NEWS OF THE HAWAII MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Don't forget the Spring meeting at the East-West Center in Honolulu April 2, 3, and 4, 1976.
NU HOU is the newsletter of the Hawaii Museums Association.
The newsletter was prepared by the East-West Culture Learning Institute Museum Management Program.

CREDO

"The purpose of the Hawaii Museums Association shall be to create a regular means of exchanging information and ideas among related institutions and organisations in Hawaii and their personnel, to encourage interest in and promote information about museum activities; to provide mutual help through direct assistance, meetings, publications and other means; to stimulate research within the museum field and generally promote professional and institutional standards for Hawaiian museums as important educational and cultural centers."

This declaration from our constitution needs to be emblazoned on every concerned Hawaii Museum Association member's mind. To be able to achieve such important ends all members must become more actively involved with association affairs. If you do nothing else make a point of informing anybody interested in museums about our association and make a pledge to join up at least two new members each year. Also commit yourself to writing one short article a year for this newsletter, which hopefully will become a forum for members reflections, opinions and concerns and also keep us in touch with developments and activities at other institutions.
1975 - 1976 in retrospect:

The previous year has been a very busy one for your board of directors, they met ten times. The first meeting of the new board elected at the spring meeting was held on 23rd May 1975 at Iolani Palace. At that first meeting staggered terms of one or two years, as provided under by-law revisions were determined by lot. The board also voted on the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The board and their terms are as follows:

Robert van der Wege. President. (one year)
Robert Schleck. Vice President. (two years)
Roger Rose. Secretary. (two years)
Tadao Okimoto. Treasurer. (two years)
Jim Bartels. (two years)
Agnes Conrad. (one year)
Virginia Koch. (one year)
Dorothy Pyle. (one year)
Irma Tam Soong. (two years)

At the first meeting of the board the following committees were established:

- Legislative Committee
- Education Committee
- Public Relations and Information Committee
- Standards Committee

During the year the various committees have been working hard to ensure that the Hawaii Museums Association was seen to be a concerned professionally based institution.

The Legislative Committee chaired by Jim Bartels and assisted by Helen Cole and Jim Lucky have established working contacts with Representatives and Senators and have along with all other board members become registered lobbyists.

Two Bills before the Senate and Legislature in this current session were of particular interest to the Hawaii Museums Association. These were Representative Richard Ho's Bill relating to the establishment of a department of Cultural Services in the State Government and Senator Dennis O'Connor's Bill relating to the administration of Iolani Palace.
The Legislative Committee have worked assiduously to ensure the Association is kept abreast of House and Senate activities. The committee also made representations on two other bills relating to the State Foundation for Art and Culture, & Historic Preservation.

The committee have also arranged for legislators to meet with board members during their lunchtime executive meetings. On December 19, 1975 Representative Kinau Boyd Kamalii lunched with the board and discussed a wide range of subjects of concern to the association, and provided members with copies of Herman S. Doi's The "Art of affecting Legislation," which is recommended to all members. On 13th February 1976 Representatives Ho and Abercrombie, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively on the House committee on Culture and the Arts; discussed the working draft of the bill to establish a department of Cultural Services. They stressed that little could be achieved until 1977 but they felt it was necessary to think about how to pull together the work of diverse bodies relating to culture and the arts, historic preservation and the Museum Profession. Such a move was necessary they felt, for greater efficiency, planning and administration of the miscellaneous committees and commissions now distributed among several state agencies.

The Education Committee: Agnes Conrad, Anita Manning and Peggy Schleif have been concerned primarily with the planning of a Legal Seminar in Hawaii in April 1977 and have been preparing briefs to make approaches for grant monies towards such a seminar. It is intended that the seminar look closely at following points:

a) Liabilities of staff, administration and trustees
b) Taxes
c) Acquisition Policies
d) Special responsibilities of trustees

The legal responsibilities have been brought to sharp public notice in recent times and all concerned professionals are beholden to understand the law as it effects them and their institutions.

Members will be kept in touch with the progress of this seminar through NU HOU.
The Public Relations and Information Committee, consisting of Robert van der Wege, Roger Rose, Virginia Koch and Irma Tam Soong, have been concerned with NU HOU and also hope to have a brochure about the Hawaii Museums Association ready for general distribution in the near future.

The Standards Committee has two major areas of involvement, that of professional affiliation and professional accreditation for museums, related institutions and organisations. The logic of affiliation with other interest related organisations is obvious. Individual as well as institutional benefits can be obtained from such affiliations. Accreditation on the other hand requires that definite goals be established and in that regard the committee have come up with the following guidelines for discussion at the spring meeting.

1. H.M.A. accreditation should help to develop public confidence by certifying in a visible manner that in the opinion of the H.M.A., professional standards have been met.

2. H.M.A. accreditation should significantly strengthen professional respect and cooperation between Hawaii’s museums, related institutions and organizations.

3. H.M.A. accreditation should further promote institutional self-confidence and engender professional pride of accomplishment and quality on the part of the staff and the policy making body.

4. H.M.A. accreditation should be helpful in creating a climate of aspiration so that a museum not yet prepared for accreditation can work toward professional standards of quality and performance to assure eventual accreditation.

5. H.M.A. accreditation procedures should be helpful to Hawaii museums, related institutions and organizations wishing to obtain accreditation from other private or governmental agencies.

6. H.M.A. accreditation should take into consideration specific problems and situations in Hawaii not deemed a necessary requirement for accreditation by private and governmental agencies.
7. H.M.A. accreditation should be important in guiding private and governmental agencies which need expert opinion as a basis for qualitative judgment in connection with contributions, grants and contracts.

8. H.M.A. accreditation should assist Hawaii museums, related institutions and organizations in obtaining equal tax and funding treatment essential for them to compete effectively with universities, colleges, libraries, hospitals, etc. for private and governmental support.

9. H.M.A. accreditation should serve as a regular self policing system in order to prevent governmental agencies from establishing standards and control for private museums, related institutions and organizations.

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A Quotable Quote:

"The one thing that ties me to all my work together is my primary commitment to education. Museums are united in their educational goal, based not just on words, but on participation and explanation... Museums are an unbelievable resource not just in collections, but in people and their wide and diverse knowledge. We should bring that out, taking advantage of it for community service and social purposes."

Richard McLanathan, Ph.D.
Director
American Association of Museums