

BUILDING BLOCKS

NOVEMBER 2012

President's Message

And now for something completely different....I was going through some old stuff at home & happily stumbled upon a box labeled "art". It brought back memories of my passing fascination with watercolors, and my former life in Japan. This was more than ten years ago when I was living in Tokyo: I was working long hours & needed a way to relieve the stresses of the hectic lifestyle and long, packed subway commutes. I got to listening to Japanese pop music and learned enough songs to belt it out at the karaoke bars, but having young kids at home I couldn't go out drinking & entertaining like most of my other work colleagues. So I happened upon a hobby shop and thought about taking up painting as a hobby. I always loved drawing

and coloring as a kid, but never picked up a paintbrush until then. I figured I'd try watercolors instead of oil or acrylic since I thought it would be easier to cover up mistakes (not!).



Being the left-brain type, I immediately proceeded to buy the entire set of paints, papers, brushes and other supplies, not to mention a bunch of "how to" books. It was interesting learning about the different color palettes, color tones, brush strokes, and painting techniques like blending washes and scratching out. Anyway, I

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President's Message



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was able to basically copy pictures of paintings in the lesson books and to my surprise, they weren't too bad. But alas the enthusiasm faded after about 3-4 months because what I learned is that the thing you need most when dealing with watercolors - more than talent or inspiration, or expensive pigments or brushes - the thing you really need to be good at it, is patience. Something I don't have a lot of. You see, every time

you lay down a wash or paint a certain section, you need to let it properly dry before going over it again w/ then next color. Sometimes you want the colors to bleed, so that's fine, but other times you need to wait and wait, or else you get mistakes like you can see in my drawings.

MASTERPIECES BY
WES MIKUNI



Oh well, it was fun while it lasted and I've been able to frame some of my paintings to keep as a reminder that I'm not just a numbers guy.

It's always nice to have some right-brain balance. Maybe I'll take up another foreign language next year?? Until next time, enjoy this quarter's newsletter, and please

welcome our new members at the upcoming events!

- Wes





Pau Hana at the MODERN Hotel

On August 9, 2012, CFMA members and a few guests got together for some pau hana drinks and pupus at the Modern Hotel's Sunset Bar. Located on the 2nd level deck of the Modern's pool area, the Sunset Bar is a more private area than the Hotel's main pool and bar area. The Sunset Bar has its own "pool" which is only a foot deep in the middle, surrounded by sand...definitely a much different venue than most of us go to for pau hana! The food and drinks were great, but the company was even better as members and guests were able to connect or reconnect with other members in a casual atmosphere. The highlight of the night was when everyone decided to kick off their shoes and jump in the pool...well more like walk in the pool. Be on the lookout for more pau hana events as we hope to get even more members to come out. If you have any suggestions for where you'd like the next pau hana to be, please let us know.



**CFMA-ERS'
WILD SIDE!**

**"OH, WHAT A
FEELING!"**



**"WOW, THESE CFMA
PAU HANA EVENTS ARE
GREAT!"**



Lunch with Governor Neil Abercrombie

Governor Neil Abercrombie was our featured speaker at our luncheon that was held on August 29th at the Oahu Country Club. True to his word that he gave to us when he last spoke to our group back in May of 2011, he graciously accepted our invitation to update us on the progress his administration had made during the past fifteen months. After partaking in lunch, about forty members and guests listened to the Governor's update.

sions in order to close the deficit gap and right the ship fiscally. Governor Abercrombie reported that prudent fiscal management at the State level has led to a favorable credit rating which in turn lead to increased borrowing powers to finance new Capital Improvement Projects (currently, approximately \$40M per month in new C.I.P. is being let out by the State). These projects will put people back to work and will help stimulate the local economy.

Governor Abercrombie mentioned that as the country went into recession, as a U.S. Representative, he could sense that the Congress was becoming more and more divided and ineffective. He knew



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: WES MIKUNI, GOVERNOR NEIL ABERCROMBIE, RAY NII

that the path to recovery was going to have to come from each individual state, not from the Federal Government. He said he was very close to retirement from public service when the opportunity to run for Governor presented itself (where he knew he could make a difference).

The Governor's "A New Day in Hawaii" agenda focused on putting people back to work (by creating jobs, people's attitudes will change in respect to the economy, people will spend more, which in turn will improve market conditions and increase revenues to the State). One of the Governor's first tasks was to gain control over the budget. He had to make hard deci-

The Governor went on to speak about future use of Public-Private Partnerships. He saw first-hand while he was in Congress the success of Public-Private Partnerships in Military Housing Privatization

projects in Hawaii (leasing government lands to private companies to build and maintain military housing units). The Governor wants to be able to use PPP's in order to maximize the use of underutilized state lands. An example he cited was having the PPP's build 21st century schools (think vertical) with the provision that a portion of the underutilized land be available for development by the private investor as a way to get a return on their investment. Aside: this past Legislature allowed for the creation of the Public Land Development Corporation – a corporation which aims to attract private companies

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Lunch with Governor Neil Abercrombie

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as joint partners in development opportunities to generate revenues for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Another topic of discussion was his goal of creating redevelopment opportunities between Kalihi to Kewalo Basin in order to create a more transit oriented community within urban Honolulu (not necessarily based on rail but reliant on a transit system as the preferred mode of transportation). He envisions more vertical construction in these areas - with higher densities in this area, the net effect would be to reduce urban sprawl on Oahu. He wants to create "work force" housing developments where people can live, work, and play without having to make long daily commutes from work to home.

In the Q&A session, the Governor was asked about Act 105 - the suspension of the G.E. Tax exemption for two years (set to sunset on July 1, 2013). As you recall, this Act was put into place last year to help close the large budget deficit that the

State was facing at that time. The Governor stated that he strongly supports letting this Act sunset next year as the State is in a much better situation fiscally and, if required, will find other



means to generate revenues.

CFMA would like to thank the Governor

for his time spent updating us on the progress of his programs and vision for the future. We look forward to his update once again next year. The Brown Bags and Seminars committee would also like to say "thank you very much" to Audrey Hidano for her efforts in securing the governor for this speaking engagement.



CMFA LUNCH WITH GOVERNOR NEIL ABERCROMBIE AT OAHU COUNTRY CLUB ON AUGUST 29, 2012.

Covanta HPOWER Plant Tour

Durwin Fitch, Senior Project Engineer at American Piping & Boiler Co. hosted our CFMA members to a tour of the new Covanta HPOWER Plant in Kapolei.

CFMA members and guests dressed in their finest!



Covanta Honolulu, also known locally as the HPOWER facility, began commercial operation in May 1990 and is owned by the City and County of Honolulu. HPOWER stands for Honolulu Program of Waste Energy Recovery. Covanta acquired the operating contract in 1993. Located on the island of Oahu, the facility serves the municipal waste disposal needs of more than 850,000 residents and more than six million visitors to the island each year. The facility processes up to 2,160 tons per day of municipal solid waste into refuse derived fuel (RDF), generating up to 57 megawatts of energy sold to Hawaiian Electric Company—enough to power 45,000 homes and meet

4.5 percent of Oahu's energy needs.

The City and County of Honolulu and Covanta just completed building the 900 ton-per-day expansion of the existing facility. The expansion includes the addition of a third combustor unit, turbine/generator and associated air pollution control equipment. American Piping and Parsons were the contractors that built and operate HPOWER. HPOWER recovers 20,000 tons of ferrous (steel) and non-ferrous (aluminum alloy) metal for recycling each year, enough metal to manufacture 18,000 automobiles and 3.5 million aluminum cans.

In 2007, the facility was designated as a U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Facility. In 2008,

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CFMA Honolulu Chapter Golf Tournament



It was a rainy day in town on Friday, August 31, but the weather was clear and beautiful at the Ewa Beach Golf Club, where CFMA held its annual golf tournament. Even with a record participation of 52 players, not to mention another tournament going on the same day, the play was smooth and we all enjoyed getting out of the

Congratulations to our 1st place team from Accounting Management LLC: John Trang, Eric Carson, Allen Woo, and Thomas Ishida!

office on a Friday. The banquet following the tournament was the perfect way to start the weekend.

A huge MAHALO to our perennial sponsors, TRAVELERS, KING & NEEL, INC., and BANK OF HAWAII! See you all again next year.

Covanta HPOWER Plant Tour

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HPOWER was awarded First Place-Excellence in Safety and Health by the American Society of Safety Engineers and Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health.

Interestingly the facility cost about \$280 million to build and was said to be more environmentally safe than coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear power plants. To achieve this HPOWER's uses high tech Air Pollution Control Equipment which include semi-dry flue gas scrubbers, reverse air fabric filter bag houses, and a continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) system.

In addition, we learned that garbage yields actual cash, jewelry and precious metals and stones worth around \$180,000 per year!



New Members & Announcements

The Honolulu Chapter of CFMA is growing!

Please welcome our newest members:

Harvey Rackmil
HONBLUE

James Wong
Delta Construction Corporation

Miki Ikeda
Bank of Hawaii

Shari Yoshinaga
Nan, Inc.

Siri Newsham
Nan, Inc.

Up and Coming CFMA member in 30 years?

Please congratulate fellow CFMA member Nick Tan and his wife, on welcoming their new addition to their family, Brayden Christian Tan.



Brayden made a very early arrival on August 26, 2012 at 7:58 A.M. He measured in at 16.5 inches long and 3 pounds, 13 ounces.

Congratulations!



The Construction Financial Management Association, Honolulu Chapter

President: Wes Mikuni, Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd.; Vice President: Neill Char, First Hawaiian Bank;

Treasurer: Michele Kaneshiro, Carrier Hawaii; Secretary: Thalia Choy, Thurston Pacific, Inc.

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On the Web at: <http://chapters.cfma.org/hawaii>

For membership information:
Nick Tan at (808) 343-6886

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