



A Message From Our President

by Glenn Nohara

About a year and a half ago at a nephew's high school graduation party, I had a chance meeting with a Dr. Ray Oshiro, a "Gemba Kaizen" practitioner. Dr. Oshiro, who currently does consulting work, was a former Kalihi YMCA outreach director and a continuing education program specialist at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine. "Gemba Kaizen" is also the title of a book written by Masaaki Imai, founder of the Kaizen Institute. Gemba is "actual place" (work place) and Kaizen is "continuous improvement". So, "Gemba Kaizen" is continuous improvement in the work place. Though our meeting last year was by chance, it was not surprising that Ray and I spent the whole evening talking about Deming, continuous improvement, processes, systems and teams.

Fast forward to the present, Dr. Ray Oshiro has just completed facilitating a very successful session with Clay Asato and our new management organization team, which has the task of making the planned departure (retirement) of Dennis Okazaki and myself in 2010 a seamless one. Because we are such a team oriented company, I would like to offer an interesting and appropriate definition of a team that Dr. Oshiro shared with us during this session:

A Team:

- Is a group of employees who work together
- Meets regularly
- Is led by a team leader
- Tracks their performance
- Is trained in opportunity-solving techniques
- Identifies, analyzes and solves work-related problems
- Implements the solutions
- Evaluates the results
- Contributes to outcomes

Until the next Koga Report, thank you for being part of our team and work safely. 

Project Highlight

Capitol Place Condominium and Offsite Sewer

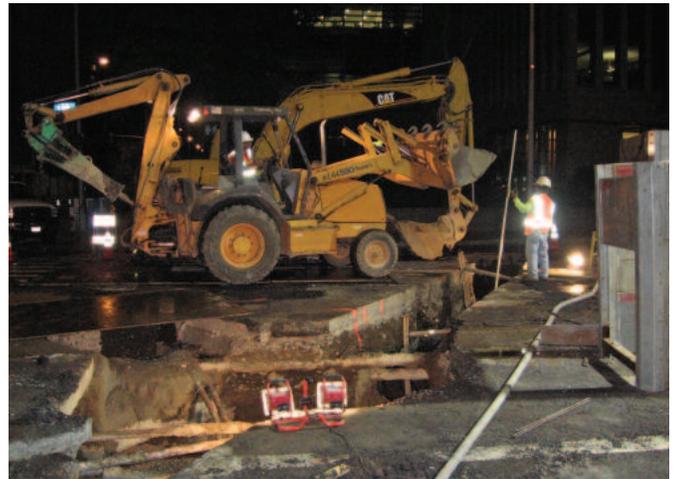
by Mark Nakagawa



Before I get into the focus of this article, I'd like to mention that in October 2006, I had the distinct pleasure to go on a business trip with Russell Inouye and Garrett Ichimura to Boston, Massachusetts for a seminar on Improving Construction Productivity. While we were there, we had the great fortune to catch up with one time fellow employee, Brian Labbe. "The Labster" or a.k.a.

"Italian Stallion", (he's actually French, but what do we know about places that are half way around the world) looked to be in fine form. It was great to see him again and it was hard to believe that it has been 10 years since "The Labster" left the islands. We were able to experience the 20 degree weather that "The Labster" always spoke about and we were all happy to leave the frozen New England area to return to the greatest place on Earth. Hey, "Stallion" (and I know you are reading this), I STILL did not have a chance to experience "real pizza" as we were unable to make it to any of the good pizza parlors in the Boston area. Funny thing is that when we met up with Brian, he showed me a Koga Newsletter from 1993, which had me featured as a new Project Engineer. I didn't think anyone kept any of the old newsletters and we certainly had a good laugh. Boy, did I look young back then! In any case, on with the show...

For the Capitol Place Building job we were tasked to install approximately 1,500 L.F. of new sewer line right down the middle of Alakea Street between King and just before Kukui Street. That's correct...right in the heart



Night time work at Capitol Place

of downtown Honolulu! Because of the duration and type of work, we resorted to work during non-peak traffic hours, which meant of course NIGHT WORK. Some of the problems that we ran into were unforeseen underground utilities, abandoned utilities which were not shown on the plans, abandoned basement vaults, sandy soil conditions on top of hard coral formations, groundwater, steel plates for bridging, open trenches during non-working hours and last of course, active traffic on the streets. I must also add that we met an interesting array of people around the night time hours in the downtown area! Fortunately, we had special off-duty police officers assisting us with traffic control which ultimately turned out to be more of a security detail.

I would like to congratulate the **City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services Wastewater** division and **Belt Collins Hawaii** on the completion of a successful project. I would like to make special mention of **Brent Yuen**, project inspector from the City and County and **John Chung** of

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Keeping Up With Mal

I have a lot of time nowadays so to keep me occupied while recovering from my accident, I've been doing a lot of reading about Chinese martial arts and oriental medicine. The Chinese have been practicing their form of medicine for over 2,000 years and I'm finding out that they are all related. Acupuncture, Tai Chi, Chi Quong, etc. are all based upon the theory of how the body functions and only now is being recognized by western medical practitioners. What took them so long? I really don't know, but after two thousand years, it's about time! In my quest for more about this fascinating subject, I've discovered a form of exercise called Luk Tung Kuen or LTK. I've been taking LTK classes once a week for the past two months and it is really terrific. Take some time to "google" Luk Tung Kuen to find out more about this very interesting form of exercise. In any event, LTK is a series of 36 exercises that will stimulate your body and internal organs from the soles of your feet to the tip top of your head, including your brain... DUH! Improved eyesight, coordination, blood pressure and memory are all possible positive outcomes. I hope that one day I will be able to perform all 36 postures and do the exercises by myself in order to maintain a strong and healthy body. No wonder Chinese people live so long!

For now, thanks again for Keeping up with Mal... 



Koga Jobs

- Oahu Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center McCarthy / Kiewit JV
 Schofield Commissary Phase II. Bodell Construction Company
 Capitol Place Condominium
 and Offsite Sewer Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc.
 Chaminade University Library S & M Sakamoto, Inc.
 Hilton Hawaiian Village
 Waikikian Tower. Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
 Trump International Hotel & Tower Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc / Kiewit JV
 DHHL Kapolei Office Facility. Kiewit Building Group
 Waipio Business Center. Nordic Construction
 Nuuanu Stream Emergency Repair City and County of Honolulu
 Reconstruction of Pier 51B Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company, Inc.
- Kaua'i Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Kapa'a Homesteads Well No. 3
 Development State of Hawai'i, DLNR
 Kuhio Highway 16" Waterline. County of Kaua'i, DOW
 Ka'iulani of Princeville. Shioi Construction, Inc.
 SVO Wyllie Road Reconstruction Unlimited Construction Services, Inc.
 Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Unlimited Construction Services, Inc.
- Big Island Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Hilo Judiciary Building. Swinerton Pacific
 Kealakehe Intermediate School
 Administration and Library Summit Construction
 Dolphin Quest Waikoloa Village Swinerton Pacific
- Maui Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Honua Kai Lot 4 Kaanapali. Ledcor Construction, Inc.

Project Highlight

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Belt Collins for having an open mind to possible solutions for the many issues that seemed to crop up almost nightly. At some point, the problems and issues seemed overwhelming and insurmountable. However, through the expedited efforts and cooperation of all parties involved, many issues were resolved in a timely manner and the most amicable solutions were always employed. A true partnering effort on the project ultimately allowed everyone involved to bring the project in on time and under budget for their respective organization.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the project developers, **PMK Development, LLC**, the General Contractor, **Albert C. Kobayashi, Cultural Surveys of Hawaii, Oahu Transit Authority** (The Bus) and the **Honolulu Police Department**. Also, special thanks to our subcontractors **Concrete Coring Company of Hawaii, Grace Pacific, Commercial Electric** and **Harry Asato Painting** for coming through with their scheduled dates and times.

I would especially like to recognize and acknowledge **Flor Mendoza**, our Project Foreman for his work and effort throughout the whole ordeal and on a job well done! Also volunteering (with an arm twist) for the job were **Richard Panui, Tom Nguyen, Doug Miyasato, Rudy Inong, Inocencio Melendres, Cheyne Pratt** and **Gordon Ellis**. Without everyone's positive attitudes, great efforts, coffee and Red Bull and most importantly the much needed support from all of our families, none of this would have been as successful.

Fortunately, we were able to employ our Deming theory of Total Quality Management and the results speak for themselves. Weekly Team meetings, review of our runcharts and flowcharts and especially getting input from the work crew on issues that arose in the field in total made our operation very efficient. The team performed well throughout the seemingly long duration of the project and the successful completion of this project is a testament to everyone's combined efforts. I'm especially proud to report that we had no lost time incidents on the project and no interruptions of service due to broken utility lines. Safety is always of the utmost concern for our loyal employees at Koga Engineering & Construction.

Extra special thanks needs to go out to my wife **Lisa** and my two small ones, **Reyn** and **Alyssa**. Thanks for hanging in there and letting me work the night shift to see the job through to completion. I know there were times when I wasn't sure if I would be able to finish up the job for the company with the hours that the work required.

Until next time, remember to always... "Commit to Excellence" and "Just Win Baby!" 



Inocencio Melendres, Cheyne Pratt, Jimmy Laforga, Flor Mendoza and Richard Panui – part of the Capitol Place Night Team

Koga Jobs



The Trump Tower Team



The Waipio Business Center Team



Honua Kai jobsite - south tower wing A topped off, wing B & C ongoing



William Azevedo, Blane Ahsing, & Alii Kuamoo at Dolphin Quest- Hilton Waikoloa

Koga Bits & Pieces

Condolences to the Koga Ohana on the recent passing of:

Walter "Buddy" Young, father of Terry (Oahu Laborer) and Tommy (Big Island Foreman) Young July 2007, age 81

Ben Viduya, father of Nicandor Viduya (Oahu Mechanic) August 2007, age 73

Masami Ebesu, father of Derek Ebesu (Kaua'i Operator) September 2007, age 86

Koga Spotlight Koga Football Players

by Brian Kunioka

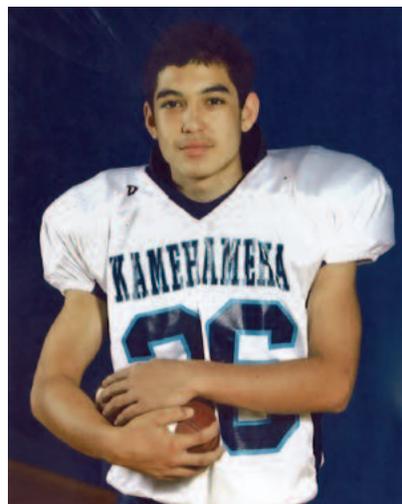
As the seasons change from Summer to Fall, we look fondly upon the familiar rites of passage such as the start of a new school year and more importantly, the start of the new FOOTBALL season! This year the hype around the University of Hawaii football team has reached new heights and at Koga Engineering the interest in the upcoming football season is as always, for "amusement purposes" only. In conjunction with the football season, we wanted to spotlight some aspiring high school football players from around the state who are fortunate enough to have dedicated parents who work for Koga Engineering. Here is a quick glimpse of who they are and we hope to see them at the next level and beyond.

Player Name: **Jake Azevedo**
Koga Employee Name: **William Azevedo**

About Jake:

High School: **Kamehameha Schools - Hawaii** Grade: **11**
Position: **Outside Linebacker**
Height: **6' 0"** Weight: **190 lbs.**

I play high school football because... **"I enjoy tackling people and making plays."**



How many games will UH win this year: **All**
Who will win the Super Bowl: **New England Patriots**
Favorite NFL team: **San Diego Chargers**
Favorite NFL player: **Shawn Merriman**

Willie:

I am glad / proud that my son plays high school football because... **"It keeps him active and he has a responsibility."**

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KOGA REPORT

The Newsletter of
Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.

Volume 18, Number 4 • October 2007
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October 2007

Think Sitework...Say Koga!

Koga Spotlight

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Player Name: **Joshua Kahananui**
Koga Employee Name: **Jordan Kahananui, Jr.**

About Joshua:

High School: **Kauai High School** Grade: **12**
Position: **Slotback**

Height: **5' 8"** Weight: **140 lbs.**

I play high school football because... **"I love the sport; plus I've developed a special bond with my teammates."**

How many games will UH win this year: **Hopefully all**

Who will win the Super Bowl: **Dad believes it will be the Seattle Seahawks**

Favorite NFL team: **Dallas Cowboys...TRUE BLUE (The true Superbowl Champions)**
Favorite UH player: **U.H. Receiver - Jason Rivers**



Jordan Jr.:

I am glad / proud that my son plays high school football because... **"It's not only a game that we both love, but it has taught him sportsmanship, discipline, trust and respect... all the qualities that I am positive will make him a fine young man."**

Player Name: **Hauoli Anderson**
Koga Employee Name: **Yolanda Anderson**

About Hauoli:

High School: **James Campbell High School** Grade: **12**

Position: **Offensive Line**

Height: **6' 2-1/2"** Weight: **320 lbs.**

I play high school football because... **"I get to hit people without getting into trouble."**

How many games will UH win this year: **All of them**

Who will win the Super Bowl: **Indianapolis Colts**

Favorite NFL team: **Oakland Raiders**

Favorite NFL / UH player: **Ray Lewis / Hercules Satele**

Yolanda:

I am glad / proud that my son plays high school football because...

"When he was younger he was not able to play in the Pop Warner league because of his size. Now that he is able to play, he loves the game. It makes us happy to see the smile on his face when he shares the details of each play."

