

## *News from the Big Island*

### *Roy Takemoto e-Blast Editorial Staff and Planner with PBR Hawai'i*

### *Dr. Juvik Receives a Much-Deserved Award*

There's a warmth that permeates whenever she enters her class. Professor Sonia Juvik has been adored by her students for 30 years at UH-Hilo. During the winter graduation ceremonies, Professor Sonia Juvik received the Chancellor's Certificate of Recognition for her contributions "*in preparing student scholars to thrive, compete, innovate and lead in their professional and personal lives*". This recognition spoke to the heart of Sonia's gift to the University - to develop an institution that sincerely cares for its students, as the basis to develop students who care. Born and raised in Jamaica (the reason there's that hint of British accent in Sonia's speech), Sonia matriculated on scholarship at McGill University in Montreal. There she met her husband, Jim, who was visiting McGill from Harvard University. Sonia followed Jim to Hawaii. At UH-Manoa, Sonia earned her master's degree in Geography and went on to Australia to earn her Ph.D. in Environmental Conflict Resolution.



*Dr. Sonia Juvik receiving her award*

# HAWAII PLANNING



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Hawaii Chapter  
*Making Great Communities Happen*

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Sonia single-handedly started the Planning Certificate program in the UH-Hilo Geography Department. To earn the Planning Certificate, a student must take a series of planning courses and, most importantly, work as an intern. Sonia has not perched herself in the ivory tower. The professional planning community in Hilo knows her well by her invitations to speak to her students on real-life planning issues, by her inquiries into internship opportunities for her students, by her presence at public meetings or in the field with a group of students and by her engaging conversation over coffee or pupus. To planners on the other islands, however, Sonia may only be known as the co-editor of the Atlas of Hawaii, a distinguished reference that nearly every planner in Hawaii consults. The Juviks have also produced a children's version of the Atlas of Hawaii. Sonia retired this past December. With her retirement, the Big Island planners will work with Sonia (in her volunteer capacity) and the Geography Department to support the continued vibrancy of the Planning Certificate program.

Alex, a student of Sonia's, exemplifies Sonia's legacy: *"Sonia Juvik connected my passion for sustainability and ecological awareness to real world applications. She helped me refine my skills and knowledge through taking a personal interest in my success. She helped to instill in me the knowing that I will be a positive force for change in this world."* Retirement from academia only signifies the beginning of a new chapter in Sonia's life. The planning community can now seek and benefit from the heart and mind of Professor Emeritus Sonia Juvik.