President’s Report

I am writing this on January 20, a memorable day for all of us. Barak Obama was inaugurated as our president today, and he challenged us to meet the difficulties of our times with hope and virtue.

I think all of us in museums feel pretty good about the virtue side of things. We know that what we are working for is important, and right. Sometimes the hope is a little hard to muster though.

But hope is just the thing that Hawai‘i Museums Association might be able to help with. Take a shot of low cost professional development by attending the free Dwight Pitcaithley panel or the free Franklin Odo lecture, both in April. Network with your long lost colleagues at Navigating Challenging Times—Hawai‘i Museums Association 2009 Conference & Annual Meeting. May 14-15, 2009.

There is really nothing more important we can do but to work to raise the quality of our institutions. The better we make our museums, the more our communities will value us, and the more secure our futures will be. HMA will continue creating opportunities for museums and museum professionals to access professional development and network with other professionals. You just continue coming to our workshops and conferences and doing the wonderful job you are already doing at your museum.

This year’s conference will be held on the edge of an erupting volcano, at Kilauea Military Camp just a few miles from the vent in Halema‘uma‘u Crater from which a plume has been billowing continuously since March, 2008. The plume is a majestic sight, not to be missed, and Kilauea is more beautiful than ever—exciting, powerful, and maybe a little dangerous. A good place to meet in times like these, to renew ties with our colleagues and to find out how they and their institutions are coping with the difficulties of our day.

On Thursday, we will be greeted at the site by Kekuhi Kanahele, a Hawaiian Studies lecturer at Hawai‘i Community, a singer and songwriter who trains interpreters in the subtleties of the natural and cultural wonders of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Ku Kahakalau, of Kanu o ka ‘Aina, the public charter school that has grown into an ohana of educational programs with a place for infants to kupuna, will deliver a keynote address.

There will be roundtables to introduce us to various Hawai‘i Island people and institutions, where we can hear how they are meeting the challenges of our times. There will be a presentation on digital preservation, and a roundtable on NAGPRA issues. Thursday’s activities will end with a dinner and the Annual Meeting with the confirmation of the board, presentation of the HMA Ka Lama award for lifetime achievement, and a living history dramatic presentation by Peter Charlot as Dr. Thomas Jaggar, founder of Hawai‘i Volcano Observatory.

On Friday, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park will take guided groups through their seldom seen cultural collections. The first morning session will be on Living Collections, and will bring together the directors Waikiki Aquarium, Lyon Arboretum, and Hakalau National Wildlife Reserve. These are all institutions that share much in common with museums in collections.
Two Lectures in April

A Conversation about Controversy and Complexity
Participants: Dwight T. Pitcaithley, Noelle Kahanu, Kippen de Alba Chu
Friday, April 17, 2009
6:00-7:30 p.m. Free
Bishop Museum
Paki Conference Room II

Please join us for an engaging conversation among three distinctive speakers—Dwight T. Pitcaithley, former Chief Historian for the National Park Service, Noelle Kahanu of Bishop Museum, and Kippen de Alba Chu of 'Iolani Palace. The speakers will discuss their efforts to address a range of complex issues and controversial subjects from first-hand experiences. Conversation topics will include the history of slavery and racial discrimination in the United States, Native representations and perspectives, and the 2009 commemoration of statehood in Hawai'i.

Biographical Sketches:
Dwight T. Pitcaithley currently teaches at New Mexico State University. From 1995 to 2005, he was Chief Historian at the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. At a 2008 conference on resource management, Pitcaithley reflected on the importance of encouraging visitors "to think more deeply" about the histories at NPS sites. He also emphasized the problem of glossing over troubling historic events by using "banal" statements. Pitcaithley was a contributor to the ground-breaking anthology Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory (The New Press, 2006).

Noelle Kahanu is Project Manager at Bishop Museum where she has spearheaded numerous exhibits incorporating the work of Native Hawaiian artists. She is one of five people on the content development team overseeing the much-anticipated historic restoration of Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall. Kahanu has devoted her efforts to finding ways to offer visitors complex and compelling information. She recently organized a panel, "Beyond Grass Shacks and Igloos: Infusing Museums with Authentic Native Perspectives," at the 2008 Western Museums Association Conference.

Kippen de Alba Chu is Executive Director of 'Iolani Palace. Within the past year, he was forced to deal with two take-overs of 'Iolani Palace and its grounds by Hawaiian independence organizations. As a member of the important 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission he took part in discussions on whether to allow commemorations of statehood on the Palace grounds, a source of contention for many Hawaiians. (Following historical precedent, the commission decided against holding official statehood celebrations on the Palace grounds.)

Co-sponsored by HMA, Bishop Museum, UHM History Commemorative Project, and UHM Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program.

The Smithsonian Institution: Hawai'i Connections
Franklin S. Odo, Director Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution
Friday, April 24, 2009
6:00-7:30 p.m. Free
Bishop Museum
Paki Conference Room II

The Smithsonian Institution is forging exciting partnerships with regional museums and cultural institutions. Dr. Odo, Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Program, will explain how these "affiliations" allow organizations to access Smithsonian collections, expertise, and resources. He will review past projects involving Hawai'i museums as well as discuss current programs and future research proposals. This is an opportunity to hear from someone who is interested in building more relationships between Hawai'i organizations and the Smithsonian.

Biographical Information:
Franklin S. Odo, Director of the Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution, is also a curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He received his doctorate from Princeton University and taught at Columbia University, Hunter College, Princeton University, and the University of Pennsylvania. From 1978 to 1997, he taught in the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and served as its chairperson. He is the author of numerous articles, essays and books, including No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i during WWII (Temple University Press, 2004).

Co-sponsored by HMA, Bishop Museum, and the UHM Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program.

Annual Meeting & Conference
Continued from page 1

Management and Interpretation. Following lunch, a roundtable will discuss creative solutions to funding challenges including direct marketing, accessing government funding, and fund development during hard times.

Chipper Wichman of National Tropical Botanical Garden will give us an insight on how his institution created the first LEEDs certified building on the Island of Kaua'i, a research center containing a combined herbarium and a research library. Kippen de Alba Chu, director of 'Iolani Palace, is no stranger to controversy. He will lead a discussion of the challenges facing museums around the 50th anniversary of statehood. Time permitting, there will be breakout sessions before closing.

For those who stay an extra day, if the county lava viewing site is open, we will offer a Friday night trip to see the lava flowing into the sea, and a Saturday field trip to some great sites in West Hawai'i. Others may want to stay to see Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park or the rest of Hawai'i Island on their own.
**NATIONAL NEWS**

Western Museums Association
2008 Annual Meeting
September 17-21, 2008
Anchorage, Alaska

**Museums Define the Future**

By Kippen de Alba Chu,
HMA Representative to WMA

The Alaska Meeting happened to be my third consecutive WMA meeting since joining The Friends of ‘Iolani Palace, and it was definitely the most relevant in relation to issues we face in Hawai‘i concerning indigenous artifacts. Based on the various sessions and speaking with colleagues, museums in Alaska are working in close cooperation with the native peoples in helping to preserve objects for future generations while making them available for present-day cultural traditions.

By any standard, Alaska is huge. Its distances are daunting, and travel to most places is by air. Within the political boundaries of the state, there are numerous indigenous tribes; some are similar in culture, while others share affinities with tribes in Siberia, Greenland, and the American Southwest. Given this diversity, artifacts originating from these peoples have oftentimes found their way into a single museum exhibit in Alaska. This has caused some controversy as the “mixing” of the different objects was viewed as highly inappropriate by the native communities. In addition, there were many sacred items used during the spread of Russian Orthodoxy throughout the region from 1794 onwards, and these are now part of museum collections.

Alaskan museums have been heavily involved with repatriation issues under NAG-PRA, and have developed some innovative procedures governing handling of sacred objects. As these artifacts have been reclaimed by Native Alaskan tribes, they have been placed back in traditional ceremonial uses. This means that the objects are exposed to the natural elements (including snow!) and are handled directly by tribal elders. When not in use, many of these same tribes have loaned the artifacts back to museums either to place on public display or to store and protect for future use.

Like Hawai‘i, Alaska is also celebrating its 50th anniversary of being a state in 2009, having been formally admitted to the Union on January 3, 1959. While the WMA sessions did not specifically address any controversy surrounding statehood, Alaska museums acknowledged that segments of the native population do not view this milestone as something worthy of a celebration. Since I am also the chairperson for Hawai‘i’s 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission, I took this opportunity to meet with my Alaska counterparts to learn about their own challenges.

Suffice it to say that the Alaska Statehood Commission did not approach its anniversary with the same level of sensitivity and trepidation that we have done in Hawai‘i. Although federal recognition of aboriginal rights (such as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the establishment of the 13 regional Alaska Native Corporations) has attempted to address financial and property claims against the U.S. by Native Alaskans, no such arrangement exists with Native Hawaiians. This may explain, in part, why the Hawai‘i Statehood Commission must carefully choose how it “acknowledges” this important anniversary, which resulted from a long history of forces at work well before Hawaii’s annexation by the U.S. in 1898.

This is why I strongly believe that museums must play an important, if not central role in helping the public to understand and come to terms with history that is difficult, tragic, and messy. As the WMA meeting title implies, “museums define the future” because we provide historical context to the present and allow for informed decision-making based on education and not purely emotional triggers. Being solid anchors to the past, we can help Hawai‘i chart its course for the next 50 years.

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**Conferences & Seminars**

April 30 - May 4, 2009

October 25 - 29, 2009
A Rising Tide: Museums Embrace Sustainable WMA 2009 Annual Meeting San Diego, California www.westmuse.org

**IMLS Grant Deadlines**

For more information on these programs and applications:

- March 9, 2009
  IMLS Bookshelf Applications can be submitted to AASLH between January 5 - March 9

- March 18, 2009
  Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership

- April 1, 2009
  Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

- May 15, 2009
  Native Hawaiian Library Services

- May 20, 2009
  Save America’s Treasures

**NEH Grant Deadlines**

For more information on these programs, fellowships and other offerings www.neh.gov

- May 5, 2009
  Challenge Grants and Digital Humanities Challenge Grants.

- May 14, 2009
  Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
Spring '09 Calendar

MARCH
9 Application Deadline: IMLS Bookshelf
18 Grant Deadline: Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership

APRIL
1 Grant Deadline: IMLS Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program
17 Lecture: A Conversation about Controversy and Complexity. 6-7:30pm. Paki Conference Rm II, Bishop Museum. Honolulu
24 Lecture: The Smithsonian Institution – Hawai‘i Connections. 6-7:30pm. Paki Conference Rm II, Bishop Museum. Honolulu
30 - May 4 The Museum Experiment: 103rd Annual AAM Meeting & MuseumExpo, Philadelphia, PA

MAY
5 Grant Deadline: NEH Challenge Grants and Digital Humanities Challenge Grants.
14-15 HMA Annual Meeting & Conference. Volcano, HA
14 Grant Deadline: NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
15 Grant Deadline: IMLS Native Hawaiian Library Services
20 Grant Deadline: IMLS Save America’s Treasures

Niihou

The Hawai‘i Museums Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to communication and cooperation among the staffs and supporters of Hawai‘i’s museums. Membership, subject to approval by the HMA Board, is open to all individuals, educational institutions, historical organizations and museums interested in the growth and development of the museum professionals and its activities in the State of Hawai‘i. Individual memberships: Students $15, Out-of-State $20, Single $35 per year, Dual $65. For institutional rates and applications please refer to the website at www.hawaiimuseums.org. For correspondence: Hawai‘i Museums Association, P.O. Box 4125, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96812-4125.

HMA Board of Directors
President: Peter Van Dyke
Vice President: Carol Lovell
Secretary: Stacy Hoshino
Treasurer: Celeste Otta
Kaua‘i Director: Carol Lovell
Maui Director: Neida Bangerter
O‘ahu Director: Martha McDaniel
Hawai‘i Director: Peter Van Dyke
At Large Directors:
Kippen de Alba Chu, Matt Mattice, Michael Pili Pang, Bronwen Solyom, Sharon Tasaka
Past President: Betty Lou Kam

WMA Representative:
Kippen de Alba Chu

HMA Communications
Membership Officer:
E. Tory Laitila
HMA Webmaster:
Rich Tully
Niihou Editor:
Chris Faye
HMA List Serve Editor:
Barbara Dunn

Niihou is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai‘i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Niihou are welcome, subject to editing, and should be received c/o HMA at the above address by January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20. Photos and artwork are welcome and encouraged. HMA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions.
Navigating Challenging Times
2009 Conference & Annual Meeting
May 14 - 16, 2009
Kilauea Military Camp, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai‘i

Join your colleagues at the 2009 conference on the edge of an erupting volcano, at Kilauea Military Camp just across the street from Halema‘uma‘u Crater. The volcano and Kilauea are more beautiful than ever—exciting, powerful, and maybe a little dangerous; a good place to meet in times like these, to renew ties and find out how your colleagues and their institutions are coping with the difficulties of our day.

Thursday, May 14, 2009
9:30 am to 4:30 pm - Keynote Speaker, Ku Kahakalau of Kanu o ka ‘Āina; a presentation by Kekuhi Kanahele; sessions and roundtable discussions covering topics from digital preservation to NAGPRA issues.
6:00 to 8:00 pm - Dinner and the Annual Meeting with the presentation of the Ka Lama award for lifetime achievement, and a dramatic living history presentation by Peter Charlot as Dr. Thomas Jaggar, founder of the Hawai‘i Volcano Observatory.

Friday, May 15, 2009
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Site visit to the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park cultural collections; sessions and roundtable discussions on: living collections; funding challenges including direct marketing, accessing government funding, and fund development; greening our museums; and museums and the 50th Anniversary of Hawaii’s Statehood.
5:00 to 9:00 pm - Night lava viewing tour to Kalapana, if conditions permit.
(Tour registration will be on-site.)

Saturday, May 16, 2009
8:30 am to 7:00 pm - Post-conference tour to and site-visits of Pu‘uhonua o Honaunau (Place of Refuge), a National Historic Park; lunch on your own at the famous Manago Hotel in Captain Cook, established in 1917; the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden; and the Kona Historical Society including tours of the Kona Coffee Living History Farm and the H.N. Greenwell Store.

Housing is available at Kilauea Military Camp for conference attendees, please call 808-967-8333 or email groups@kmc-volcano.com with reservation code #24C7G5. Room block reservation deadline is March 9, 2009; reservations after that date will be taken on an available basis. Fee charged for reservation cancellations less than 30 days prior.

Transportation to and from Hilo International Airport and Kilauea Military Camp is available through KMC for $8 per person each way. Please call 808-967-8333 or email groups@kmc-volcano.com at least 48 hours prior.

www.hawaiimuseums.org
# Registration Form

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Institution:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Fax:**

**E-mail:**

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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<td>Includes continental breakfast &amp; lunch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Includes continental breakfast &amp; lunch.</td>
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<td>Both Days</td>
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<td>Includes above listed meals</td>
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**Thursday Evening Dinner**

- $20 (Non-conference Attendee)
- $15 (Conference Attendee)

**Friday night lava viewing**

- Check if interested. Register on-site.

**Saturday post-conference tour**

- $75

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**WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER? OR NEED TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?**

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**LATE FEE**

- $10

**GRAND TOTAL**

**Mail this form and your check to:**

Hawai‘i Museums Association
Annual Meeting
P.O. Box 4125
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4125