

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

2007 will be my fourth year as president of HEHA and looking back I am very pleased with the progress HEHA has made. HEHA has organized, co-sponsored, and participated in some way or form in all of the workshops, seminars, and conferences provided to the environmental health professional. Currently, HEHA looks to provide a minimum of three educational events per year.

The HEHA Herald will continue to be a semi-annual newsletter, providing organizational updates and new information in the field of environmental health. The newly developed website ([www.hehaonline.org](http://www.hehaonline.org)) is another way the professional and the public

has access to general information regarding the association, professions, and upcoming and past events. I encourage you, if you have not done so yet, to visit our website and let us know what you think. It is my goal to assure that HEHA continues to improve and move forward.

On a different note, nominees for the 2007 HEHA Island Directors were voted on during the 2006 HEHA General Assembly Meeting and I would like to welcome the Island Directors to the 2007 HEHA Governing Council. Also during the general assembly meeting proposed amendments to the HEHA Constitution and Bylaws were voted on. All proposed amendments passed with at least two-thirds vote of the members present.

However, what I really

wanted to talk about was recruitment of HEHA members. When I first became president in 2004, one of the top priorities was to increase membership. The governing council brainstormed new ideas to help increase membership. We asked ourselves, "Why should I join HEHA" and what can the association provide to the member. In the end, we felt that education and outreach was how membership was going to increase. We increased the educational and training opportunities for the environmental health professional and provided more outreach regarding HEHA.

In 2005 we revived the HEHA Herald to get the word out about HEHA and what the association aims to accomplish. In 2006, a HEHA website was created to further increase the outreach of the association. *See Message pg 4*

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*FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM* *By John Nakashima*

Since its beginning in the early 90's the Food Safety Education Program has provided a service that is both beneficial to industry and regulatory agencies. Since its inception the program has had more than 40,000 plus participants. Our clientele ranges from professional chefs, line cooks, pantry, food prep workers to bartenders, wait help, and Temporary Food establishment groups, students and even members of the public. Our purpose is to provide these people with the food safety education (food safety is the unintentional contamination of a food product)



and knowledge to prevent food-

borne illness. CDC estimates that there are approximately 76 million cases a year of foodborne illness in the United States. Our program's objective is to help reduce that number in the State of Hawaii. Times have changed as well as the foodborne illnesses that we see today, the department has moved in a more proactive direction for the future. Some of the ideas that are being developed and put into place include: increasing food safety awareness among food establishments and increasing food safety awareness among the public.

To accomplish these ideas we need to let Food Establishments know more about the Food Safety Program and Risk Factors Associ-

ated with Foodborne Illness. This can be done by creating flyers to mail to food establishments and also try and get the "word" out to the "mom and pop" operations, utilize sanitarians as trainers during inspections, and create a new Food Workers Handbook simplifying the training so that more workers have an easier time to understand the material.

To increase the awareness among the public, we need more participation in public events such as health fairs, farm fairs, senior events, community events and food shows. Utilize the statewide website to provide more valuable information to the public such as

*See Food Safety pg 2*

## CHANGING WITH THE TIMES *By Jude Schwarze*

Where have all the good times gone? 2007 and the beginning of the twenty first century leave me to wonder where did the time go when ignorance was bliss. What happened to those serene moments when no news was good news? Today is a different world for all of us. Instant news of the disposition of Anna Nichols embalmed body is here and now. We have instant live updates of the latest homicide bomber and his/her glorious departure to the afterlife. TV shows like "24" match the existing world headlines so closely that the untrained observer would believe them to be reality. Where is the calm before the storm? Why must we know everything all the time? How is the barrage of intelligence going to affect us? How fast is to fast?

We have all heard the saying "Speed Kills." Let's think about this. Speed is a ludicrous journey for all practical purposes but it's the stopping that kills you! In this world of high speed internet and cars that can do 0-60 in 2.7 seconds speed is the rule not the excep-

tion and contrary to popular opinion , today more than ever, speed saves lives.

An outbreak of E. coli from spinach and the world knows. Peanut butter is found with salmonella and like magic the lot disappears from the shelves as quick as the headline.

**"SPEED IS A LUDICROUS  
JOURNEY FOR ALL PRACTICAL  
PURPOSES BUT IT'S THE  
STOPPING THAT KILLS YOU!"**

A mad cow in Germany and the world stops accepting beef the day the news is broken. How many lives was that? How many people were spared the agony of an E. coli infection, a long bout with salmonella or a terminal wasting condition? Today more than ever it resounds in every bit of information that rides the fiber optic cables, speed saves

lives. So what?

I think I have an answer to those last two words. For the environmental health community, Registered Sanitarians, Epidemiologists and Medical Doctors, it's a big ta do! It means a lot more to isolate and identify a pathogen quickly because today more than ever you can do something about it. Doctors identify agents and pathogens to save patients. Environmental programs use the information to save populations. At a time were it takes two and a half minutes to spam, blog, forward, post, my site, you tube, Yahoo Google, MNS, Excite every person in the blogosphere the burden has become heavy and the mission more important than ever. For all of us in the world of environmental health we are now the hinge pin, the fulcrum if you will, that will balance the speed of action with the need for accuracy before a shot is fired that will be heard around the world.

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## FOOD SAFETY *Cont.*

health fairs, farm fairs, senior events, community events and food shows. Utilize the statewide website to provide more valuable information to the public such as PSA's or other public informational outputs. Lastly, work on creating partnerships with other agencies such as UH'CTAHR.

These are just some of the ideas that have come out and if anyone has something to contribute, please contact either John Nakashima at 933-0917 ([john.nakashima@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:john.nakashima@doh.hawaii.gov)) or Dennis Loo at 586-8012 ([dennis.loo@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dennis.loo@doh.hawaii.gov)).

## 2006 AEC EVALUATIONS

For those attendees that took the time the fill out the conference evaluation sheets, the HEHA Governing Council thanks you. The evaluation provides positive and negative feedback to the council which will be used to improved future conferences.

There was a total of 43 evaluation sheets submitted out of 65 participants. 40 people felt that the topics covered during the conference were beneficial to their profession and 3 who felt that there was no benefit to them. 23 people rated the overall conference as excellent while 18 rated it good. Based on the evaluations the conference was a success.

The evaluations also provides a lot of new ideas for future conference topics which we will try to incorporate in the 2007 AEC.

However, the majority of new

topics listed fall primarily into two categories food and vector control issues. So for those who are not in these professions you better speak up.

As I have mentioned earlier, the 2007 AEC will have concurrent sessions, thus allowing more specific topics. The 2007 AEC is tentatively set for November 28 and 29 at the Ala Moana Hotel. So for those who are planning to attend to expand your horizons mark your calendars.

## 2007 HEHA AEC

## NOVEMBER 28 & 29

## ALA MOANA HOTEL



## FORM-1...ANYONE?

By Reiko Otsuka and James Toma

The Department of Health's, Noise, Radiation, & Indoor Air Quality Branch is made up of a variety of programs that includes the Air Conditioning and Ventilation Section. The A/C and Ventilation program uses *Hawaii Administrative Rule, Title 11, Chapter 39, Air Conditioning and Ventilating* to ensure that there is adequate mechanical ventilation in public spaces. The rules are in a large part based on the standards provided by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62. This is primarily done by reviewing mechanical plans prior to the construction phase.

The department requires applicants to submit a Form-1 application for new projects, renovations to an a/c or ventilation system on an existing space, or for spaces that have changed in use that would require more stringent ventilation requirements (e.g. space changes from an office to a hair salon).

A Form-1 is required for systems that exceed 4.25 tons of refrigeration cooling capacity or totaling more than 2100 cubic feet per minute (CFM). Only licensed mechanical engineers and architects

may submit Form-1's to our office. Equipment reviewed by our office include air-conditioners, supply fans, exhaust fans, and kitchen exhaust hoods, however our rules only apply to public buildings. Residential spaces are exempt from the rules. One of the main criteria is the amount of outside air being mechanically ventilated into the space, usually measured in CFM. The amount of air required for each project is based its type of occupancy. Once a Form-1 application is approved and a system is installed, it needs to be properly serviced and maintained to stay in compliance with the rule.

At the end of January, I was given the opportunity to attend the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineer's (ASHRAE) conference in Dallas, Texas. The conference is held in conjunction with the International Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Exposition. The Exposition was held at the Dallas Convention Center, which is about 5 times as big as the Honolulu Convention Center, and there were over 50,000 people that attended both functions. There was a variety of concurrent sessions, seminars, and forums cover-

ing a wide range of topics. At times it was hard to decide which session to attend. One of the most interesting forums that I attended dealt with the future of the ASHRAE Standard 62.1. Standard 62.1 is the backbone of our rule, and any changes to it directly affect how our rule is enforced. ASHRAE also talked about the possibility of coming out with standards for indoor air quality.

Attending this conference was a valuable tool that will help enhance the air-conditioning and ventilation program for our state. As we all know, it can be hard to have a cooperative relationship with the regulated community, but I was able to network with engineers in the profession. We were able to give each other a different perspective, that of the professional and of a regulating authority, on air-conditioning and ventilation issues. I was also able to make points of contact should there be any questions or concerns in the future regarding these issues. This hopefully will be the start of a working relationship between engineers and regulatory agencies such as ours.

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## AMENDMENTS

The HEHA Constitution and Bylaws was amended in December 2006.

Revision to Article VI- Membership, now states that a new membership does not have to be nominated from an active HEHA member and does not have to be approved by the Governing Council. This change eliminates the "private club mentality" as stated from an active member.

The second revision was to Article IX- Voting and Decision. The Governing Council realized that not all members may have the opportunity to attend the General Assembly Meeting where the voting and decisions occur. Therefore, the member can now designate a proxy to represent themselves if they are unable to attend the general assembly meeting.

The last revision was to Article XI- Amendments. All amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will now be done by mail-in ballots. Again this was done to address the concern that not all members may have the opportunity to vote.

## 2007 HEHA MEMBERSHIP

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DALE NAGATA  
GERALD TAKAMURA  
JOHN NAKASHIMA  
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LARRY SHIRO  
LORI NAGATOSHI  
EVELYN CABALO  
AGNES OBRERO  
DONNA NOZAKI  
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SHAWN HARUNO  
RICKY OYAMA  
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JONI RAPOZA  
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## CLEAN AIR BRANCH- MAUI

By Blake Shiigi

The Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) position on Maui was created in the early 1970s, as the monitoring and enforcement agent for the Pollution Investigation and Enforcement (PIE) Branch. In those days, PIE was a multi-disciplinary program which included air pollution, water (ocean & stream) pollution, wastewater, and solid & hazardous waste matters.

During the late 1980s, the Environmental Management Division (EMD) was created, and included the Clean Air Branch (CAB), Clean Water Branch (CWB), Wastewater Branch (WWB), Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB), and the Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch (SHWB). On the neighbor islands, with the exception of the SHWB, these pro-

grams are now individually staffed.

The CAB is responsible for administering Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-59, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Chapter 11.60.1, Air Pollution Control Regulations. CAB regulates most activities which can cause air pollution, and is organized by three basic sections, Enforcement, Monitoring and Permit. On the neighbor islands, the EHS position is organizationally under the Monitoring Section of CAB.

On Maui, the EHS is responsible for conducting compliance inspections of permitted sources, investigation of complaints and for operating an air pollution monitoring station. Air pollution complaints include cane smoke, emissions from various sources such as boilers, elec-

trical generators, rock crushers, concrete batch plants, fugitive dust, odors, and just about anything airborne. As the population on Maui grows, complaints and monitoring activities have increased significantly since the 1970s.

On a humorous note, with the popularity of such television shows as Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), I have noticed that the public has a higher performance expectation of regulatory investigation and enforcement. The public believes that the government must have a large and varied array of highly technical testing instrumentation which can be immediately deployed, and that results from such testing should be instantaneously available (or at least be available before the next commercial break, like on television).

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## MESSAGE *cont.*

I believed that when people learned about HEHA and what the association strives to accomplish, membership would increase through positive attitudes and the willingness to support the association. As a result of the new direction, HEHA's 2006 membership increased with twenty-five new members.

Another topic I wanted to discuss was about the AEC. Several comments were made on the evaluations sheets regarding the AEC topics and how it does not directly benefit everyone. The reality is that due to the multitude of specialties within the field of environmental health, it is very difficult to address all areas of environmental health especially within the educational conference. The governing council realized this and to address this shortcoming the 2007 AEC will have concurrent sessions. This format will allow the conference to include a wider range of topics.

However, it is my personal opinion that the AEC is first and foremost an educational conference based on environmental health issues. Yes, it would be beneficial for the individual if the topics were directly related to their field, but one should not limit themselves to their area of expertise. Having a positive attitude and a willingness to learn can only benefit the individual. So with that said, I encourage members and non-members to take advantage of all of the learning opportunities provided to them and expand their knowledge in the field of environmental health. Like I said, "Can't hurt."

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