



# SMALL BUSINESS NEWS

CREATING A BETTER HAWAII THROUGH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Small Business Hawaii | Volume 25 Number 8 | August 2000



## Small Business Views

By **Sam Slom**, President, Small Business Hawaii

**Vicente Fox**, former Coca Cola head in Mexico is the new president, smashing 71 years of one-party, corrupt political rule. Does that mean we still have to wait another 30 years in Hawaii?

"**Captain Coneman**" the beloved symbol for election year highway construction, is part of the \$650,000 PR campaign by the State Department of Transportation - paid by you - to ease your pain while you sit and sweat in traffic for the next 2 years.

Inquiring minds want to know: how did newly - appointed judge (former Democrat Senator) **Rey Graulty** get assigned to the high profile City Ewa Estates fraud trial and then excuse Mayor **Jeremy Harris** - the Governor's and Dan Inouye's choice for his successor - from being put under oath?

Forget "bread and circus," Harris is smarter: he gave free watermelon to the Kailua 4th of July parade crowd and free fish as he walked door-to-door.

*The Honolulu Advertiser* puff piece on Cayetano (Sun. 7/9/00, "Cayetano at the Crossroads"), with reinforcing editorial, was followed by the appointment of yet another media person to the Guv's staff, KHON-TV's **Kim Murakawa** (I've always respected Governor Cayetano....) as new press secretary at \$60,000 replacing **Kathleen Ricuya Markrich** (who the Governor appointed to an \$80,000 State Labor Board position).

When the Governor signed Act 297, a positive high tech measure in July at the Manoa Innovation Center, the youthful CEO of a dynamic new Hawaii firm, "HotU.Com" spoke and the Guv praised the young man lavishly. Wonder if he knew the terrific young man was the son of law prof Randy Roth who worked so hard for **Linda Lingle** in '98.

Now that mass murderer **Byran Uyesugi**, killer of 7 coworkers at Xerox in November, 1999, has been sentenced, enter the State Hawaii Occupational Safety & Health Administration (HIOSH) that is "investigating" the firm's efforts to prevent a problem worker's internal troubles from escalating. It's a done deal: HIOSH and its anti-business administrator, **Jennifer Shishido**, already have decided Xerox is "guilty." The only question is how much money they can extort from the company; specific HIOSH citations for violations run from \$1,000 to \$70,000 each.

The Democratic State Senate (23 Democrats, 2 Republicans) scheduled a "Special" Session for August 3 - 4 - coinciding with the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia. The Democrat Convention conveniently will be two weeks after the Session

in LA.

When Senate President **Norman Mizuguchi** announced he would not run again, he held a press conference at the Capitol. Democrats "borrowed" a portable tabletop podium from the Republican Caucus. After the conference, it took nearly a month to liberate the podium. It's bad enough Dems "borrow" Republican ideas and good legislation!

US Rep. **Patsy Mink** on the warpath against giant toymaker Tyco because the new line of "President Barbie" includes only white, black & Hispanic dolls - no Asian models.

**Dwayne Yoshina**, Hawaii's controversial chief elections officer was quoted as saying it is "not his job" to insure that voter participation increases. Many wonder just what is Yoshina's real function. Island Business editor Lucy Jokiel has been appointed by Sen. Whitney Anderson to the Elections Advisory Council that oversees Yoshina's office.

Yes, it was atheist **Mitch Kahle** who is responsible for the state's removal of crosses marking the Mother's Day 1999 deaths at Sacred falls. He attacked lawmakers' "fishes" and parochial school art at the Capitol in 1999.

The 600,000 member Sierra Club, more closely in lock-step with Big Government every day, pragmatically passed over environmental hero **Ralph Nader**, endorsing Al Gore.

A defining Democrat/Republican difference: ending the marriage penalty tax. The tax, it discriminates against working, married couples - regardless of age, color or ethnicity - is opposed by most Democrats as being "too costly" to the government while Republicans say it is too costly and unfair to individuals who pay the taxes to support the government.

**Carl Olson**, Fund for Stockowners Rights, Chairman, in D.C., rated tax burdens on major firms. FSR reports Hawaiian Electric paid total taxes of \$147,835,000 in '99 - nearly twice the net income of \$76,400,000. HECO is on the high end of this disparity according to Olson who says, "the burden comes out of the hide of stockowners and ratepayers."

There is renewed optimism in Hawaii's economy - not euphoria like the media - by businesses that work hard to make changes.

---

**Sam Slom** is also a State Senator representing the 8th district in the East Oahu area. His website can be accessed here: <http://hotspotshawaii.com/sam/slom.html>