

SBH MEMBER CALENDAR

PHONE 396-1724 • FAX: 396-1726

Thursday, April 24

SBH Sunrise Networking Breakfast

Natalie Iwasa, CPA,

City Council Candidate

Alan Wong's Pineapple Room

Macy's Ala Moana • 7 – 8:30 am

Tuesday, May 13

**38th Annual SBH Business &
Investment Conference**

Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Room

8:00 am to 2:00 pm



Sunset @ Diamond Head Lighthouse

Smart Business Hawaii

<http://www.smartbusinesshawaii.com>

SBH Foundation

<http://www.sbhfoundation.org>

Education Transparency Portal

<http://www.educate808.com>

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<http://www.hawaiireporter.com>

**Smart
Business**
HAWAII'S

SBH's 38th Annual Business and Investment Conference Set For May 13



Patrick Snow
Keynote Speaker

You should reserve today for **Smart Business Hawaii's 38th Annual Business & Investment Conference**, Tuesday, May 13, from 8 am to 2 pm, in the Hibiscus Ballroom in the Ala Moana Hotel.

You can call for reservations and additional information @ 396-1724.

There will be an exciting and informative business program. Fabulous speakers, including **Mike McCartney** (Hawaii Tourism Authority), **Tom Yamachika** (Tax Foundation), **Peter Kay** (Cybercom), **Mark Storfer** (Hilo Hattie), **Naomi Hazelton-Giambro-ne** (Element Media), **Dale Evans** (Charley's Taxi), **Reg Baker** (HMAA) and others. Keynoting this year's conference is author and motivational speaker **Patrick Snow**.

There will be local issues and tips for success. Don't miss it! Bring an employee and an associate.

There are still sponsorship and business exhibit opportunities for your business. Contact: Malia (306-3161) or Irma (396-1724) for more details.

Reserve your seat today. The agenda and reservation form appear on page 4.

Iwasa's Tax Strategies Offered at Sunrise



Natalie Iwasa
Sunrise Speaker

The next monthly SBH Sunrise Networking breakfast forum will be held Thursday, April 24 and you should be there.

The SBH forums are held the last Thursday of each month (except November) in the Pineapple Room, Macy's Ala Moana Center (3rd Floor), from 7 – 8:30 am.

In addition to networking, introductions and special announcements, the Sunrise features a full buffet breakfast, program and free parking.

This month's special speaker is **Natalie Iwasa**, CPA, City Hall watcher, "Bike Mom" and candidate for the non-partisan District 4 City Council seat being vacated by Stanley Chang. Iwasa always has good information about taxes for small business owners. Even though April 15 may be gone Iwasa will still have practical and money saving tips for you as well as a tax change update.

March's Sunrise was devoted to "Tips on Networking," with author **Bob Sigall** "The Companies We Keep" and SBH Director, leading the discussion. Other SBH Directors and members added their own tips for successful networking leading informal discussions..

Despite restaurant price rate increases, the charge for SBH members and their guests remains at \$25 if paid in advance (otherwise, \$35 if space is available, at the door). Please call SBH for reservations and information at 396-1724.

You can also clip and send in the reservation form that is shown on page 7 of the printed and PDF issues of *Smart Business News*.

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Bill Threatens Emergency Supplies Page 8

The Psychology of Island Nations • Story on Page 6.



Smart Business Views

By Sam Slom, President – Smart Business Hawaii

Taxes, Legislaure. April is the month taxes are due, April 15 for the Feds and April 20 for the State of Hawaii. It is also the last month of the Legislative Session which adjourns May 1. Tax Freedom Day is in April but we really are not truly free of taxes and they are going up.

Hawaii to Get Gored. Former VP and Global Warming salesman, **Al Gore** is coming to Hawaii along with California Democrat Senator **Barbara Boxer**. They will spread their word about the discredited man-made global warming and support **Brian Schatz** for US Senate. Appropriately, they will speak on April 15, Tax Day.

HMSA Seeks 12.8% Small Biz Med Boost. HMSA, the Hawaii Medical Services Association, Hawaii's largest health care insurance provider, asked the State Insurance Commissioner for the ability to raise health premiums 12.8% (on average) on the state's small businesses. HMSA blames the massive increase on Obamacare. These are just "average" increases; individual business charges could be even higher. The cancellations, and higher premiums, are just starting. Hawaii needs protection from Obamacare and the ACA now. (See Obamacare stories inside this edition).

Give 'Em Da Gas Les Brodie's, at 701 Queen Street, which pioneered "Fast Gas" 50 years ago, announced the end of pumped gas last month, and the end of all gas service on April 13. Everyone will miss the courteous, smiling staff who greeted you and pumped your discount gas. It was a tough decision for manager **Scott Williams** but a good business decision since it was costing the company 11¢ per gallon for the service. It is amazing how many of the loyal customers didn't know how to pump their own gas. The good news is the tire and repair work is booming at Brodie's. Thank you, very much.

EOBC Moves to Zippy's. The East O'ahu Breakfast Club (EOBC) moved its monthly networking meetings to Zippy's at Koko Marina (from the Hawaii Kai Golf Club) every 2nd Tuesday at 7 am beginning April 8. Please show your support.

Hawaiian Rent-All Sign of the Times. Hawaiian Rent-All, a small company with a big reach has done it again. The McCiully company that rents equipment—and uses provocative, comic signs to get a message across quite well—weighed in on the Legislative controversy involving the Honolulu

Police Department (HPD). The hot issue involved the HPD undercover officers being given immunity for sexual penetration of prostitutes. It caused a stir. Then Hawaiian Rent-All put up on its very prominent sign board, "Don't Worry HPD Still OK to Rent Hoes From Us." A firestorm ensued with Human Trafficking groups demanding a take down, apology and end to free speech. The owner did not comply. Good for him. And that folks, is how to do major marketing on a shoestring. And yes, they do have industrial hoes for rent.

Hawaii Finance Data The national fiscal watchdog organization, Truth in Accounting, recognizes Michigan, Hawaii, Tennessee, Illinois and Ohio with the most improved award in the timely release of their financial reports. The credit goes to Hawaii's Budget Director **Kalbert Young** who saw to it that the process of publishing state finances was speeded up considerably. Michigan stands out; the state's report arrived just 82 days after year-end.

Tori Richard on the Move. Tori Richard Ltd. has moved its Ala Moana Shopping Center location within the mall, celebrating the opening of a new retail store and new look in the Nordstrom Wing, Mall Level at 1450 Ala Moana Blvd.

Attend the SBH Business Conference. Please plan to attend the SBH 38th Annual Business & Investment Conference, Tuesday, May 13, 8 am – 2 pm, in the Ala Moana Hotel (Hibiscus Ballroom). A great line up of exciting and informative speakers and issue topics (see agenda, on Page 4), networking, business exhibits and more. Luncheon keynoter is renowned author, entrepreneur and motivational speaker, **Patrick Snow**. Sponsorship and booth exhibit opportunities still available. Contact **Malia** (306-3161) or **Susan** (396-1724) for details.

Iwasa at Sunrise. CPA, SBH member, "Bike Mom" and candidate for City Council, **Natalie Iwasa**, will speak at the monthly SBH Sunrise Networking Breakfast. The next Sunrise at the Pineapple Room, Macy's Ala Moana, is Thursday, April 24, 7-8:30 am. Our March speaker was **Bob Sigall**. For reservations call SBH at 396-1724.

Read Your E Blast every Wednesday. What? Not receiving your weekly electronic SBH E Biz News? More than 15,000 business owners do receive it. It's complimentary. Ad space available too. Call Irma at 396-1724.

SBH appreciates your support, so please consider joining or sending a donation to help SBH continue fulfill its mission.

You've Got the Power on TV

A new half hour television show, *You've Got the Power*, produced by **Malia Zimmerman, Irma Baptiste** and **Shaunna Touchi** of Luminescent Productions, debuted on Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 19 at 6 p.m. on Hawaii News Now stations, KGMB and KHNL.

See a 30-second clip of the show at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nkv6EO5UmmA&feature=youtu.be>

The half hour show, which focuses on people who have overcome great odds to be successful and then help many other people, features **Skylar Soares, Delorese Gregoire** and **Mo Maurer** in the first episode.

Soares, 12, is the SBH Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2013. She founded with the help of Make a Wish Foundation and HPU, the HiSky retail business.

Gregoire is the founder of Winners Camp and has helped 15,000 teenagers discover their leadership skills and talents. And Maurer, a Maui resident, founded Assistance Dogs of Hawaii and has helped thousands of people in need find they joy and independence they deserve.

Sponsors include **HMAA, King Windward Nissan, InControl Diabetes Center, Pharmicare and Hawaii Homestay**. If your company would like to be a sponsor, contact Irma May Baptiste at irmamaybaptiste@gmail.com.

More information on You've Got the Power can be found online at:

<http://www.showyourpower.com>

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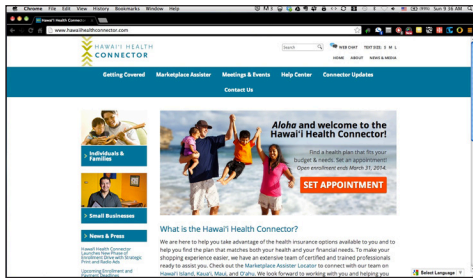
Small Business Hawaii (SBH), was founded in 1975, by Lex Brodie. SBH is a private, independent, non-profit [501 (c) (6)] statewide association of nearly 2,000 business members. Copyright 2013 © Smart Business Hawaii.

Federal Investigation into Obamacare Spending Requested

SBH President and Senate Minority Leader Sam Slom asked the U.S. Government Accounting Office to investigate the states Obamacare exchange, Hawaii Health Connector, if the connector doesn't become more transparent and accountable in its spending.

Slom disclosed his plans to file the GAO complaint to Hawaii Reporter and also in a letter to Linda Rosen, director of the Hawaii State Department of Health, in which he asked her for details of the \$204 million received from the federal government in Affordable Care Act grants.

Hawaii's Health Connector, an independent nonprofit established by the Legislature, has so far refused to release details on how the grant money was spent, Slom said, citing a potential threat by making public ideas that could put the state exchange at a competitive disadvantage with the private sector.



Hawaii Health Connector website page.

The lack of transparency regarding the grant expenditure requirements prompts this request for information and documentation, Slom said.

At a Hawaii Health Connector hearing with the Senate Consumer Protection Committee, Hawaii Health Connector interim executive director Tom Matsuda briefed Senate committee chair Roz Baker and Slom on the status of enrollment.

While there were several slides in the PowerPoint, there were few specific answers to my questions. Taxpayers should be very alarmed, Slom said. The Connector now boasts 5,400 people signed up, but that does not equate to actual policyholders and is far short of the 100,000-person estimate made by the Connector last year. The registration period ends March 31 of this year. This means Hawaii resident taxpayers will make up any losses of the Connector.

During the briefing, Slom asked for the total number of paid employees and the cost

Continued on page 5.



Three inducted to the Business Hall of Fame (shown with framed certificates): Ukelele wiz Jake Shimabukuro, Sherry Menor-McNamara, president & CEO of the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, and Wayne Kamitaki of Ace Hardware/Ben Franklin Stores representing the Kamitaki=Mizoguhci families who own the stores. Shown with Ben Nakaoka (left) and Kimberly Canepa (2nd from right) of Junior Achievement of Hawaii, sponsors of the Hawaii Business Hall of Fame as well as Senate President Donna Mercado Kim (center) and Sam Slom (right) president & CEO of SBH and Senate Minority Leader (R). The honors were presented on the State Senate floor as well as in the House of Representatives.

Legislature Rushes to Adjournment

The 27th State Legislature which began January 15 is rushing to its May 1 adjournment. Part of the reason for the rush is the 2014 Election and August Primary.

The battle to raise the state's \$7.25 per hour minimum wage to \$10.10 is a main issue. There are NO bills that will improve Hawaii's business climate or ease the tax burden on Hawaii's residents.

The Democrat-controlled Legislature is also trying to pass an "austere" two-year \$23.7 billion supplemental budget. The budget is not balanced after 2016 and does not include more millions in separate bills.

High-rise residential development by OHA (the Office of Hawaiian Affairs), a state agency, on Kaka'ako makai waterfront lands is also contentious, as is a possible state bailout for the private Hawaii Health Connector Exchange.

It has been a lackluster session with little open debate. The Legislature is now in the final, Conference Committee, phase.

The Legislature plan to allocate \$80,000 for a new "fall prevention coordinator" position in the state Department of Health's Emergency Management Division.

2014 Election Draw. The Office of Elections announced the order of the political parties that will appear on voters' primary election ballot. The positions of the state's five political party ballots - and a sixth nonpartisan ballot - will appear as follows on the 2014 primary ballot: Libertarian, Independent, Republican, Green, Nonpartisan, and Democratic. By state law, the order in which the parties appear on the ballot is determined by random drawing.

The Primary Election is on Saturday, August 9, 2014. Hawaii's single party primary presents voters with all party ballots, from which voters are able to select one party and vote for that one party's slate of candidates. For more information on voting, go to www.hawaii.gov/elections. Now if we can only get them to print and distribute the ballots!

COFA Bucks to Continue. Attorney General David M. Louie announced that the State of Hawaii will continue to provide benefits to the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) residents until a full and final resolution of the issues in *Korab v. McManaman* is reached.

In early April 2014, the Ninth Circuit ruled that when Congress enacted the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 and eliminated all federal funding for health benefits for COFA residents, the State of Hawaii could not be mandated to fund the federal government's portion of the benefits. The Ninth Circuit's decision confirms that the federal government cannot impose a duty on States to perform a function for which it does not provide funds. This ruling was a preliminary finding by the appellate court; there are still other proceedings that may occur. COFA costs Hawaii taxpayers more than \$130 million annually.

The 38th Annual Smart Business Hawaii Conference
SMALL BUSINESS 2014:
“WORKING FOR A BETTER BUSINESS CLIMATE”

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014 • THE ALA MOANA HOTEL • HIBISCUS BALLROOM

Principal Sponsors: HMAA McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii

7:00 – 8:30 am Registration and Coffee

– Hibiscus Ballroom
Network and Visit Business Exhibit Tables – Foyer

8:15 am Aloha and Welcome – “Working For A Better Business Climate”
Sam Slom, President, Smart Business Hawaii

8:30 “Hawaii’s Visitor Industry—An Update and Outlook”
Mike McCartney, President,
Hawaii Tourism Authority

9:00 “Challenges for Business: Minimum Wage, Mandates and Obamacare”
Sheri Sakamoto, Retail Merchants of Hawaii
Jonathan Young, President,
Associated Builders & Contractors

9:30 “Who Are The ‘Millenials’ and Why They Are Important to Your Business”
Bob Sigall, Creative-; Author,
“The Companies We Keep”

10:00 “Hawaii’s Tax & Legislative Update”
Tom Yamachicka, Interim President,
Tax Foundation of Hawaii

10:30 – 10:45

Brief Refreshment Break —
Visit Business Exhibits (Foyer)

10:45 “Tips For Success From Hawaii’s Successful Business Owners”
Mark Storfer, Hilo Hattie
Naomi Hazelton-Giambrone,
Element Media/
Pacific Edge Magazine

11:15 “Technology That Will Help Your Business Soar”
Verizon Hawaii
Dale Evans, Charley’s Taxi
Peter Kay, Cybercom / Your Computer Minute

12 noon Luncheon and Program —
Hibiscus Ballroom I / II

12:30 KEYNOTE SPEECH:
“Proven Principles for Prosperity”
Patrick Snow, Motivational Speaker, Author

1:30 pm Adjournment • Mahalo for attending •

1:45 pm Private Sponsors/Directors
Meeting with Keynoter

**38th Annual Smart Business
Hawaii Conference**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – Ala Moana Hotel • Hibiscus Ballroom – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESS 2014:
“WORKING FOR A BETTER BUSINESS CLIMATE”

featuring **Patrick Snow**, Motivational Speaker, Author

ADVANCE PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED (See Below) – Parking Validated – Arrive by 6:45 am

Name _____

Firm Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

My Guest(s) _____ Firm _____

Luncheon Menu: Beef ☐ or Vegetarian ☐

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, for _____ (# of reservations)
@\$75 for members and their guests • @\$90 for Non-Members and at the door if space is available.

Full refunds until May 9, 2014. Make check payable to Small Business Hawaii and mail to:
Small Business Hawaii, Hawaii Kai Corporate Plaza, 6600 Kalanianaʻole Hwy., Suite 212, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825.

Shouldn't We Do Something About The Two Gorillas In The Bar?

By **Tom Yamachika**

Interim President, Tax Foundation of Hawaii

Often I am asked to summarize what's going on with the tax bills in the current legislative session. I usually say that it's obviously an election year, because a very large number of the tax bills moving are attempts to give money back, usually in the form of credits or incentives, as opposed to "revenue enhancers," which is what politicians often call attempts to grab even more of your hard-earned dollars. There are, in addition, quite a few bills designed to give relief to the poor or the elderly through our tax system, mostly through tax credits of one kind or another.

And why not? Gov. Neil Abercrombie is trumpeting that under his watch there has been an economic turnaround. "Upon taking office," says a booklet called Abercrombie Administration Accomplishments 2010-2013, "the Administration faced a budget deficit of \$220 million at the end of 2010. In response, it established responsible fiscal management practices while creating a sustainable financial plan for Hawaii's future. As a result, the State of Hawaii ended fiscal year 2013 with a positive general fund balance of approximately \$844 million."

That sounds a little like a guy getting up in the middle of a bar and saying, "Hey! I have money in my pocket and I'm feeling good. Let the good times roll!" and then buying everyone in the bar a round of drinks. But is tossing all that cash around a responsible thing to do, especially if he is up to his eyeballs in debt?

The budget deficit, and the positive general fund balance, are measures of how much money the state had in its pocket on given dates. We need to remember that these measures need to be considered along with other things, especially what the state owes, in assessing its long-term sustainability.

So here is where the gorillas come in. The state long ago agreed to pay post-employment benefits to its workers. ERS, or Employees' Retirement System, represents the retirement benefits. EUTF, the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, represents the medical benefits. At June 30, 2013, ERS had an "unfunded actuarial accrued liability" of about \$8.4 billion. For EUTF, the number was about \$18.2 billion. Those numbers represent the present value of what we taxpayers owe for these future benefits. In comparison, the total annual state general fund budget is \$5.5 billion.

Compare this with the City of Detroit, Michigan. Detroit has a population of about four million counting its suburbs, and it had a long-term debt of \$18.5 billion when it filed for, and late last year was ruled eligible for, bankruptcy! Hawaii is smaller, and its debts are bigger. So let's make no mistake: the gorillas were able to bring down governments bigger than ours. Maybe we'd better pay attention to them.

I don't know about you, but if I find out that I have more money in my pocket than I expected, I take some of it and pay down my mortgage a little. So shouldn't we use a bit of the money the state has in its pocket and set it aside to deal with these issues? It's not that we don't sympathize with the poor – we agree that Hawaii is taxing people deeper into poverty and that needs to be fixed. It's not that we are ridiculing the idea of stimulating business – certainly, if we can grow the engine that's feeding us, there will be more to throw around. There are many other worthy causes, too.

Okay, maybe we can't resist the temptation to jump up in the middle of the bar and throw money around...but at least when we're doing so, let's toss a few bananas toward those two big fellows in the back of the room.

ACA Spending Probe Requested by Senator Sлом Continued from Page 3.

for payroll, how the \$204 million has been spent or allocated and the total amount spent on advertising the exchange, but Matsuda didn't provide all the details, Sлом said.

The Senate committee learned the contract with Canadian-based CGI, Inc., was higher than originally disclosed. Matsuda revealed to lawmakers that the state will pay CGI \$74 million over four years to build and maintain the portal. Previous reports had the cost estimated at \$53 million.

Matsuda also acknowledged the website is still not fully operational today, several months after the Oct. 1 launch, in part because the Small Business Health Options Program for small businesses isn't working. Sлом, who also serves as president of the small business advocacy group Smart Business Hawaii, said the defective SHOP program is leaving small businesses frustrated.

The website, run by CGI, has experienced numerous technical problems mirroring the problems of the federal CGI-run website. Many people have been unable to enroll via the website, contradicting assurances that the Hawaii Health Connector was meeting its deadlines and would be ready to serve the public, Sлом said.

CGI is the same company that built the troubled Healthcare.gov web site. The Obama administration ended its contract with CGI in January after the website failed to function properly upon its Oct. 1 launch.

Senators also learned during the briefing the federal government has no plans to extend additional funding grants to the Hawaii Health Connector, placing the burden on Hawaii taxpayers to make up additional costs to operate the Connector. Hawaii's exchange must be self-sufficient by 2015.

Lawmakers are considering a number of options, including having the state take over the exchange, a plan advocated by the House majority leadership.

That could total between \$15 million and \$24 million a year, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim told Watchdog.org, when she detailed her opposition to a proposal for Hawaii to take over the exchange.

Lawmakers may also add a fee for all of Hawaii's insurance providers to every plan sold, even if those providers don't participate in the exchange.

Matsuda said the Connector is revamping its strategy to become more like the Kayak model, referring to the online travel booking website, in hopes it will make signing up for the exchange easier. Matsuda didn't return a call from Watchdog.org on Friday seeking comment.

Before its launch Oct. 1, 2013 Gov. Neil Abercrombie predicted hundreds of thousands of people in Hawaii would register for Obamacare. Hawaii has the nation's lowest enrollment numbers, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report said last month.

The Psychology of Island Nations...

By Free Thinker

All well-travelled individuals are aware that island communities are more mentally relaxed environments than clever, continental landmasses. I can't think of the amount of Machiavellian scheming I would have to do if I dealt with Mainland USA, France and China as opposed to their island counterparts of Hawaii, the UK and Japan. One former fencing partner who served in the German army explained it to me succinctly, "See, when you're on an island, unless there is some external stimulus coming from the waters, you don't have to think." It has been observed by many others that island nations have unique quirks that are manifestations of this geographical circumstance.

Whenever I attend formal meetings concerning UK-Japan relations, some diplomat always make the monotonous comment that they are both island nations. The British and the Japanese are both known for their manners, etiquette and reserved natures. Remember that politeness is artificial friendliness, so it is both pleasant to experience when genuine and yet could be unnerving when disingenuous. One should be cautious when encountering people who are too polite because the psychology of not being direct is a sign of hiding things – hiding emotions, facts, real thoughts, motives etc. Over-emphasis on manners and ritualistic behavior are the perfect facades for hypocrisy.

So-called advanced countries promote their greatness and vilify what are often deemed as less-sophisticated nations, but the sad truth is no matter what nationality, human nature is corrupt everywhere. For example, comments are always made about corruption in The Philippines and Indonesia, but never you mind about BAE Systems being accused of paying £115 million of bribes for a South African arms deal, or the British in general just placing a Union Jack here and there to grab resources and territory all over the world. Never you mind about the Daiwa bank scandal in which \$1.1 billion of trading bonds were "lost", the Olympus accounting scandal and least of all Tepco's handling of nuclear power! At least the Indonesians are honest about having "fixers" where as more "polite" nationalities conceal sneakiness. But who cares, so long as they dress nicely and say pretty words in a courteous fashion, right? Lucifer was the most beautiful of God's angels



Is Hawaii as idyllic as it looks?

too, and we all know what happened next.

Being entirely surrounded by water, there is perhaps that fear of invasion from the outside, so island nations possess that characteristic of insularity in which they live in their own little world. Moreover, unless one has an autonomously accessible plane or boat to escape an island, it is quite dangerous to have too many people with thoughts of their own because people are trapped on islands. If chaos were to occur, it is imagined the space to fight would be more confined and the ensuing damage more prevalent than in military theatres not purely surrounding by water. It is therefore understandable that island nations invent ways to have a psychological stronghold over their populations.

While the British are caged in a tight hierarchy of a fairly rigid class system as a carefully constructed fairy tale is played out at the top to act a glorious distraction from individual liberty, the Japanese go about control over their population in a slightly different way. In Japan there is an Imperial Family, but most people (98% of society) are considered equal or middle class in theory. However, there are psychological tricks used to keep the Japanese from actually interacting with the concept of individual liberty. Japanese people are very well behaved largely due to the fact that they are so well controlled. The Japanese societal code about ritualised conduct according to rank within a particular context such as the family or workplace (not really social class) even extends to the language with the use of several different honorifics to choose from. The Japanese are too distracted by the instilment early on of expected behaviors to have any chance of thinking on their own. It's rather a sort of democratic type of communism.

Because Japanese behavior is predetermined for them through social custom, their reactions to opinion or inquiry frequently

result in binary black-and-white replies or neutral ones when they are unsure. This is why the observers of Japan note that the majority of Japanese have little or no capacity for any form of abstract thought whatsoever. There is the illusion of abstract thought such as when a Japanese person claims non-Japanese not to be able to understand them. But, this is just a shaggy dog story because in reality there is very little of anything of substance to understand, especially since all educated people know that China, Korea and the West largely gave shape to Japanese culture. The truth may hurt, but it is pointless to play around with it.

Then we have the islands of Aloha. The smaller the island, the easier it is to see how dysfunctional it is since there is nowhere to hide. I had heard that one has to show respect in Hawaii or one's proposal will be moved to the bottom of the inbox. Ah, is that what the inhabitants of Hawaii call laziness – respect? Laziness is understandable in hot and tropical climates but concealing the behavior of delaying work as respect is risible. Whomever fixed that deal about the Rail to Nowhere must have had a lot of "respect" for the Hawaiian government as did whomever introduced the discussion of selecting a State microbe. I suppose the Rail can serve as a Petrie dish for growing the microbe as it does its circuit with no one on board with perhaps the exception of the homeless using it as kinetic shelter. Honestly, with so much folly in Hawaii, how could one ever leave paradise due to island fever?

It seems to me Hawaiians enjoy being taken for a ride, or maybe they are just perhaps so accustomed to the social conditioning of having lunatics in primary control of the State Legislature that like other islands they are blind to see what is being done to them. Despite all the romanticism of times past in Hawaii, if the Hawaiian Monarchy had continued, then only the *ali'i* would have been allowed to be involved in trade as that was their custom. America was founded on the principles of individual liberty and Americans shouldn't be accepting any nonsense the people of other nations (islands or otherwise) sheepishly tolerate. Hawaii can be more than just a place where people swim with sharks and dolphins. It is not so that humans are the only life form that kills for pleasure. Despite their cuteness, dolphins also kill for pleasure, so beware of those frolicking creatures in the blue with their shark friends.

Aina Haina Library Book Sale in May

The Friends of Aina Haina Public Library will hold their annual book sale fundraiser, Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located in the Aina Haina Shopping Center at 5246 Kalanianaʻole Hwy. A wide assortment of books, CDs, DVDs will be available for modest prices. All proceeds will benefit Aina Haina Public Library for programs, library materials and office supplies. Come early for the best selection! For more information call 377-2456 or check out the library website at: ainahainalibrary.org Help your neighborhood library.

Sales Person of the Year

The Salesperson of the Year (SPOY) committee of Sales and Marketing Executives International (SMEI), Honolulu Chapter announced that **Stanford Carr**, President of Stanford Carr Development, has been selected "Salesperson of the Year" for 2013.

Carr is currently a trustee of the University of Hawaii Foundation, 2013 Chairman for the March of Dimes Hawaii, and Corporate Team Chair for March for Babies.



SBH SUNRISE

Thursday, April 24, 2014 • 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.
Pineapple Room, Ala Moana • Breakfast / Free Parking

Natalie Iwasa, CPA, & City Council Candidate

"Practical and money saving tips for You"

Reservations made in order received at SBH. No tickets mailed – pick up at registration desk April 24. Your guests welcomed at member price. Refunds until April 22.

Advanced Paid Reservations Required by April 23, 2014.

Complete Breakfast Buffet and Free Parking (Ala Moana 4th floor) included

Name _____

Firm Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

My Guest(s) _____

(Firm) _____

Enclosed is my check for* \$_____, for _____ (number) people @ \$25 per member and their guest(s) who pay in advance.*

Print, clip and mail with a check to "SBH Sunrise" to:

**Small Business Hawaii,
6600 Kalanianaʻole Hwy. #212
Honolulu, HI 96825**

*The charge is \$35 for non-members, and at the door, provided space is available.

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Law would give Hawaii government unprecedented emergency powers

By **Malia Zimmerman**, Hawaii Reporter

Hawaii's governor and four county mayors may be granted unprecedented emergency powers during a crisis, such as a natural disaster like the 1992 Hurricane Iniki that hit Kauai and Oahu or a terrorist attack.

The bill, HB 849, is designed to bring Hawaii's emergency management plan to federal standards. It renames the state civil defense agency the "Hawaii Emergency Management Agency" and houses it under the state Department of Defense.

The bill also adds to government bureaucracy, creating a state emergency management director position and a council on emergency management to advise the governor. Mayors will be granted the same power as the governor in declaring an "emergency period."

Some language in the bill worries Senate Minority Leader **Sam Slom**, who is troubled about how it would affect privacy and property rights of Hawaii residents.

"My main concern is the bill gives expanded powers to the governor and mayors without checks and balances or oversight," the Republican said. "The definition of emergency powers and where they come into play is vague and overly broad."

In one section of the bill, the governor and the mayors of Kauai; Maui; Hawaii; and the city and county of Honolulu, encompassing Oahu, are authorized to use all services, materials and facilities owned by partnerships, corporations and small businesses, including media outlets and technology companies.

In another, the governor and mayors have the power to prevent "hoarding, waste, and destruction of supplies, materials, commodities, accommodations, facilities and



services for equitable distribution."

The governor also can assume operation of privately owned "critical infrastructure."

"If the government declares you are in possession of harmful materials or are hoarding, or creating a dangerous situation, they could probably take whatever they want, including firearms, just like the government did in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005," Slom said.

William Anonsen, who sits on the Civil Defense Advisory Council, believes the pending legislation updates Hawaii's 60-year-old emergency management law, developed after World War II to address threats of nuclear attack threats and civil unrest.

State Adjutant General **Darryll Wong**, who serves as the director of state civil defense, supports the legislation.

But **Edward Teixeira**, who served as former vice director of civil defense October 1999 until October 2011, cautioned lawmakers about the current draft, calling the legislation a "rushed and desperate attempt to reform the state civil defense system."

"The proposed bill falls short of making a

real change to the state civil defense system, a change that requires a bold and justified transition from the federal civil defense laws of the 1950s to the 21st century and beyond," Teixeira said.

Teixeira's main concern isn't so much about unprecedented powers but more about how emergency management would be structured.

"We will continue to retain the state emergency management agency under the Department of Defense and the state adjutant general or Hawaii National Guard. This is an outmoded Cold War concept. The Hawaii state Legislature should take the initiative many other state legislative bodies have taken long ago by placing their emergency management agencies directly under their respective governors," Teixeira said.

The bill passed both houses and is in conference committee. If the committee approves, both houses will need to approve a final draft by the end of the session May 1. Gov. Neil Abercrombie is likely to support the bill since his administrators have testified in support.



"Literally, if we took away the minimum wage - if conceivably it was gone - we could potentially virtually wipe out unemployment completely because we would be able to offer jobs at whatever level."

— **Michele Bachmann**

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