



A Message From Our President

by Glenn Nohara

On June 17, 2008 at the General Contractors Association of Hawaii's (GCA) Safety Awards Banquet, Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. received several important safety awards. These included GCA Most Improved in Category; Best in Category Zero Incident Rate; No Lost Time; and Zero Incident Rate for the Municipal-Utilities Division 224,999 work hours to 50,000 work hours category. We also received the Associated General Contractors of America's (AGC) Zero Incidence Rate award in the Municipal-Utilities Division 50,000 work hours and over category. We had 198,000 work hours this past year. Congratulations to all of our employees for making this happen. A very special thank you to our Safety Committee, consisting of Dennis Okazaki, Clay Asato, Kristi Koga, Andy Ragasa, Kyle Sakaitani and Ken Grote, for your diligent efforts all year long.

Darwin Ching, the Director of the State of Hawaii's Department of Labor, was the keynote speaker for the GCA's Safety Awards Banquet. His message to us was three fold. First, safety is more than numbers and statistics especially in Hawaii where we work with each other year in and year out for so long. When one of us goes down, it is truly like a family member going down. Second, he shared with us what the State is doing in both the areas of education and enforcement of health and safety standards. Finally, there still is much more room for improvement. In recent years, both nationally and in Hawaii, there has been a spike in serious accidents and we need to work together to protect our people, to make sure they go home in the same condition that they came to work each and everyday.

Until the next Koga Report, work safely. 

...see photo on page 2

Project Highlight

Nuuanu Stream Emergency Repairs

by Alvin Fujioka



The Nuuanu Stream Emergency Repairs project consisted of replacing approximately 250 feet of damaged concrete channel floor and slope lining. This repair project for the City & County of Honolulu, was located in a residential neighborhood in upper Nuuanu Valley which is known for its frequent "mauka showers." Access to the stream required the

installation of a temporary access road between existing houses. My initial site visit was with Vice President **Clay Asato** and Project Engineer **Herman "Tosh" Hamada** and judging by their facial expressions and lack of dialogue, I knew we had some kind of challenge ahead of us. We were looking at a flowing stream with lots of vegetation, concrete debris and a stream bottom that was not visible at some locations. I finally realized that this was another creative project estimated by Vice President Dennis Okazaki and it was my luck to be assigned to this challenge.

Foreman/Estimating Assistant **Steve Yoshikawa** was thrust into service with his



Completed Nuuanu Stream Project

expertise of installing BMP's, chopping down trees and clearing thick vegetation to install a temporary access road into the stream. **Gil Rafael** was the next foreman on site and is credited with giving us some exciting moments taking the Cat 315 excavator down the 30 degree rock and ledge slope. Two retaining walls were constructed by **Tokunaga Masonry** to protect the house foundation before the access road could be installed. The trees that were taken down had to be cut into 10-foot sections to be removed through the access road opening. Once the area was cleared, super sack sandbags were filled and stockpiled to prepare for entry into the stream. **Flor Mendoza** was the next foreman on site. Flor and his crew proceeded to remove vegetation and the existing damaged concrete channel in the stream using the super sack sandbags and timber mats to navigate within the stream. The stream diversion began with the installation of the portable headwall and 400-feet of 60-inch diameter HDPE bypass pipes, designed by Tosh Hamada. A cofferdam was constructed around the work area using the super sack



Cheyne Pratt and Flor Mendoza doing initial stream entry work

...continues on page 3

Safety

by Ken Grote
of Aloha Safety Consultation

The improvement and continued success of the Koga safety program is the result of each invested Koga Engineering group's commitment to achieving and maintaining a successful safety program. Management has the responsibility to support the development, implementation, and supervision of the safety program. Jobsite Foremen have the responsibility to identify hazards, provide PPE and to ensure that each employee on their crew is properly trained to perform their assigned work safely. Employees have the responsibility to wear required PPE, report injuries and accidents and follow all safe work rules.



2008 GCA Safety Award

In addressing Shared Safety Responsibility, it would seem that all vested groups have equal roles, with each carrying the equal amount of responsibility. However, this is not the case. The role of each individual employee cannot be over-stated. Numerous safety sources have identified unsafe work practices by employees as the major cause in over 80% of all injury accidents.

Management can establish safe work rules and Foremen can provide the training, equipment and supervision, however if employees do not follow the safe work rules everything is out of balance and there is no longer a Shared Safety Responsibility role. As always, employees are requested to follow all safe work rules, to wear appropriate PPE at all times, report all injuries and accidents to immediate supervision at the time of the accident/incident. When you have a health or safety question, ask your immediate supervisor, Ken, Kristi or Mr. O.

Mahalo for making the positive contribution that you do, individually and as a part of one of the three vested groups. 🙏

President's Message

...continued from page 1



GCA Safety Award Banquet 2008: Gerry Majkut (GCA President), Darwin Ching (DLIR Director), Glenn Nohara, Ken Grote, Dan Vasilash (GCA Safety Comm. Chair)

Koga Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to our 2008 High School Graduates!

Joshua Kahananui (son of Kaua'i Foreman, Jordan Kahananui)
Kaua'i High School

Hauoli Anderson (son of Payroll Clerk, Yolanda Anderson)
Campbell High School

Condolences to the Koga Ohana on the recent passing of:

Ethel Aniya, mother of Danny Aniya (Oahu Equipment Manager)
June 2008, age 92

Tina Rafael, mother of Gil Rafael (Oahu Foreman)
June 2008, age 91

Welcome to the Koga ohana!



Andy Ragasa, Kaua'i Island Manager with Koga's newest Project Engineer, Jordan Perry

Aloha! To those of you I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, my name is Jordan Perry. I recently graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in civil engineering and I was hired to work with Andy Ragasa and the rest of the Kauai team as a project engineer.

I am originally from Chugiak, Alaska, but moving to Hawaii has been a wonderful change of scenery. As you can imagine, the rest of my family is very excited that I have taken a permanent position in Hawaii, since now they have someone to visit during the long winters so they can "thaw out" a little bit. I am the oldest of five, and in my spare time I enjoy boogie boarding, snorkeling, fishing, basketball and I have been informed by my co-workers here on Kauai that soon I will be taking up golf as well, whether I like it or not!

Before coming to work for Koga, I interned with Jennings Pacific LLC on Oahu, working part-time while going to school. While there, I worked on projects such as the Kahuku Radio Tower on Oahu and the Poipu Roundabout and M2/M3 Subdivision on Kauai. Prior to that, I worked for the Alaska Railroad as a Track Laborer during the summers for four years, doing all manner of dirty, backbreaking work you can imagine.

In my short time with Koga, I have had the pleasure to work with some of the friendliest and most knowledgeable people in the industry and it has really been fun getting to know my new workplace "ohana" here on Kauai. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone better and I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish together in the years ahead.

Mahalo nui loa,
Jordan Perry

Koga Jobs

Oahu Current Projects General Contractor / Client

- Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center McCarthy / Kiewit JV
- Hilton Hawaiian Village
 Waikikian Tower. Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
- Trump International Hotel & Tower Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc / Kiewit JV
- Pier 51 Waterline Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company, Inc.
- Royal Hawaiian Hotel Renovations. Swinerton Builders
- HRSOC Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
- HRT Medical Building Kiewit Building Group

Kaua'i Current Projects General Contractor / Client

- Ka'iulani of Princeville Shioi Construction, Inc.
- Westin Princeville Ocean Resort Unlimited Construction Services, Inc.
- Kukuiula Plantation Core Linthicum

Big Island Current Projects General Contractor / Client

- Hilo Judiciary Building. Swinerton / Pacific JV
- Large Cesspool Conversion Department of Human Services
- Target Kona Dick Pacific Construction Co., Ltd.
- Circuit City Kona Maryl Pacific Construction, Inc.

Maui Current Projects General Contractor / Client

- Honua Kai Lot 4 Kaanapali Ledcor Construction, Inc.
- Honua Kai Ph II Ledcor Construction, Inc.

Project Highlight

...continued from page 1

sandbags. Once the majority of stream was diverted, the excess water was pumped up the access road slope into a dewatering tank, clarified, and returned into the stream. As the concrete channel subgrade was prepared from the upstream station, subcontractors **Kaikor Construction, Inc.** and **Tokunaga Masonry, Inc.** proceeded to perform their tasks. Teamwork and communication were essential for working in the stream elements.

During this period, there were four occasions where the stream overflowed the cofferdam. The most notable of these events occurred during the 2008 Sugar Bowl, which I was fortunate enough to attend. Upon reaching New Orleans, I was notified by the State Department of Health that flash flooding caused the 60-inch bypass pipes to break loose and was now downstream causing a blockage within the stream. President Glenn Nohara assembled the Koga team who rallied together and diverted all their focus on the task at hand. Project Managers **Hye Jin Warren,**

Tosh Hamada, Paul Aniya, and **Keun Pak** took the lead with the Koga Foremen **Bryant Akiona, John Hamada** and **Lee Iboshi** leading their respective crews to remove the 60-inch diameter pipes from the raging stream. All safety considerations were examined by the



Stream channel diversion system



Disassembling Sand Island building for shipment to Hilo as new operations building



Team Koga in the Memorial Day canoe regatta on Kaua'i – composed, in part of, Jordan Kahananui, Primo Kelihoomalu, Peter Morishige and Bradley Sarmiento



Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikikian Progress

Koga team during the planning and they successfully accomplished the task without incidence in the hazardous stream conditions. Once the stream subsided, the remaining pipes were re-installed, sandbags were replaced and the project was back on track as envisioned.

Many thanks go out to the entire project team which included the **City & County of Honolulu, Bills Engineering Inc., Masa Fujioka & Associates, Tokunaga Masonry Inc., Kaikor Construction Company, Inc., D.Y. Mikami Construction Company, Inc., Aloha Steel Corp.** and **DJNS Surveying and Mapping, Inc.** To our Koga team, THANK YOU for the countless days of working in the stream and your quick response in an emergency situation. Without your perseverance and persistence to complete every task, we could not have accomplished this project successfully.

KOGA REPORT

*The Newsletter of
Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc.*

Volume 19, Number 3 • July 2008
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July 2008

Think Sitework...Say Koga!

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. Goes Green!

by Kristi Koga

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. has made some significant changes lately to reduce its carbon footprint at its main office location at Sand Island. The first project that was completed was done by **Energy Industries**, an energy project developer focused on efficiency and renewable solutions to help customers with their energy challenges.


Koga implemented a lighting retrofit program that included:

- Replacing the standard T-8 lamps with electronic ballasts to Ultramax High Efficiency Electronic Ballast. These ballasts save more energy and deliver optimal lamp performance.
- Converting 8' lamps to 4' lamps and adding reflectors for optimal light performance.
- Removing incandescent Exit signs and replacing with LED Exit signs.
- Removing incandescent lamps and replacing with CFLs.
- Implementing more zone lighting throughout its facility.

All in all, this retrofit project which was completed in October 2007 will reduce electricity consumption by over 26,043 kilowatt hours annually! This is the equivalent of 40,637 lbs. of CO2 emissions AND 43 barrels of oil AND 470 tree seedlings grown annually.

The second major project done at the Sand Island location was the installation of 350 solar photovoltaic panels on the rooftop. This project,

completed by **Hawaii Environmental Holdings dba Mercury Solar**, has both environmental and financial benefits for Koga. Environmentally, Koga is able to produce clean energy from the sun thereby reducing pollution, noise and the impact of global warming. Financially, after an estimated 5 year capital investment payback period, Koga should realize a 50% reduction in its electricity bill.

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. is committed to do its part to improve our environment for future generations. Go Green! 

"One must care about a world one will not see".
—Mahatma Gandhi

