or helping.

### **Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO)**

We have been fortunate to be a co-sponsor for the past couple of HCPO conferences so we could showcase excellence in planning (i.e., awards presentation at the HCPO luncheon), network with people around the state who have an interest in planning issues, and provide CM credits to our AICP members. We need to do what we can to continue as a co-sponsor of

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future HCPO conferences. Thank you Kauai Planning Department staff and your volunteers for organizing HCPO 2011!

## **Recognizing Excellence in Planning**

For another year, Steve Lettau has led our Awards Committee and a jury of peers met in August to evaluate the submittals. The APA-Hawaii Chapter awards will be presented at the HCPO 2011 Thursday lunch program.

## **Luncheon Program**

This is our principal forum to regularly meet and exchange ideas and expand our knowledge. Our hard working program committee, Stephanie Roberts and Martha Spengler, deserve a lot of credit and thanks for keeping this forum alive. To lend them a hand, Randolph Sykes from the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) recently volunteered to join the committee. Thank you Randolph.

## **Certification Maintenance (CM) Program**

Ralph Portmore has volunteered to be the new co-chair of the CM committee; Peter Flachsbarth remains as the other co-chair. Ralph jumped in to the deep end of the pool this past month when he submitted many of the HCPO 2011 sessions to APA National to qualify for CM credits. Thank you to Marie Williams at Kauai Planning Department for helping to prepare the submittal.

## **Neighbor Island Members**

I need your help in understanding what the chapter does and does not do, to serve your needs. Please call me. I look forward to serving as your chapter president and working with you on our projects.

Mahalo!

Paul

***Continued below...***

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## ***Annual APA Dinner and Presentation of Newly-Elected Executive Board***

***July 21, 2011 Plaza Club – Downtown Honolulu***



***Outgoing President - Mary Alice Evans, Incoming President Paul Luersen***



***Outgoing Vice-President Steve Lettau receiving his award for service***



***Mark Tawara receiving an award for service to the Chapter***