

This is the Disability Rights Hawaii Newsletter for May 2012. It is available by email, print, or Large Print. Please contact ronald@hawaii.edu, or call 961-5601, to add or remove your name from the mailing list, or to change the format of your Newsletter.

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..... May 29, 2012, Meeting Announcement

Disability Rights Hawaii will meet on Tuesday, May 29, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM. The meeting will take place at the ADRC building at 1055 Kinoole Street in Hilo. The meeting will begin with our Yearly Board of Directors Meeting. We expect this to be a short meeting, and we will commence with our General Meeting as soon as it is over (oh, say, 12:15 or 12:20).

Aside from our usual discussion of local accessibility problems and solutions (with MacDonalds for example) we will have reports from two attendees to the recent Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities. Martin Hodapp will report on the Self Advocacy Summit. Linda will discuss the new sessions at the conference on teen pregnancy and STI prevention, and also on her organization's study of the Hawaii Pono Choices project. In addition, Martin will open a discussion on the topic of health care equipment suppliers, and their shortage on the Big Island. Is there any way to reduce our dependence on a few suppliers? The meeting is free and open to the public.

..... March 27, 2012, Meeting Notes

Present: Daniel Grant-Johnson, Marty Mimmack, Donald Haumea, Arcelita Imasa, Gene Gustafson, Chris Cholas, Ron Amundson, Bill Leek, from the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Danny began the meeting with introductions. Two DRH members, Linda Toms Barker and Martin Hodapp, were at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability this week, so we will miss them. They will report at our next meeting. We met a new member, Gene Gustafson, who learned of us through Arcelita Imasa who recently worked as a nurse at Gene's facility.

Ron brought up an email he received from Marlene Valeriani, who was again concerned about problems with the pirating of an accessible parking space at the Malama Food Market in Pahoa. We have previously dealt with the Market manager, and traveled to Pahoa to do a survey of the parking arrangement there. The accessible space in question is near a fresh water loading area, and people tend to pirate the spot in order to get close to the water source. Marlene would like support in convincing the Market manager to relocate the water source to the other side of the Market, near a smoking area. We had a long discussion of this problem. The outcome was that the problem was with the policing of the parking spaces, not really in the location of the water source. Relocation of the water source near the smoking area would cause problems for non-smokers who wanted access to the water. In addition, it was pointed out that many people with disabilities also use that water source for their drinking water. Carrying the large water jugs from the other side of the market would be a special problem for them. The group eventually decided

we should worry more about having the parking stall policed rather than trying to relocate the water source. Ron will communicate this view to Marlene.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Bill Leek, the Landscape Architect for Volcanoes National Park. Chris Cholas met Bill at a walk-through of some areas of the Park, and he reported the results at the January DRH meeting. Bill described his work at the Park, which mostly concentrate on improving routes, both pedestrian and roadways. Accessible parking will be improved, and shuttle bus arrangements will include accessibility for two wheelchairs per bus. Bill gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on the routes, and Chris described some of the difficulties that his walkthrough had identified. Bill gave us email contacts for himself and his supervisor. Because Bill's contract is only for one year, we might want to have his supervisor's contact also. They are:

Bill Leek (Bill_Leek@nps.gov, 985-6301) and Ron Borne, Facility Maintenance Manager, (Ron_Borne@nps.gov).

..... NewsNotes

-- Couple with CP threatened with loss of child.

A story out of Canada describes a couple, both of whom have cerebral palsy, who have been threatened with the loss of their child because of their disabilities. An ugly story, especially given that they have adequate support from assistants. The story is at this (shortened) web site: <http://tinyurl.com/87ss8xn>, a Canadian Broadcasting Company site.

-- New web site on developmental (and other) disabilities.

[The site called "Disability Scoop"](#) has a lot of good disability information, including breaking news and individual sites for various disabilities. You can sign up for email news announcements. Click on the name (above) to get there.

-- Online graphics from DRH.

Recent events have given us access to several interesting graphics. They are, first:

[The UHH Chancellor's Committee on Access](#). This includes two DRH members, Martin Hodapp and Ron Amundson (both seated). The standers are Prof. Shawon Rahman, Nadine Austin, Nancy Lombard, Susan Shirachi (Disability Services Coordinator), Loli Chih, and Janice Shirai. Ron is already retired, so talk to Martin about anything UHH-related.

[Arcelita Imasa at her pinning ceremony](#) as she graduates from UHH with her Nursing BA. (The picture shows her friend Ryan, Arcelita, and Linda Cholas.) Chris Cholas, Linda Cholas, and Ron Amundson were at her pinning ceremony. It was especially thrilling because Arcelita received the Genevieve Kinney Transcultural Nursing Award at the ceremony. Arcelita learned about disability politics from a class that Ron taught at UHH on "Normality and Abnormality."

She has used her knowledge to excellent effect in her major, and will continue in her upcoming career. Congratulations, Arcelita!

[An etching of the 1874 scientific expedition to Honolulu](#), to observe the transit of Venus. We got into a discussion of this phenomenon at the November DRH meeting. Martin's father is an astronomer, and has been working on setting up an observation of the upcoming transit of Venus. Do a Google search, if you don't know what a big deal this is -- the transit occurs about once a century, and the scientists in the picture had taken 3-month ocean voyages from England to watch from Honolulu. Nothing disability-related, but some of us are interested, and Ron's wife Sherry gave him this as a Christmas present many years ago.