

# HAWAI'I PLANNING



American Planning Association  
Hawaii Chapter  
*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

## *From Maile Way*

### News from DURP - University of Hawai'i

**Tricia Dang - Editorial Staff and  
Planner with Kamehameha Schools**

#### **World Town Planning Day**

The annual World Town Planning Day, hosted by University of Hawai'i - Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP), featured the topic, 'Planning Disaster Resilient Communities'. The panel featured Andrew Rumback, Assistant Professor, discussing formal and informal planning; Ashok Das, Assistant Professor, covering what's different and what's the same about an unnatural disaster; and Dean Sakamoto, Deputy Director of the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. Dean is the lead developer for the Center's "Hurricane Resistant Community Planning & Building Design" course; he rounded out the panel by discussing new concepts for hurricane resistant public schools.

Congratulations to Professor Robert Quercia, recipient of the Dinell Outstanding Alumni Award, and Peter Adler, Ph.D., recipient of the Planner who made a difference!

Quercia, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, leads research projects in the areas of low-income homeownership, subprime and predatory lending, and financial services issues. He is principal researcher on an evaluation of a secondary mortgage market initiative for community reinvestment loans. The multi-year evaluation is examining the impacts of homeownership through a longitudinal survey of low-income borrowers.

Adler is President of The Keystone Center. The Keystone Center combines consensus-building strategies and state-of-the-art scientific and technical information to address energy, natural resource, and health-related policy problems. Adler has held executive positions with the Hawai'i Justice Foundation, the Hawai'i Supreme Court's Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the Neighborhood Justice Center. Best known in Hawai'i for organizing a multi-party collaboration that led to the Water Code, he also organized a long-term deliberation on the implications of the Supreme Court's Public Access Shoreline Hawai'i decision.

#### **E Komo Mai!**

Over the last few years, DURP has welcomed four new professors.

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## Makena Coffman, PhD Economics, Assistant Professor:

Makena specializes in regional economy-environment modeling with expertise in energy policy. The Department looks to her to teach courses in Environmental Planning: Climate Change, Energy and Food Security in the Asia/Pacific Region, Environmental Valuation & Policy, Economics for Planners, Statistics, and Energy Policy. Her current research includes assessing optimal mixes of renewable energies and energy efficiency programs to reach the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative goal of 40% renewable energy and 30% energy efficiency by 2030. Coffman has a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a B.A. in International Relations from Stanford University, minor in Economics.

## Priyam Das, PhD, Assistant Professor:

Priyam joined DURP in 2009. She received her Ph.D. in Urban Planning from UCLA; a Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) from Pennsylvania State University; and a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Das teaches Introduction to Planning, Urban Form, Site Planning, and Urban Environmental Problems.

## Ashok Das, PhD, Assistant Professor:

Joining his wife this fall, Das, Ph.D in Urban Planning from UCLA, brings further depth to the discipline of disaster and risk management. In particular, Ashok's work includes studying inequalities of risk and analyzing satellite cities and disasters in India.

## Andrew Rumbach, PhD City and Regional Planning, Assistant Professor:

Andrew received his Master's and Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and joined DURP in the Fall of 2011. His research examines the relationships between urbanization and environmental risk, with special focus on the vulnerability of poor and marginalized groups to natural hazards and global climate change. He is especially concerned with the role that planning plays in shaping geographies of risk and resilience in cities. Rumbach's current research is centered on cities in eastern India and the Pacific islands. During the Fall of 2011 he is teaching a graduate course on disaster management and humanitarian assistance (DMHA) and in the Spring of 2011 an undergraduate seminar on building community resilience.

## Featured: Spring Coursework:

This Spring 2012, Luciano Minerbi will be teaching PLAN 632, Planning in Hawai'i and Pacific Islands: Urban and Regional Planning in Island Settings; Hawai'i, Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia.

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Open to non-majors, the course is organized in four sections: (1) the culture and ecological basis of planning; (2) political and economic dimension; (3) people, settlements, and lands; and (4) planning and management in island settings. Students will write a term paper of a topic of their choice comparing island nations or focusing on a specific island.

Student outcome includes knowledge and understanding of island planning processes, policies and programs. Training to include conceptual and analytical approaches to development planning in small capital towns, villages and rural settings. Students will also improve on their ability to analyze planning problems in different cultural and environmental contexts.

## Featured: Spring 2012 Practicum

Every Master's of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree includes at least one practicum experience that concludes with a final report providing planning assistance and direction. The practicum provides an opportunity to bring multiple planning elements into a real-world study.

This Spring, James Spencer will be hosting the practicum: "To Keep the Country Country, Make the City a City". A prelude to this coursework can be found in Spencer's December 4, 2011 Start-Advertiser Op-Ed titled, "Much world-class potential in Kaka'ako". In partnership with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA), the practicum will support HCDA's efforts to achieve a dense, mixed use, "walkable," and "transit-oriented" development that includes community input from a range of individual and institutional stakeholders. The practicum shall develop an effective, innovative, and aggressive communications strategy to assist HCDA. It sees two components of improving the planning process and the communications strategy: 1) research on an overall Honolulu Urban Strategy and 2) the development of Innovations in Social Media Planning. Using economic analyses, among other planning tools, students shall achieve a neighborhood-level planning project that fits within a larger urban strategy.

Previously completed practicum reports are available online (Various between 1999 to 2009) - visit [www.durp.hawaii.edu](http://www.durp.hawaii.edu), select "Recent Student Work" in the left column.