

HAWAII LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

Lae J Lae A newsletter from the Hawaii Land Surveyors Association, an affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors and a member organization of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping

March-April
2020
Volume 33, Issue 1

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha, fellow HLSA members! First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as HLSA 2020 President. I am grateful for the trust bestowed upon me. I look forward to serving our members and working with all of you in 2020.

Since late-2019, HLSA Board has been discussing the idea of having liaisons on the neighbor islands. These liaisons are local surveyors who want to strengthen the communication and collaboration between the islands and the HLSA Board. After seeking for volunteers, three surveyors stood up to the call of duty. I would like to thank them for their commitments to get involved in serving their surveying kuleana. The liaisons' information can be found on the back of the newsletter.

With the support from members, associates and vendors, HLSA 2020 Annual Conference that took place on March 5 – 6, 2020 was a great success. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Dennis, PLS (NGS Geodesist and SPC2022 Project Manager) offered a lot of insights regarding the upcoming 2022 National Spatial Reference System moderation, also commonly known as the 2022 State Plane Coordinate System. After the keynote presentation, Dr. Dennis also spent time with couple of our members and directors to further discuss Hawai'i 2022 State Plane Coordinate System's potential and possibilities of customization. The Surveyor's Challenge on Friday afternoon drew a large crowd and attracted a lot of competitors. Once again, we were all in awe of how easy our jobs are nowadays compared to the good old days, and thankful for the pathway that our forefathers paved for us to follow. What a fun afternoon that we had!

Following the conference, HLSA Board of Directors continued to work with local surveyors on neighbor islands to put together a formal request to NGS requesting sub-layers in addition to the single-zone design in the 2022 Hawai'i State Plane System proposed by NGS. The main purpose of the sub-layers is to minimize local distortion due to elevation and topography. The request was submitted and accepted by NGS in early-April. HLSA will continue to work closely with Dr. Dennis for the development of the sub-layers. We will keep you posted on the latest updates on the 2022 Hawai'i State Plane System development.

Because of COVID-19, the Governor implemented the statewide stay-at-home order on March 25. Although essential industries are exempted, there was no clear guidance regarding the surveying industries. After consulting with NSPS, HLSA submitted requests to the Governor's office and Mayor's offices of each island

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asking for exemption. Following is the response from the Governor's office, "Land surveying activities are considered "professional services" exempt from the Stay-At-Home order in the Governor's Third Supplementary Proclamation, similar to architectural and engineering services." As stated, surveyors can continue to work during this time. The stay-at-home order could become our advantage to tackle roadway projects as streets are mostly empty and survey crews can work more efficiently and safely during this pandemic. However, we should all take the necessary precautions and steps to avoid contracting and/or spreading COVID-19. In addition, HLSA asked the State and Counties to continue on-going projects and award new projects to keep surveying firms funded and their workers employed.

Because of COVID-19, the HLSA Board had to suspense the Elevation Certificate Workshop that was initially scheduled in late-April. The Board considered different alternatives including webinars, but we feel that the in-person workshop format would be the most beneficial. Therefore, we still plan to hold the workshop in-person at a later date. A new date will be announced once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Stay tune!



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