



# Building Blocks

Construction Financial Management Association  
Honolulu Chapter

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## President's Message:

A belated Happy New Year. And if you are of Chinese ancestry a not so belated Gung Hee Fat Choy! From sitting in on a number of local lunch seminars and listening to their economic forecasts the economy is slowly improving. For construction there are definitely a number of projects being procured in the Federal sector, but it will take time before the Private sector catches up. Hang in there things are improving.

If you are like me you are constantly look forward to see what is coming up, below are a few of the upcoming events:

**Annual Installation Banquet** – This year we changed the date and venue for the banquet because our customary spot (Oahu Country Club) is under renovation. So the 2011 installation banquet will be held at the Pacific Club. The tentative date is May 4<sup>th</sup>, so keep that date open.

**CFMA Annual Conference** - The annual CFMA conference will be held in Grapevine, Texas from May 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. A few of us who attended last year's conference are planning to attend. I know for certain that Lester Sakamoto (Isemoto Contracting) will be attending, since he won the Grand Prize at last year's conference (a fully paid trip to the 2011 conference). The rumor is that there are a few Honolulu Chapter members that are planning a side trip to Las Vegas.

**Not Just Another Project Tour** - Although I'm not at liberty to disclose the name of the project, a Mouse told me that there has been is a tentative date set for this project tour. There will be a limited number of members allowed so keep an eye out for this announcement.

Mahalo!  
Glenn

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# Member Profile: Chip Ellis

Chip (Henry) Ellis, CPA MBA, joined our CFMA Hawaii chapter after learning about it from Ben Nakaoka, a CFMA member, UH business school classmate, and fellow Deloitte alumnus. Chip is currently the Regional Controller for Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. You can reach him at [hjellis@healytibbitts.com](mailto:hjellis@healytibbitts.com).



**Something unusual:** I actually like poi!

**Hobbies:** Chinese martial arts (Taijiquan), architecture, building with wood, cinema, cars, and computers

**Latest book:** Stieg Larsson's The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

**Most enjoyed recent movie:** Avatar

**Current pre-occupation:** Finishing my large family home in Honolulu which I designed and built.

**Favorite software:** Excel – A number cruncher's essential tool. Since it was first introduced I've used it for everything from simple computation to massive financial planning spreadsheets.

**Family:** Married with three sons, one finishing college

**Professional interests:** Information management, systems of all sorts, business economics and management, financial planning and analysis.

**Kamaaina:** At heart. I arrived in the mid 60's. Except for 6 cold years in California during the Dot Com boom and bust, I've lived here ever since.

**First real job:** Studio supervisor at KHON-TV. This led to a career in creative TV. Then back to school, in accounting!?!?

**Career:** My father worked for the same company all his life . . . I've had three careers (TV, Finance, and IT) spanning 13 companies and 6 industries. Change is the only constant.

**Favorite ice cream:** Haagen-Daz vanilla Swiss almond, yummy J

**Don't feed me:** Natto L

**What I want to be when I grow up:** Ask me later.



# Company Profile: Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc.

Specializing in heavy marine construction work, award winning Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. has been working in Hawaii for over 30 years. Its fleet of cranes, barges, and tugs enable it to take on even the most demanding jobs. And its team is loaded with highly experienced professionals with roots in Hawaii and on the mainland.

If you look seaside in Honolulu or Pearl Harbor chances are that you will see one or more of the company's collection of black barges with a colorful red and white crane on board. Big toys! They use them to build big concrete wharves, lay huge underwater pipelines, drive piles, dredge channels, and perform heavy lifts.

The company also provides pile driving services landside. Similar cranes, but no barges. They drive big concrete piles, drill foundation shafts, and drive sheet piles. Their engineering and performance is top quality. It's a shame that you can't see the result since it's all underground!

Based in Hawaii, Healy Tibbitts has built projects as far away as Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. This year they are starting up two large Navy projects on Guam, with possibly more on the way.

This year the company celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> year. Originally started in San Francisco, the company helped rebuild that city after the disastrous 1906 earthquake. It continued to grow in the US and abroad, and came to Hawaii in 1963 to take on several challenging projects including Hawaii Kai Development's Sandy Beach Ocean Outfall Pipeline and the Corps of Engineer's Kahului Harbor Breakwater Repair.

Later the company was acquired, first by Raymond International, a billion dollar mega construction company and then by Weeks Marine, an Engineering News Record Top 400 contractor specializing in dredging and marine construction. With Weeks' strong financial support and abundant equipment resources, Healy's Hawaii office saw significant growth. It now achieves annual revenues in the \$40 to \$60 million range, much of which comes from Navy contracts.

2010 was a good year for the company: In recognition of its contribution and commitment to small business, Healy Tibbitts was awarded the prestigious Eisen-



hower Award from the Small Business Administration. It also won a 2010 Associated General Contractors of America -Willis Construction Safety Excellence Award for its outstanding effort and record. Over the years the company has earned numerous quality and safety awards and recognition from its industry peers and its clients.



# Incoming Chapter President Retreat

by Wes Mikuni



Last October, I had the privilege of attending CFMA's Spring Creek for incoming chapter presidents. The retreat provides a unique combination of interactive workshops, special experiences, as well as informal networking with peers, past presidents, and CFMA national officers. This time it was held in Scottsdale, Arizona. I had been to Scottsdale once long ago and remember it being really hot and arid. But the weather turned out cooler than expected and even a little chilly in the morning.

There was a lot of team building and sharing of ideas, but the overall theme of the retreat was about incorporating FUN into . In fact, our facilitator, Todd Davis, calls himself

the Fun Doctor & his company is called Fun Coach USA. With names like that you expect to have a great time. And that we did. From interesting energizers & icebreakers, to challenging problem solving exercises, to amazing outdoor activities, to the ono southwestern grinds, the 4-day retreat was packed with something for everyone to enjoy.

We constructed & painted Native American tipis; went on nature walks; rode horses; kayaked down a river; had a chili cook off (my team won!); was entertained by a champion Native American hoop dancer; and went off-road riding in mini-jeeps. And of course, there was some leadership training in between.

There was a large mix

of chapters represented; some smaller than us and others with over 200 members. But whether large or small, I discovered that we all share the same challenges of building and retaining membership, engaging existing members, and nurturing the next group of leaders. It was evident that, as the Fun Doc emphasized, people

will want to come out and get involved if they have an enjoyable experience. Your CFMA Board is working on putting together some entertaining, educational, and rewarding activities for the upcoming year, but remember.....F\_N!!!

That's not a typo. There's no FUN without "U", so come out and join us ok??





## More Retreat Pictures:





# **Mahalo to Pacific Shipyard/Navatek**

## **for the Great Jobsite Visit on Thursday, December 2 at 4:00 p.m.**

Tour provided by: Ben Nakaoka, Pacific Shipyards

Location: Pier 41, site of the waterfront scenes for the pilot Hawaii 5-0 episode

Tour description: Pacific Shipyards and Navatek are subsidiaries of Pacific Marine & Supply. Navatek is a research company and together with Pacific Shipyards, they have built prototypes of vessels for military and commercial use. The tour covered past and current projects and their capabilities.

For additional info go to: [www.pacificshipyards.com](http://www.pacificshipyards.com) and [www.navatekltd.com](http://www.navatekltd.com)

**Following are pictures of the great tour.**



*Ben Nakaoka giving the orientation.*







*The tour was very interesting.*



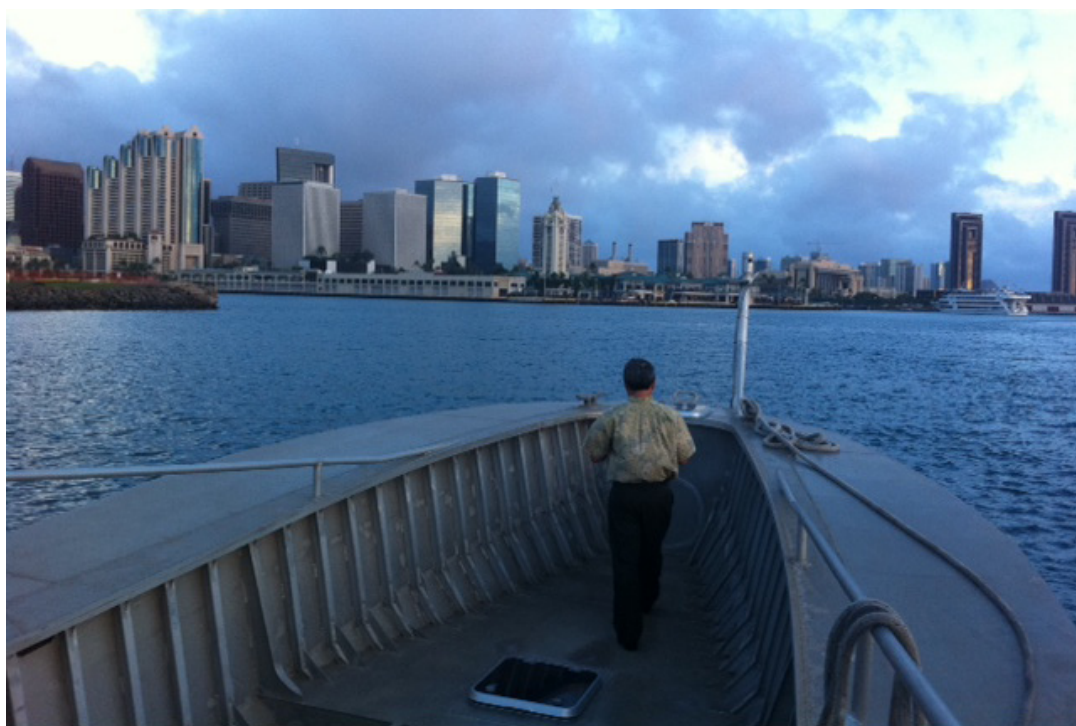




*The harbor tour was fantastic!*



Reflecting.



Glenn Yee doing his Titanic impersonation.





*The sunset was fantastic.*



Two cuties!







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