

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

Word from our President Paul Luersen, AICP

We're off to a great start for 2013!

Hawaii Chapter Awarded Grant. The APA Chapter Presidents Council Grants Committee awarded our 2013 grant request in the amount of \$3,000 to conduct a Hawaii Planning Oral Histories project, with additional funding coming from the Chapter and in-kind contributions. There was a lot of national competition for the limited grant funds and, according to the award letter, "The success of your Chapter's application attests to the merit of the project's purpose and the soundness of the plan for implementation." The project will produce a series of oral histories focusing on 50 years of land use planning in the State of Hawaii. Interviews will be conducted with distinguished planners including Fellows of the AICP and other prominent professional planners such as former State and County planning directors. The work will be coordinated and managed by the AICP Fellows and conducted by graduate students of the University of Hawaii Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) with training and advisory services provided by the University Center for Oral History Program. The grant application was prepared by FAICP members Byrnes Yamashita and George Atta.

2013's CPC Leadership Award Presented to Peter Flachsbart. At this year's APA National Conference in Chicago Peter Flachsbart was presented the Chapter Presidents Council Leadership Award for Chapter Professional Development Officer. The award letter stated, "Under your leadership and substantial contributions, the APA Hawaii Chapter has provided outstanding educational services to members. Your leadership, hard work and dedication to providing training to the professional and citizen planners of Hawaii is exemplary and worthy of commendation." Peter has continuously served as the Professional Development Officer and a member of the Executive Committee for APA Hawaii Chapter since 1983. Congratulations Peter! (See related article in this e-Blast edition)

DURP Re-Accreditation Review by Planning Accreditation Board. Over the past several months a committee of Chapter members evaluated the MURP degree program at the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning and submitted a report as input to the PAB's accreditation review of DURP. Thank you to those who responded to the survey we sent out to members as your input provided valuable insights that were included in our report. The committee and chapter members, about a dozen of us total, met with the PAB site visit team on March 4th in Honolulu. One of the key points made in the report and meeting is the need to continue building stronger ties between DURP and the community of planning practitioners as both groups benefit from the interchange of ideas and collaboration on programs. Kimi Yuen, our DURP liaison, chaired our Accreditation Review Committee, whose members included Leo Asuncion, Jr., Ruby Edwards, Sherri Hiraoka, Paul Luersen, Justine Nihipali, and Sue Sakai.

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APA 2013 National Conference in Chicago. By my reckoning, about 30 chapter members attended this year's conference. And judging by the happy faces in the photos of folks who attended our informal Hawaii dinner, the food and beverage workshop was a success. And once again, Peter was recognized – this time for his birthday. A new APA division was created this year – the Sustainable Communities Division – and several of your chapter members have joined the division and attended its inaugural division meeting. Your chapter was also represented at the Chapter Presidents Council meetings and the 2013 National Delegate Assembly, where two new policy papers were previewed: "Planning for and Aging Society" and "Hazard Mitigation." If you want to know more about these papers, send me an email at paul.luersen@ch2m.com. A key message at the conference was for planners to communicate with our elected leaders to let them know about successful planning projects and programs so we can maintain and even build more support for funding of planning programs in Congress and Hawaii.



Above and Below: Hawaii planners attending our Hawaii dinner event at the annual APA convention in Chicago.

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And once again, Peter Flachsbart was recognized – this time for his birthday. Peter mulls over his birthday surprise, flanked by Mark Garrity and William Ammons

HCPO 2013. And now from Chicago to Kona, the site of this year's HCPO conference, hosted by the County of Hawai'i Planning Department. Save the date: September 18 - 20, 2013 at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort. Stay tuned for more information.