



# Chapter Malama O Pa!



Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



ASSE Chapter Recognition  
2009-2010

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### Inside this issue:

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OSHA? See a summary of the latest HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting.

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See who Howard has lined up in the coming months to speak at our Chapter meeting.

OSHA has a lot of 3  
things cooking. Will they affect your organization? See the OSHA Update.

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August 2011

## The Hawai'i Chapter Adds to its Professional Development Grant at Safety 2011

Remember going to the Holiday Gathering at the Willows Restaurant last December? If you went, your money became part of the \$2135 that our Chapter added to further fund the Hawai'i Chap-

ter Professional Development Grant. This grant offers two \$500 grants to Hawai'i Chapter members for Profes-

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**Society Vice-Chairperson of the ASSE Foundation Fay Feeney accepts a check for \$2135 from Hawaii Chapter President Neil Yamamoto at the General Membership Meeting at Safety 2011 in Chicago in June.**

### Editor's note...

While looking through a back issue (June 2009) of *Occupational Health & Safety* I came across an article by Robert Pater and Ron Bowles that

caught my eye. The article addressed the issue of hand safety. The authors begin with the underlying problems that

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## HIOSH Advisory Committee Looking at Reorganization Some Notes from the August 18, 2011 Meeting

By Les Onaka

The HIOSH Advisory Committee met on August 18th with on-going discussions about HIOSH staffing and also the reorganization of the committee consuming the bulk of the agenda.

**Committee Reorganization.** Discussions in the last few meetings questioned the functionality of the committee to provide public input to HIOSH on a wide variety of issues impacting worker safety. The committee needs to create a greater diversity of business sectors represented by its membership. The original committee formed with a diverse group, but through additions and subtractions of members had evolved into a group weighted heavily in some sectors but deficient in others.

At the May 2011 meeting, HIOSH presented a model of what they considered a good mix and at this meeting, a membership sub-committee comprised of current Chairperson **Joaquin Diaz**, Vice-Chairperson **Chuck Beneke** and Past-Chairperson **Jim Newberry** presented their model. With a few differences, the two models appeared to be very similar.

**HIOSH Staffing.** Although the HIOSH staff has almost doubled (went from 16 to 31) in the past six months, most of the new hires are still trainees. In addition, more positions have been frozen by Governor Abercrombie and cannot be filled at this time. The Governor had earlier (in his response to the 2009 OSHA EFAME report) committed his strong support to the Hawai'i State OSHA Plan and indicated his intentions to restore its staffing to appropriate levels.

Also at issue is the Complaint Against State Plan Administration (CASPA) written by **Jim Newberry** and filed with OSHA. Mr. Newberry had been asked by OSHA administration to withdraw the CASPA because they felt that the complaints listed in it were being adequately addressed by the State. The lingering staffing issues suggests that some of the resolutions have stalled and that the CASPA may be re-filed.

**HIOSH Injury Report.** HIOSH Operations noted that 13 serious injuries have occurred since last October 1st. In recent years, 14-16 such injuries have been reported per year. Since our May meeting alone, five incidents resulting in three fatalities have

been reported. The fatalities involved: (1) a commercial diver who never resurfaced; (2) a water truck operator pinned by his vehicle; and (3) a tree trimmer who fell.

**SHARP Program Revitalization.** HIOSH Operations noted that currently there is only one SHARP organization and no others on the waiting list. Part of the reason might be the 18-month all-or-nothing assessment period. **Ellen Kondo** and **Dr. Walter Chun** were asked to look into creating a program consisting of smaller achievement steps so even if organizations cannot make the full commitment, at least they may reach levels to improve their safety programs. Clayton Kamida, **Chuck Beneke** and **Joaquin Diaz** plan to meet to review ways to encourage companies to apply for SHARP status.

**HIOSH Library.** The loss of the HIOSH librarian position created issues with the lending program and maintenance of the resources. As a result, HIOSH closed the library and currently only the HIOSH staff has access to the resources. Some of the resources will likely be archived. During the public comments, one attendee urged that something be done to restore public access to the tremendous resources of the library. Small businesses with limited financial resources have a tough time managing their safety programs without the resources of the HIOSH library. The Committee will see if acceptable alternate avenues of public access to the materials may be arranged.

### Looking Ahead: Future Hawai'i Chapter Meetings

Chapter Vice-President **Howard Hendricks** has announced the following speakers for the remaining 2011 meetings:

- ◆ September 15th: **Tracy Lawson** on the HART (Rail Project) Safety
- ◆ October 20th: David Livingston on Networking
- ◆ November 17th: **Galen Lemke** on Military Projects and OSHA
- ◆ Sometime in December: our traditional Holiday Gathering.

## OSHA Update

**Enforcement web page change.** OSHA's enforcement web page now has a new section that lists all the current local Emphasis Programs. The Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands) programs include:

- ◆ Amputations
- ◆ Programmed Construction Inspections
- ◆ Warehousing Operations
- ◆ Labor Barracks
- ◆ Programmed Maritime Inspections
- ◆ Smelters
- ◆ Inspection of Stimulus-Funded Activities

Each has a link to a Microsoft® Word document that contains the specific compliance directives.

**Whistleblower Protection Program.** In an August 1, 2011 News Release, OSHA announced additional measures to strengthen the Program. The changes were primarily in four areas:

- ◆ Restructuring. The Program will report directly to the OSHA Assistant Secretary and 25 new investigators will be added.
- ◆ Training. A training conference for investigators will be held in September and future training events are also being planned.
- ◆ Policy Changes. These will be revised and a new Whistleblower Investigations Manual will be issued.
- ◆ Changes in Internal Systems. To strengthen the system and expand the data collection capabilities.

**Eye and face Protection e-tool.** Eye protection is required for hazards involving heat, dust, optical radiation, chemicals and impact. This resource contains an eyewear selection guide and the employer requirements for an Eye and Face Protection Program. Specifically addressed are the OSHA standards involved, employee training, criteria for eye protection, maintenance and care for eye protection, and how to address prescription eyewear and contact lens users.

**Hurricane Preparedness and Response webpage.** To assist workers and employers in preparing for a hurricane and protecting themselves after one has

## Grants (continued)

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sional Development costs each year. Members may apply to the ASSE foundation for a grant to attend conferences or better themselves through the certification process. September 1st begins the application process for the Foundation's 2012 grant Programs.

Our Hawai'i Chapter also sponsored two tees at the Willow Crest Golf Club at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort for the Foundation golf tournament in conjunction with Safety 2011. We were the only Chapter to sponsor tees and the event raised over \$10,000 to support the Foundation's scholarship program.

In the spirit of creating future safer workplaces for the generations that follow us, your Hawai'i Chapter tries to help at both the Society and local level to encourage and support students to pursue studies in the safety field.

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occurred, OSHA created a new webpage. The page contains useful information and tools such as:

- ◆ Guidance on creating evacuation plans;
- ◆ Information on developing supply kits;
- ◆ OSHA Quick Cards and Fact Sheets for hazards commonly seen in areas affected by hurricanes;
- ◆ A link to OSHA's Hurricane eMatrix, a comprehensive tool that provides information and safe work practices for the activities that workers commonly perform during hurricane response and recovery activities

In a related August 24, 2011 News Release, OSHA cautioned recovery workers and the public to guard against hazards during the Hurricane Irene cleanup. It highlights some of the many types of hazards present that could cause injury. The Release provides links and telephone numbers to obtain information and answers to questions about cleanup, including the new webpage.

## Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



*Protecting People, Property and the Environment since 1911*

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**Stay up to date with chapter activities and other news items related to our profession by visiting the chapter website at . . .**

***[www.assehawaii.org](http://www.assehawaii.org)***

**Write to the webmaster at ASSE Hawaii**

**[jnewberry@islandinsurance.com](mailto:jnewberry@islandinsurance.com)**

- Got safety news? Let me know and I'll post it.
- Got safety ideas? Let me know I'll post it.
- Got safety training? Let me know I'll post it.

**Web motto: Working in partnership with industry and government for a safer tomorrow!**

### 2012 Excellence in Safety Awards

We all do our best to keep our workplaces safe for our workers. When our efforts pay-off and our workers achieve excellent safety performance we feel greatly rewarded. For many of us, the brief feeling of accomplishment suffices as we knuckle back down to work to keep the momentum going. How about the workers who accomplished the excellence? We all know that in order to achieve excellence in safety our entire organization needed to pull together to create a culture where safety became a primary value. Maintaining this mindset may be a challenge with workers leaving the company and new hires coming on, business operations shifting or evolving into new opportunities and budgetary constraints forcing tough decisions.

The Excellence in Safety Award may provide some of the answers to this. That paddle hanging on the wall may provide a visual reminder of this safety value long after its receipt. Think of your deserving workers and fill out an application (available on our website) today.



**The team from HECO accepting their Excellence in Safety Award at PacRim 2010**

### Editor (continued)

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contribute to hand injuries then proceed to list several strategies that could be used to lower their risk.

One strategy—"Harness the Kinesthetic Connection"—especially started me thinking. It turns out that at recent violin lessons, my son's violin teacher discussed using focused practice to establish a kinesthetic feel (where all the pertinent muscles in the body from the feet to the neck work in harmonic unison to produce a controlled movement) in playing a particular piece. The strategy seems to be to practice it the correct way many times so that the body develops a "muscle memory" of how it is done. Thus when performing, the artist lets the kinesthetic feel take over and the concentration should only be on the feel and expressionism of the piece.

Workers often focus on getting the work done and would probably think it foolish to think of kinesthetic feel. However, perhaps in ignoring the muscle memory, we may practice short cuts or discordant motions, thus learning the kinesthetic feel for high risk movements that may result in injury—in short, practicing to become injured. Thinking back on the ergonomic assessments I had done, the problem often resulted from movements or positioning that deviated from the neutral behavior. Often the employee did not know they were doing it but they had learned it and gotten injured.