

Word from our President Paul Luersen, AICP

End of Year Comments

Happy New Year!

In reflecting on how 2012 ended with a cliff hanger in Washington and how 2013 in Hawaii brings us changes to our state legislature and county councils, I thought about the role planners can take in shaping public policy. As an organization, our Chapter can take positions on public issues and policies. In this quarterly newsletter, I mention some of the local and national APA resources that can guide us in our discussions and actions to responsibly shape local public policy.

At the local level, we have our Public Issues committee co-chaired by Dean Minakami and George Atta. (See our Chapter's spring 2012 newsletter.) The committee is responsible for identifying issues, the appropriate forums to address identified issues, and developing Chapter or Executive Committee positions on public issues.

One of the issues identified by the committee is the state of State Planning. To inform us on the topic, the committee recently organized a special program on the FUTURE OF STATE PLANNING to inform us on the subject. (Invitations to attend the January 9th program were emailed to our members in December.) The program features a panel of four former State Planning Directors and the current Office of Planning Director, Jesse Souki, to examine past and present planning initiatives and how State Planning addresses statewide issues of concern, directs economic growth, and provides a catalyst for public and private development. I anticipate that this and subsequent discussions will result in actions the Chapter can take to support efforts to shape the future of State Planning.

At the National level, the APA website provides information and tools to assist planners in the areas of Policy, Advocacy, and Law, <http://www.planning.org/policy/>. From this page, select "Issues and Policies" from the menu to arrive at <http://www.planning.org/policy/issues/>. From here you can tap into APA's "Policy Guides" that articulate specific policy positions and

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establish key principles for APA. When the Chapter considers taking a position on a local issue or policy, we should review relevant policies adopted by APA before making our decision. The list of adopted policies is provided below to show the breadth of topics on which APA has taken a stand. Most of them could apply to Hawaii. Click on the links below for further information:

- [Agricultural Land Preservation \(1999\)](#)
- [Billboard Controls \(1997\)](#)
- [Climate Change \(2011\)](#)
- [Community and Regional Food Planning \(2007\)](#)
- [Community Residences \(1997\)](#)
- [Endangered Species and Habitat Protection \(1999\)](#)
- [Energy \(2012\)](#)
- [Environment: Waste Management \(2002\)](#)
- [Environment: Water Resources Management \(2002\)](#)
- [Environment: Wetlands \(2002\)](#)
- [Factory Built Housing \(2001\)](#)
- [Historic and Cultural Resources \(1997\)](#)
- [Homelessness \(2003\)](#)
- [Housing \(2006\)](#)
- [Impact Fees \(1988\)](#)
- [Neighborhood Collaborative Planning \(1998\)](#)
- [Planning for Sustainability \(2000\)](#)
- [Provision of Child Care \(1997\)](#)
- [Public Redevelopment \(2004\)](#)
- [Security \(2005\)](#)
- [Smart Growth \(2012\)](#)
- [Surface Transportation \(2010\)](#)
- [Takings \(1995\)](#)