



A Message From Our President

by Glenn Nohara

Last month I attended the Associated General Contractors of America's (AGC) 91st Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. The following are a few highlights and notes from the convention. The AGC was founded in 1918 and has 96 chapters across the nation representing 33,000 firms including 7,500 general contractors, 12,500 specialty contractors and 13,000 service providers and suppliers. The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is the AGC chapter in Hawaii.

Individuals and organizations from Hawaii received several honors at the convention. Three Hawaii companies placed in their categories at the Annual Construction Safety Excellence Awards competition. Healy Tibbits Builders, Inc. won first place in the Heavy Division, 100,001-300,000 work hours category; Watts Constructors won first place in the Heavy Division, 300,001-700,000 work hours category; and Nordic PCL Construction, Inc. won third place in the Building Division, 300,001-700,000 work hours category. Congratulations to all three companies for placing in this tough national competition. Johnny Higa, executive vice president of the GCA, received his 20 year AGC service award and Bill Wilson of Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company became an AGC Life Director after having served 12 consecutive years as a national director. Congratulations Johnny and Bill. Hawaii now has four AGC Life Directors: Ed Hulihee, Royal Contracting; Gordon Scruton, Nordic Construction-retired; Bill Wilson and myself. Finally, Conrad Murashige of Shioi Construction, Inc., this year's GCA president, received an award on behalf of the GCA for having 100% of its Board members participate in the AGC PAC 2009 Chapter Board Contest. Hawaii was one of 18 chapters to receive this award.

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Project Highlight

Ala Moana Center New Sewer Line, Phase 2

by Paul Aniya

This project highlight spotlights our recently finished work at Hawaii's premiere shopping, entertainment and dining destination – The Ala Moana Shopping Center. With the changing and more stringent standards of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for wastewater discharges, Ala Moana Center with over 290 stores and restaurants required work involving infrastructure improvements to be in compliance with the latest regulatory standards. The existing underground sewage and plumbing needed to be reconfigured so that the normal sewage and the restaurant food waste sewage would be separated and treated accordingly. With respect to the owners needs, the work was to be "low key" – scheduled, phased and conducted as to cause the least amount of interference with the ongoing day to day retail operations. Working through Thanksgiving and Christmas, obviously the busiest season for the shopping center, brought unique challenges for all involved.

First and foremost, we were introduced to the General Contractor **VCC** based out of Arizona. They are just one of the many mainland contractors trying to get more established



Grease Interceptor #1 Excavation



Manhole #4 in the Mall

in Hawaii due to the depressed economy. A learning curve of operation protocol and style started at square one for us as well as others involved with the project. With a bit of adjustments and fine tuning – the VCC and Koga Engineering team went into full swing as an integrated group. VCC project superintendents **Rick Sanz** (day) and **Gene Strickland** (night) led the construction team through the ongoing challenges to push the project through.

Along with new sewer lines, manholes and connections, the project highlight called for two separate grease interceptor structures with individual total structure weights of over 70,000 lbs to be installed underground with excavations of over 16 feet to actual invert depths of over minus 12 feet. Not so bad until the factor of doing this all within and under the confines of the existing parking structure is realized together with the fact that the unstable existing subgrade required jet grouting.

This project exemplified the power of our Deming tools and Optimization program. From

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Project Highlight

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pre-planning, into construction, and even making constant adjustments throughout the construction in our methods – the crew took on the ownership to become fully a part of the project and was able to pull off the job safely, smoothly and productively.

One example of this power in using the Deming tools was crystalized in our approach for the massive grease interceptors. With excavated pits at 22' long x 14' wide x 16' deep under water table, and 12' 6" height clearance, the excavations and shoring system concern is clearly a matter of life or death. Honestly, it was very interesting to see the looks in every one of our crew's eyes when initially reviewing the excavations needed and how we figured it to be done. Enough said as to what the verbal comments were at that time... It was one of those jobs that are least to say – out of the ordinary. However, with our team meetings and the crew involvement, the initial stun went to efficient attack for a job well done. From an initial engineered plan, the crew went through a constantly improving process as we went about the work and dealt with the data of what was working and what was not. It was never easy, but



Ala Moana Center Crew: Gil Rafael, Richard Panui, Cheyne Pratt, Emilio Placencia

the end result showcased a clean, smooth, slick operation. The same could be described with other operations from dewatering, sewage bypassing and backfill.

The comments of praise that our crews earned proved that Koga Engineering holds a high performance standard with an uncompromising safety mentality. It was

nice to hear such comments coming from owners, architects, engineers, construction managers, mall operations personnel and safety personnel.

I'd like to wrap this up with the sincerest appreciation to **Herman "Tosh" Hamada** for assistance in conducting the night operations along with Project Foreman **Gil Rafael**; and for the go-getting crew who took the responsibility to keep our operation moving safely and efficiently: **Richard Panui, Cheyne Pratt, Rudy Espejo, Osmand Saoit, Emilio Placencia, Rossany Tumaneng** and **Gordon Ellis**. I would also like to acknowledge **Bobbie** and **Tom Thompson** of **Service Towing** for the can-do attitude in helping us with our tough picks. Additionally, I would like to recognize and acknowledge **Sato & Associates, Road Builders, B&C Trucking, Frank Coluccio Construction Co.** and **RHS Lee** who were all a part of the project team.

With the completion of this project, I've come to have a greater appreciation for all that goes on behind the scenes in the operations and maintenance to keep a premier shopping mall such as the Ala Moana Center going. Our work was completed as the owner requested, with minimum amount of interference with the ongoing day to day commercial operations. On the other hand, the appreciation was mutual. With no special visible end result to showcase for the common eye on this project, the Ala Moana Shopping Center – New Sewer line Phase 2 project definitely proved to stir up amazement for the behind the scenes people of the Ala Moana's Owners & Consultants Team who appreciated

Keeping Up With Mal

I'll take that with fries

Recently I overheard Kristi, our training coordinator, discussing with Clay Asato, HMICC (head man in complete charge), about something called haz-whopper training. It was haz-whopper this and haz-whopper that, etc., etc., etc. Finally, I gathered the courage to ask the HMICC "what does haz-whopper mean or what does it stand for?" Now, I may be slowing down in my later years, but I did suspect that it was an acronym of some sort, but what did it mean?! The HMICC politely explained that the HAZWOP stood for HAZARDOUS WASTE OPERATIONS the ER stood for EMERGENCY RESPONSE. Aaaahhhh soooooo...now I understand!



Up until then, the only whopper that I knew of was made by Burger King and it usually came with french fries.

So much for getting up to speed with the present. Cool! And that's it for now...can you super size my order?

Aloha, Mal 🔄

Safety

by **Dennis Okazaki**

Hazwoper 40 Hour Certification

During February and March, a group of our workers came in on their own time to receive a 40 Hour Hazwoper training. It was a large undertaking with one instructor being simulcast on Kaua'i and Oahu. Mahalo to **Stanford Brown** of **Raising the Standard Consulting, Inc.** and **Walter Chun** of **OSHCN, Inc.** for conducting this class. Just a reminder to this group and all others that have their Hazwoper certifications...remember to attend the annual 8 hour refresher in order to keep your certification valid! Congratulations to you all! 🔄



Oahu Crew

- Henry Acoba
- David Arruda
- Byron Cabal
- Alex Calumag
- Gordon Ellis
- Rudy Espejo
- Rod Jenkins
- Ryan Kimoto
- Jennifer Masaoay
- Clayton Nii
- Dan Pagay

Kaua'i Crew

- Emilio Placencia
- Osmand Saoit
- Terence Wakuta
- William Abihai
- Primo Keliioomalua
- Clyde Kaui
- Jerel Sibolboro
- Todd Refamonte
- Kiley Wakuta
- Troy Furugen
- Bradley Sarmiento

the efforts of Koga Engineering's services and expertise.

In reflection, it is nice to see people teaming up and taking measures to help protect and keep our environment – especially here in the greatest state, in the greatest nation. This project also epitomizes the evolution of Koga Engineering from being the "Surgeons of the Environment", to "We Dig Hawaii" to our current slogan of "Think Sitework...say Koga!"

Until next time, keep pressing... for a safe, healthy and prosperous future. 🔄

Koga Jobs

- Oahu Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Pier 51 Waterline Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company, Inc.
 HRT Medical Building Kiewit Building Group
 Haleiwa Irrigation System Improvements Kamehameha Schools
 Craigside Retirement Residence Nordic/PCL
- Kaua'i Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Kukui'ula Plantation Core Linthicum Custom Builders, LLC
 Kaumualii Hwy Drain Improvement State DOT
 Kaua'i Marriott Resort Renovations Dick Pacific Construction, LLC
 Kaumualii Hwy & Waimea Canyon Drive Waterline County of Kaua'i DOW
- Big Island Current Projects General Contractor / Client**
 Water System Backflow Prevention County of Hawai'i
 Komohana Heights Large Capacity Cesspool Conversion County of Hawai'i



Sewer Installation at Craigside Retirement Job

President's Message

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Of the course the top priority for AGC right now is job creation. AGC is working hard in Washington D.C. on several fronts including: additional stimulus funding; transportation programs reauthorizations; and increasing federal funding for water and wastewater infrastructure needs of municipalities. AGC president, Ted Aadland, states "You can't just hope for a greener future – you have to build it." Well said.
 Until the next Koga Report, please work safely. ♻️



Dan Pagay at Sand Island Business Association Repairs Job

Koga Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to the Koga Ohana!

New Parents
 Keun (Oahu Project Engineer)
 and Tammy Pak
 Baby Boy; January 1, 2010
 Dylan Nguyen Pak
 18½", 5 lbs. 14.8 oz.



40 Hour Hazwoper Class



Kamehameha School PRV Installation at Site No. 4

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April 2010

Think Sitework... Say Koga!

Spotlight on Giving

by Kristi Koga

The January issue of our Koga Newsletter was so jam packed with holiday news that we didn't get a chance to do a spotlight article. Here are 2 noteworthy pieces that we'd like to proudly feature!

Each year instead of trading gifts amongst the staff, the Koga Oahu office workers choose a charity to assist during the holiday season. This past Christmas, the agency that we chose was **Kids Hurt Too**. Founded in 2001, Kids Hurt Too is a non-profit agency that supports children impacted by death, divorce and or placement into foster care. Peer support and mentoring groups meet a couple of times a month at their Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center location. After a meal, the participants meet for circle time and play time with trained mentors. Kids Hurt Too also provides crisis intervention for children and adults after deaths from homicide, suicide, accidents and disasters. The Koga Staff chipped in to provide a complete Korean Dinner for one of the support group meetings. It was a great experience for those that went down to serve the meal to meet the kids and families that receive such great support from this agency. Thanks also to **Daniel** from **Best Drive-In** for donating the rice for this meal. Mahalo to all! (For more information about this agency, go to <http://grievingyouth.org>)

We found out through the grapevine that the Ala Moana Center team that was featured in our Project Highlight article also had a very heartfelt



story this past holiday season. The work at Ala Moana Center as you have read required our crew to do night time work. Every night after the shopping center closed, the guys would see a homeless family hanging out at the mall and sleeping on the benches. The children, a girl about 2 years old and a boy about 4 years old, would watch the crew work and especially loved watching the machines. **Cheyne Pratt** and **Richard Panui** wanted to do something special for this family during the holiday season. They took it upon themselves to go to Kmart and buy a few, small gifts. After telling the rest of the Ala Moana crew (**Rudy Espejo**, **Sonny Tumaneng** and **Gordon Ellis**), they all decided to pitch in a few dollars. On Christmas Eve, while the children were sleeping, our Koga guys presented the mother with a box of chocolates, a My Little Pony toy for the little girl and a Caterpillar machine for the little boy. A few nights later, Cheyne said that he saw the kids playing very happily with their new gifts. As Tosh Hamada, the Project Engineer, recounted to me... "It was another proud, Koga Moment." Awesome! 



Kids Hurt Too Dinner