

## **Successful HCPO Conference on Maui**

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and  
2014 HCPO Conference Chair

The Maui Planning Department hosted the 2014 Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) Conference on September 10-12, 2014 at the Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa in Kaanapali. Close to 300 attendees participated in the plenary and breakout sessions, mobile workshops and night time dinner functions. This year's conference theme was "Shaping Hawaii for Tomorrow" or SHIFT, which encouraged participants to shift mindsets to meet significant changes in the economy, communication, technology, energy systems and climate.

The opening day of the conference offered four (4) mobile workshops that included a ferry trip to Lanai to hear about the plans for the new vision for the island, a walk through the Historic District of Lahaina with discussion on what it takes to manage a historic district, a tour of the West Maui shoreline to discuss some of Maui's successes and challenges, and finally a visit to some West Maui farms to see how farming has transitioned from traditional farming to meet today's market demands.



**HCPO Was Well-Attended by Planning Officials at the State and County Level**

# HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association  
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*Making Great Communities Happen*

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**Beautiful Weather for the Lahaina Mobile Workshop**

Three keynote speakers offered their experiences and recommendations on how Hawaii and its planning community can make the SHIFT.

Bill Holsinger-Robinson encouraged the group to seek opportunities for fun and innovation in the public realm. He concluded his talk with the Jane Jacobs quote, “Cities have the capacity of providing something for everybody only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

City of Toronto Chief Planner Jennifer Keesmaat reminded planners about their obligation to lead conversations and facilitate a culture of continuous learning to develop good planning practices. She noted how complete streets stimulate a community where all ages and abilities can enjoy a good quality of life. She left attendees with these guiding principles:

- Have a shared vision
- Use facts to inspire trust

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- Let data and evidence drive policy
- Call out the bad ideas
- Build understanding
- Sweat the small stuff



**City of Toronto Chief Planner Jennifer Keesmaat**

Jim Heid, president and founder of UrbanGreen, encouraged planners to go beyond the shores of Hawaii for the next big thing. He analogized planning to Pilates. One must improve on flexibility to build strength, coordination and balance. He encouraged planners to consider non-traditional factors when designing communities. He presented seven action plans:

- Balance & flexibility
- Dream big, think small
- Increase value, reduce the cost
- Future-proof plans to endure
- Integrate the team and the uses
- Experiment, experiment, experiment
- Travel, observe, then localize.

He posed a challenge to attendees, “What will you do on Monday”.

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Overall, the conference was well attended, informative, inspiring and fun. Guests were blown away with Maui's own Willie K who entertained the group at a luau dinner. The best part of any HCPO conference is the networking of planners and governmental officials. This year's conference afforded many opportunities for this to happen.



**Breakout Sessions Included Island Voices Speakers Timothy Bailey, Rob Iopa and Michael Dahilig**

Maui passed the torch to the State Office of Planning who will host the 2015 HCPO conference in Oahu. Audio files and presentations from the conference will be available on the APA Hawaii website in the coming month.