

## A Message from our President – Gail Atwater

Aloha kakou,

2014 is turning out to be an eventful year for APA Hawai'i. Here's how:

### **Emerging Planners**

Planning professionals in their first years of practice have a lot to gain from networking with their peers outside the formalities of the office. Throughout the nation, APA chapters are recognizing the unique perspective and needs of this cohort by forming distinct groups, calling them emerging, young, or what-have-you. Why not Hawai'i? As it happens, our Programs Committee saw this need and has started organizing an Emerging Planners Group and recently had their first pau hana event. Please see the related article by young/emerging planner Rebecka Arbin of the Office of Planning in this edition of the e-Blast newsletter. In the next newsletter, we will hear about the results of the follow-up survey sent to attendees.

### **APA Chapter Presidents Council and Spring Leadership Meetings**

Twice each year, the 47 APA chapter presidents gather to share best practices and hear about strategies and new services offered APA National. We enjoy access to APA staff and leaders with whom we generally communicate via email. The sadness surrounding APA CEO Paul Farmer's imminent retirement was palpable but so was the anticipation of having a new APA leader. Of course, it is always valuable to make personal contacts with others sharing the same type of responsibility. I say same "type" because chapter sizes range from tiny, to smallish (for example, APA Hawai'i with about 300 members) to mega, as in California with over 5,000 members.

# HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association  
Hawaii Chapter

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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I now have attended two of Chapter President's Council meetings as your president and I always learn so much. An extra benefit this time around: I was able to ask, in person, my subcommittee's chairperson to please not schedule conference calls at 3 a.m. Hawaii time.

## **Recognizing the Value of DURP**

If any planner in Hawaii stops to think about how we would staff our profession in the absence of DURP, we know how important it is to support local planning students. If you haven't received it yet, your inbox will soon contain our request for a donation to the APA Scholarship Fund to help a deserving graduate student in the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

We are grateful to many members who have been consistently generous with their gifts, but really, any amount helps. We listened to you when you said you wanted to support Hawaii residents through this scholarship, so that is a requirement for this year's scholarship award. The faculty of DURP will select a worthy student and the scholarship is to be awarded in November during World Town Planning Day. Please kokua by making a donation to keep the chapter's scholarship award alive.