



ASSE Chapter Recognition  
2009-2010



# Chapter Malama O Pa!

Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



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### Inside this issue:

**Who's gone at HIOSH and who came back?** Find out what happened at the HIOSH Advisory Committee **2**

**Who's the TV Celebrity in our Chapter?** See what's happening in our Chapter in the Chapter News. **3**

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Volume 2, Issue 6

December 2010

## Galen Lemke Our OSHA Area Director

By Les Onaka

Galen Lemke drew a crowd. Our usual meeting room at Hale Ikena was packed—the fullest I've ever seen it for a monthly Chapter meeting. I saw some faces there that I had never seen before. No doubt many came out of curiosity to meet our new OSHA Area Director and listen to what he had to say.

Mr. Lemke, a safety professional like ourselves, has the primary task of preventing worker injuries and saving lives. He expressed a willingness to partner with Hawaii businesses to improve worker safety, but he also needs to adhere to the agenda set forth by Ken Ni-



Galen Lemke, on the left, pauses to pose for a picture during a conversation with **Dan Vasilash**

shiyama-Atha (OSHA Region IX Director) and Federal OSHA. Mr. Lemke mentioned the following points:

- ⇒ OSHA intends to increase enforcement and increase citations and fines for non-compliant companies, but in the down economy this may be tough. Mr. Lemke would be willing to work with employers to improve their safety programs for the benefit of their workers;
- ⇒ The I2P2 program currently in the works heads OSHA's agenda. OSHA feels that by mandating proactive safety programs companies can deal with the hazards before they cause injury;
- ⇒ OSHA changed its penalty structure in October so the average fine of \$1,000 per violation will increase to \$3,000 per violation;
- ⇒ OSHA has implemented a regulation by shaming policy—issuing a press release to the media whenever a organization's citations exceed \$30,000; and

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## A Note from the editor...

At the Chapter meeting the day before, I listened to Galen Lemke and what he had to say about the changes at OSHA that I had been reading about. As I sat at my desk in Ewa Beach pondering the

changes at OSHA and that in the afternoon I would attend the HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting where I knew there would be a lot of changes coming

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## HIOSH Advisory Committee Meeting on December 1, 2010

by Les Onaka

Going into this HIOSH Advisory Committee meeting, we all knew there would be changes. Since it was to be the last meeting in 2010, Chairperson **Reynard Burgess** would hand the figurative gavel to **Joaquin Diaz** at the end of 2010. We knew that from among our ranks, a new Vice-Chairperson would emerge to step into Joaquin's shoes at the end of 2011. We knew from the last meeting that Pearl Iboshi's last day would be December 6, 2010. I had read in the paper that Governor Neil Abercrombie appointed Senator Dwight Takamine to head the DLIR. Although his appointment began on December 7th, would we somehow feel his presence? With our new OSHA Area Director Galen Lemke's office with a staff of four just across the street, would we be feeling his presence too? The meeting began and this is a summary of what transpired:

- ⇒ DLIR Director Pearl Iboshi presented Chairperson Reynard Burgess with a plaque and thanked him for his year of service as Chairperson;
- ⇒ Director Iboshi then expressed her appreciation for the work that we do and wish us well as she heads back to DBED after 12/6/10;
- ⇒ **Chuck Beneke** was nominated and elected the HIOSH Advisory Committee's vice-Chairperson for 2011;
- ⇒ HIOSH Operations Manager Ryan Markham has a June 30, 2010 not-to-exceed date but the Committee noted that he could be replaced at any time;
- ⇒ HIOSH will have students from the HCC Environmental safety program shadow their inspectors for course credit in hopes that some students would eventually choose to work at HIOSH;
- ⇒ Jennifer Shishido has been selected the temporary VPP team leader and she and her team of

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## ASSE's January Virtual Classroom Offerings

**Responding to Safety and Environmental Incidents: Practical Lessons Learned from the BP Gulf of Mexico.** January 12, 2011 0700 (HST)  
Mark Hansen will present his analysis of the inci-

dent and offer his ideas on what safety professionals and their companies can do to maximize their chances of survival should a major event bring in-

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### Lemke (continued)

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- ⇒ Emphasizing recordkeeping in their audits and looking for incentive programs that may encourage underreporting.

Mr. Lemke (far right) packed our meeting room for our November Chapter meeting.



## Hawai'i Chapter News

- ⇒ Our January 2011 Chapter meeting has been scheduled for Thursday January 13, 2011 beginning at 10:30 AM at Hale Ikena. The scheduled speaker, **Gaylord Yoshimura**, will talk about the safety culture in China and his observations during the People to People ASSE trip. His talk is sponsored by the Society's International Practice Specialty.
- ⇒ The OSHA one-day conference planning committee met on December 2nd. Attendees to the planning meeting included Chairperson **Joanna Clark, Charlyn Sato, Mary Silva, Craig Shoji, Howard Hendricks**, Ellen Kondo and **Les Onaka**. The proposed theme of the conference will be "I2P2—Getting Ahead of the Game." I2P2 stands for Injury and Illness Prevention Program—OSHA's proposed proactive approach to identifying and abating hazards before they can cause harm. While the proposed rule has not been published yet, OSHA has placed a high priority on this program.
- ⇒ We now have a Chapter logo. If you missed the Chapter Holiday gathering be sure to make it to the Chapter meeting on January 13th to see what it looks like.

**Jim Newberry on TV.** Shara Enay of KHON2 interviewed our chapter past-president and current webmaster **Jim Newberry** in a segment broadcast on December 17th. The interview featured Mr. Newberry, Risk Control Manager for Island Insurance, on the topic of how businesses can reduce their insurance premiums.



**Jim Newberry**, well known for his expertise and training programs in risk management and safety, was interviewed in a KHON2 segment on December 17, 2010.

Also known at the Society level for his expertise in the Risk Management and Insurance Specialty Practice, Mr. Newberry mentioned a company's safety program as a critical part of risk management. He compared a company to an automobile and described how the safety program, as the oil in the engine, allowed for smooth operation. Just as the forward progress of an automobile relies on a smooth running engine, so does a successful business rely on its safety program.

## OSHA Update

**Noise Control Interpretation.** In the December 14, 2010 Federal Register, OSHA extended the comment period for the interpretation of their occupational noise exposure standards. OSHA intends to clarify the term "feasible administrative or engineering controls" to make enforcement of the standard more consistent with their other standards. The comment period has been extended 90 days to March 21, 2011. Comments may be made online, by mail or fax according to the instructions provided in the Federal Register. OSHA also announced plans to hold a stakeholder meeting sometime before the end of the comment period so employers may voice their concerns regarding the impact the change would make.

## Virtual Classroom (cont'd)

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tense public scrutiny upon them. his new .

**Engaging Executive Ergonomic Leadership.** January 19, 2011 at 0700 (HST). Robert Pater has been presenting ergonomics seminars for over 20 years and this will be his 14th for the Society. Despite their best efforts, companies still fail to prevent ergonomics-related injuries. Pater will share his proven methods for creating corporate cultures that create sustained excellent safety performance.

Please visit [virtualclassroom@asse.org](mailto:virtualclassroom@asse.org) for more information or to register for any session.

## Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



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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!**

### HIOSH Advisory Committee (continued)

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two HIOSH Compliance officers were on a VPP survey on one of the outer islands;

- ⇒ Moses DeMello has been hired back into the HIOSH Consultation and Training division;
- ⇒ The Committee held a long discussion about safety training with most of the comments suggesting that workers really want safety training but that they are not the decision makers as to whether they get it or not.

Despite all the changes, I felt that the meeting ended on an upbeat and positive note. Perhaps the Holiday Season contributed to this, or perhaps we just ended with discussions of what good things can happen when the proper safety program makes them happen.



Out-going HIOSH Advisory Committee Chair **Rey Burgess** on left and incoming Chair **Joachin Diaz** on the right

### Note from the Editor (continued)

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up. We would soon have a new State Administration and a lot of transitioning.

I wondered how the changes would affect my own company and our safety program. Then I realized that the theme for the December Malama O Pa! would be about change. Just then I noticed a strange orange glow lighting up the walls where I sat. I looked out the window and saw the rising sun lighting up the eastern sky near Diamond Head. I happened to have my camera so I took a picture. As I looked at the marvelous photograph I had just taken, I realized that the changes I had been thinking about could be the dawn of a new and better era for worker safety in Hawai'i.

