

HAWAI'I PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

American Planning Association – Hawai'i Chapter Distinguished Service Award - 2012 Mary Alice Evans

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association is pleased to present our 2012 Distinguished Service Award to Mary Alice Evans. Mary Alice was born in Berkeley, California, but was raised in Portland, Oregon after her family moved there in her youth. She attended University of California-Santa Barbara where she earned a joint Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Religious Studies. Just prior to her graduation, she met up with a free-spirit type by the name of John Knox, who just happened to be traveling through Santa Barbara at that time. They embarked on a journey to Hawaii and settled on the Big Island intending to stay there for a short time prior to working their way around the world. They got as far as Oahu. With John working in Honolulu, Mary Alice pursued her Masters of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning at UH – Manoa. Mary Alice participated in a program which at the time offered State financial assistance for higher education if the student recipient would commit to a state job upon graduation, if one was offered. Upon graduation, Mary Alice was offered a position which at the time was in the State's Department of Planning and Economic Development, a forerunner to DBEDT. Thus started her long, distinguished career with a multitude of governmental agencies serving under various administrations and encompassing more than 35 years. These include positions in the Office of Planning, Department of Accounting and General Services, the Governor's Office of Research under Ben Cayetano and currently, as Governor Abercrombie's appointee as Deputy Director of Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) since 2011. Aside from the State, Mary Alice has served on the Honolulu Planning Commission during the Eileen Anderson and Frank Fasi administrations.

Her contributions to the Hawaii Chapter of APA throughout the years have been numerous. She has twice served two-year terms as Chapter president, and continues to assist with education, awards, promotions, conference planning, membership, financial accounting, bylaw compliance and newsletter efforts, all associated with maintaining our Chapter in good

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standing with the national APA organization and keeping the local planning community current and informed.

Mary Alice married John Knox in 1976 and they reside in Waimanalo on windward Oahu. They have two children – Rockey is currently 33 and is pursuing her PhD at George Washington University in the District of Columbia and Mickey who is currently 30 and recently completed his JD at Richardson School of Law at UH-Manoa. He is currently working on his MBA at Shidler School of Business at UH. Both John and Mary Alice are admitted workaholics (although one is a morning person, the other decidedly not). When not engaged with planning and the planning profession in Hawaii, Mary Alice is an avid reader across a full range of interests including science and medical journals. The couple's past travels include trips to visit family in Portland as well as excursions to Mongolia and China, among other destinations.

In a press release at the time of Mary Alice' most recent appointment, the Governor noted that "Ms. Evans brings institutional insight to our dynamic team at DBEDT. Her experience is valuable as we move forward towards encouraging more public and private partnerships with government." Aside from all her accolades and demonstrated talents throughout the years, we at the APA Hawaii Chapter value Mary Alice most for her personal warmth, commitment, professionalism, intelligence and passion for good planning in Hawaii.

Congratulations, Mary Alice!



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