



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Ma'ili'ili Stream Restoration

by Alvin Fujioka

Aloha! The Ma'ili'ili Stream Restoration project consisted of the removal and disposal of 3,500 cubic yards of concrete and fill material in a 1,043 lineal foot long section of the Ma'ili'ili stream channel. This City and County of Honolulu Department of Design and Construction project encompassed 1.08 acres and was located one-half mile from the Farrington Highway shoreline, parallel to Ma'ili'ili Road in Wai'anae.

One of our first challenges was our encounter with the Hawaiian stilt bird. The work area was within a nesting site for the endangered stilt that inhabits the tidally influenced brackish water. Work had to be completed between the months of September 2010 and March 2011 before the nesting season began.



Installation of BMP barrier

Working in a stream environment, there were also stringent regulations which would be monitored by both the State of Hawai'i Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. Our first impression on checking out this project site was that there was no water flowing down stream and that the one foot deep ponding water in the center of the stream channel was brought in by the high tide and was not able to flow back out. Looking towards the back of the Wai'anae Valley, there were hardly any clouds or any indication that it even rained in this arid region. A neighbor adjacent to the Ma'ili'ili Stream also confirmed that he had witnessed only a couple of inches of stream water flowing down from the Wai'anae Valley. However, we would be required to follow the Best Management Practices plans that called for the installation of 5 foot high barriers to contain the work areas. After all the BMP issues were sorted out, work

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Removing concrete debris in stream bed



MESSAGE

From Our President

by Clay Asato

Aloha Everyone!
The first quarter of our 2011 fiscal year went by very quickly. Our project teams have done a good job with pushing the schedules, providing work for as many of our employees as possible and giving our clients an accelerated start. Even with "tighter" jobs due to the downturn in the economy, our field operations have produced positive results. We'd like to thank our clients for your continued confidence in our organization. We are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient as an organization.

From our vantage point, the economic recovery is slow but stabilizing. The estimating department has been very busy bidding and this is always a good sign. Some of the private sector projects that have been put on hold are returning. There are also a fair number of federal design-built projects as well as other public sector jobs out to bid. Although the majority of the projects will not start till the end of 2011, we are optimistic that with proper financing the volume in the construction industry will continue to rise. A continued sustained steady volume is what our industry needs.

With Hawai'i's clean energy initiative and its goal to meet 70% of our energy needs with clean energy by 2030, there are a number of different prototype projects coming to the islands. Currently 30% of the Big Island's electricity comes from renewable sources. On a smaller scale, there are also a number of river hydroelectric plants on Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i. There seems to be a spur of activity in the alternative energy sector: biomass (including algae), wind, solar, waves, ocean

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Ma'ili'ili Stream Restoration

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finally began in November and progressed as planned. Then, to our surprise, in late December the weather forecast was predicting a major storm system that would linger over the Hawaiian Islands and would bring heavy showers. The rains came, and this normally dry stream endured two major stream flow events that recorded 7 feet and 3 feet respectively! Project Foreman Bob Connolly and his crew had prepared for "something to happen" and had anchored everything down. Thankfully, our installed BMP system withstood these unusual storm events.

Once we were able to resume work in January 2011, the remaining concrete and fill material was removed, the slope protection blanket installed and ground cover was planted. This project was completed ahead of the scheduled completion date with the aid of the Deming tools.

The success of this project is attributed to the team consisting of **Marvin Char, Dennis Toyama, Donald Mendoza, Dacha Krishnakalin and Adolfo Raras** of the City & County of Honolulu Department of Design and Construction Civil Division, consultants **Gordon Ring** and **Kevin Polloi** of R.M. Towill Corp., **Wendy Wiltse** of the Environmental Protection Agency and **Matthew Kurano** of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health Clean Water Branch. We'd also like to acknowledge our subcontractors including **Georgette Silva** of Pineridge, **Justin Furuyama** of Green Thumb Inc. and **Snookie Mello** of AECOS.

Lastly, a big mahalo to my Koga team shown in the photo below: **Emerson Julian, Foreman Bryant Akiona, Foreman Bob Connolly, Rod Jenkins, Santiago Acob, Manuel Montira and Rolando Mateo.** Not pictured: **Clayton Nii.**



Keeping Up With Glenn

Hello everyone! Since, my December retirement from active construction work at Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc., I have been very busy setting up a civil construction consulting practice. The name of my new business is "Genba Hawaii, Inc." and it specializes in sitework construction cost estimating and verification of civil construction progress payment requests. We have a simple website setup at www.GenbaHawaii.com if you want to check it out. The name "Genba" came from two Japanese phrases, "Genba Kaizen" and "Genba Kanri." "Genba or Gemba" means the real place, workplace, scene or site. "Kaizen" means improvement or change for the better and "Kanri" means administration or management. These all relate to the Deming management method that Koga Engineering has been using since 1994.

In addition to my new company, I also volunteer with the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA). At the GCA, I serve on its board of directors, legislative committee, education committee, education foundation and subcontractor's council. I am also a life director of the national Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and serve as the AGC PAC's state chair for Hawai'i.

Volunteering at the University of Hawai'i, College of Engineering (UHC OE) also keeps me busy. At the UHC OE, I am the co-chair of the annual homecoming event committee, a member of the annual fundraising dinner committee, serve on the Dean's Council and the Civil and Environmental Engineering's (CEE) Industry Advisory Council. Every year, I also enjoy participating in the CEE490 Senior Design Class as a guest lecturer and construction industry mentor.

Although I miss seeing all my friends at Koga Engineering, I am still connected with the company having been recently selected as its board chairman. Our founder and my mentor Mal Koga, continues to serve on the board as Chairman Emeritus.

Having many other things on my plate has kept me from missing the past and focused on the future. I am excited and having a great time. That's it for now... till next time!



SAFETY

by Kyle Sakaitani

It has been a very quiet and boring first quarter 2011 here at safety headquarters so... **congratulations on a job well done everyone!** There were no lost time incidents, no property damages or accidents to report. Let's continue to be vigilant by implementing good communication, planning and safe work habits even during "quiet and boring" times on the jobsite.

Thanks to our safety consultant, **Jon Wagner of B-Safe Consulting Services**, for his numerous site visits and follow up reports that keeps us on our toes with the dreaded "safety deficiencies" list. More importantly, it is the great job and attention that our Koga Foremen and Project Managers do in following up on these points that makes all the difference in keeping the work environment safe.

Kristi Koga has been busy behind the scenes at safety headquarters cranking out the reports, data and training classes that keeps the safety wheels turning (sort of like training wheels). Even if we don't express it, we really do appreciate all the hard work she does, and the fact that she actually enjoys doing it!

This quarter, we've begun the process of our annual hazwoper refresher courses, which seems to have become part of reality, like death and taxes. Coming up, Jon will be going over training on excavation, fall protection and we'll again begin hearing conservation testing.

Work safe and remember... there is always a better way.

PROJECT NAME

GENERAL CONTRACTOR/CLIENT

O'AHU

Alapai Transit Center Renovation	Designer Built Systems, Inc.
Air Cargo Handling Expansion	Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd.
Campbell High School 8 Classroom Bldg.	Layton Construction
Cancer Research Center	Albert C. Kobayashi, Inc.
Craigside Retirement Residence	Nordic PCL Construction, Inc.
Pacifica Honolulu	Ledcor Construction Hawaii LLC
Pearl Harbor Fitness Center	Kiewit Building Group, Inc.
Regional SATCOM Center WAAF Waterline	ERRG Inc.
Valleyview Slope Repair	Valleyview Malemanu Woodlands
Repair BEQ Bldg 229 - Whitmore	Hawaiian Dredging

MOLOKA'I

Blessed Damien Catholic Church	Nordic PCL Construction, Inc.
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KAUA'I

Kukui'ula Plantation Core	Linthicum Custom Builders, LLC
Kekaha Cesspools Conversion	State of Hawai'i HPHA
Kaua'i Algae Farm	Hawaii BioEnergy, LLC
Pipeline Replacement Wailua & Kuamo'o Road	DOW Kaua'i
Pa'anau Village Housing Ph II	Shioi Construction, Inc.

BIG ISLAND

Lanakila Housing	Alan Shintani, Inc.
Hilo High School Gymnasium	F&H Construction
Lailani Rental Housing Cesspool	DAGS
Campus ADA Improvements	Alan Shintani, Inc.

Message From Our President

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thermal and geothermal, to name a few. This sector will provide jobs for our industry and help reduce some of our dependence on oil. Although we will not be totally independent this is definitely a step in the right direction.

Our thoughts go out to all the victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami. In the past, the people of Japan have shown cohesiveness and determination and have rebounded quickly from catastrophic events. We are hopeful that this situation will be resolved just as smoothly.

Till next time...



Henry Languit and Keun Pak at UH College of Engineering Career Day



UH Cancer Center



Koga Foremen complete a management training session



Kaua'i Algae Farm

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Koga Bits & Pieces



Ua Nani Moloka'i

by Tosh Hamada

*The song "Ua Nani Moloka'i" begins with the verse –
 "Ua nani Moloka'i nui a hina, O ka heke no ia a'o na ailana."
 "Beautiful is Moloka'i nui a hina, Indeed is the beauty of Moloka'i of all the islands."*

Truly, Moloka'i is a beautiful island, with its diverse geography and beautiful coastline, but more so in its people. This past January, Koga Engineering & Construction Inc. returned to Moloka'i to construct the new Blessed Damien Congregational Church in Kaunakakai, Moloka'i. Yes... "returned" to Moloka'i. As some may know, Koga Engineering performed some bridge work on Moloka'i in the mid to late 1980's. Some of our old timers and retirees recall lots of form and concrete work while reconstructing those bridges. Also, in the summer of 1992, the "Koga Crew" constructed the "Koga House" on the east side of the island. The house was used as a corporate retreat for some time, however it has since been sold.

Back then, Koga Engineering had formed special relationships with the people and businesses of Moloka'i, and a few of our workers still have family and friends residing there. Koga Engineering has received much appreciated kokua and aloha from the good people of Moloka'i. Currently, the Koga Crew is lead by Foreman **Lee Iboshi**. His crew consists of O'ahu laborer **Rudy Inong** and local Moloka'i laborer, **Amador Lagazo**. In forging good relationships, the basic principle of give and take and being "Pono," doing what is right, should prevail. Our Team has exemplified the "Koga Way" making our experiences and relationships on Moloka'i enjoyable and rewarding.

Let's Keep up the Koga Way and Stay Pono. Until next time from Moloka'i... 'A Hui Hou.

Tosh



Moloka'i Laborer,
 Amador Lagazo



The Koga Crew building the Moloka'i house in 1992.
 From left to right: Top: Francisco, Noriel, Clay
 Below: Rolando, Benny, Rudy, Steve, Flor, Gil, Marciano, Nomer, Efren and Billy

Condolences to Koga Ohana on the recent passing of:
 Clayton Okazaki, Brother of Dennis Okazaki (Koga Board Member)
 February 2011

Koga Newsletter Correction

In the February 2011 edition of Bits & Pieces, Steve Yoshikawa's name was listed incorrectly. We apologize for the error.