

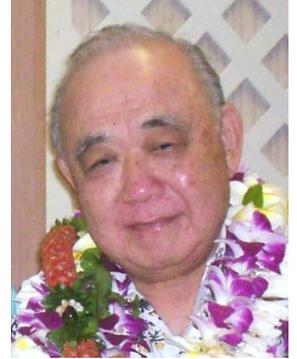
HAB FORUM

Advocating for
Independence, Equality, Opportunity

October 2011

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Warren Toyama

HAB continues to be actively involved in helping others. About 20 members attended the ACB National Convention in Reno this July. Our members continue to mature with each trip we take.



HAB sponsored Naomi Olson's art show at Mark's Garage in Downtown Honolulu. We turned the viewing into a fun fellowship by having dinner at Zippy's and having a great time together!

Thanks to the Pearl City Lions Club (with Sharon Ige's initiative), Ho'opono's exterior walls got a good painting! Over 80 volunteers (Lions and Leos) turned out for this project. HAB chipped-in by providing everyone's lunch from Ige's Lunchwagon and Catering! Yummy!!

HAB recently paid for the airfare of all the neighbor island VI teachers so they could attend a statewide meeting of all VI teachers on Oahu. HAB will be sponsoring a spring teachers meeting to enable the teachers to share with each other the problems they face as they assist blind children.

Kudos to Stacie Phasouk for leading such lively discussions on selected topics at our monthly meetings! Come join us and see how fun and interesting our meetings are now!!

Our Thanksmas dinner is rapidly approaching, Nov. 26th to be exact. All members are urged to come and join us for a wonderful dinner. We also take up a collection of money for the Salvation Army. So, come to dinner and don't forget your generous donation! Our goal this year is to raise \$1,000!!

Hat's off to Social Committee Chair Sharon Ige. She had HAB over to her house for a wonderful meeting and some of Ige's delicious luncheon fare. Sharon's committee also carried out a fun-filled Karaoke Night at The Krazy Karaoke.

A warm "Welcome" goes out to new HAB members Debbie Fine and Natalie Barret. We think you both will be positive additions to our great organization!!

So, until our next Newsletter, here's wishing you all: Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!! Mahalo!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Myles Tamashiro

The Membership Committee is now headed by me, Myles Tamashiro. Our members include Norman Ota, Julia Toyama, Art Cabinilla, and Keith Okazaki. We are working on establishing procedures to use in handling membership issues.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE – Sharon Ige

The Social Committee consists of: Keith Okazaki, Sazza Self, Lauren Kukino, Julie Toyama, Shelford Canton, Sharon Ige, and Advisor Myles Tamashiro.

In August, we moved the monthly meetings to Sharon's house and we partied afterwards. About 23 people enjoyed lunch together and then the games began... We played a rubber band,

lyrics and a “get to know you” game. Do you know: Which HAB member played chess against the inmates in a cellblock at San Quentin (Don), Which couple rode a motorcycle for 100 miles (Kenny and Vicky), Which member received an award from CPS (Nora), or which member loves angels (Julie)?? We also had a kazoo contest. Even our President Warren Toyama gave it a blow, doing his rendition of “Da Hil Sayo”. Filo belted out “God Bless America”. If you didn’t hear the duet by Maureen and Jim of the Star Spangled Banner on the toy Kazoos you really missed something amazing! The big winner of the day was Shelford who got first choice of the prizes and shared them with Selena. Who knew he was so competitive and so sharp? We ended the day with more talking, laughter and some of the members playing baseball. Myles, Filo and others still “got game”! It was good to hear the voices of members who haven’t been to our meetings in a while. It was a day full of the three F’s: Food, Fun and Fellowship!!

On September 17 (Saturday night) seventeen HAB members including their guests enjoyed four hours of karaoke. The room was filled with outstanding talent. The repertoire ranged from “The Lazy Song” by Bruno Mars to Broadway show stoppers. The potluck finger foods were onolicious! The night was topped off with an unforgettable “Summer Nights” duet by Bobby and Stacie. The time went by soo fast. Maybe next time David and Lauren will grace us with a song or two. So much fun...don’t miss the next one!!

Here are some upcoming social events: Thanksmas Party (November 26, 2011), New Year’s Party (January 28, 2012), Annual HAB Convention (March 9 Hospitality, March 10 Convention). Details will follow, so save these dates!

A huge “mahalo” goes out to HAB who provided lunch for 80+ volunteer from various Lion’s clubs who came together to give Ho’opone a much needed “facelift”. They put on a fresh coat of paint, and landscaped and cleaned the courtyard and parking lot. Everyone worked hard and was so thankful for the ono grinds provided by HAB afterwards. Some even got to go back for seconds. Gochiso Sama Desita...Japanese for “Thank you for the Feast”.

Technology – Ronald Flormata

This year, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) successfully celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the John Ascuaga Resort Hotel in Reno, Nevada. They proudly show a report card filled with productive advocacy efforts on a national scale. Most notable is the legal victory against the Department of Treasury regarding accessible US currency, the 21st Century Communications Act, plus several accommodations for the blind gained through structured negotiations with various government and private entities.



This year’s convention program covered a number of topics dealing with technology...right up my alley! Tech giants like Google, Apple, and HumanWare sent their representatives to talk about their plans for accessible technology. One of the comments that got stuck in my mind was the one from Mr. Giles Pepin, Chief Executive Officer of HumanWare, Inc. who said that despite all the advances in technology, nothing can yet replace the white cane. Yes, there were attempts to mimic the function of the venerable

white cane, but so far nothing has been manufactured to replace this simple device; and I agree 100%!

On the subject of the accessible phone, it was interesting to note that more and more blind and visually impaired individuals are turning to the iPhone by Apple. Those of you who have an iPhone would swear their love for this gadget because of what it can do despite the fact that it is a touch-screen phone. The availability and ease of how a user can get thousands of online applications, if not free are so affordable. And how about the competition? Anybody who is in the market for a Smartphone would surely come across Android phones by Google. Actually, these phones are manufactured by different companies like HTC, Samsung or LG, but they run the Android operating system by Google. In essence, this is a competition between Apple's iPhone and Android phones. So, reading beyond the marketing hype, I tried comparing the accessibility features of each phone. I even got an HTC Mytouch phone running the Android Froyo operating system just to experience it for myself. My verdict...I gave up using the Mytouch. I also heard from a blog that they also concluded that Android has a long way to go when it comes to accessibility. In fairness, I haven't tried using Mobile Speak, a screen reader Android app on the Mytouch. This is an aftermarket app for \$70, whereas the iPhone is accessible and ready to use right out of the box. In case anyone is interested, I use a KNFB phone which is a Nokia N82 running the symbian operating system with Talks screen reader – a \$1,500 value.

One of the exhibitors at the 2011 ACB convention was the Bureau of Printing and Minting of the Department of Treasury. I took their survey seeking feedback on different prototypes of

accessible currency bills. There were mainly two types – raised dots like Braille and abrasive sections on the bill. Size and color did not change. I voted for the abrasive design. I've handled many bills of various conditions at my work, many worn out and battered paper bills. Raised dots just wouldn't last the test of time with so much use and abuse. This goes to show that the DoT is finally doing something about making the US currency accessible. The process takes time and patience. It's moving slowly but it is moving!

In my opinion, the highlight of the convention was when John Ascuaga, owner and CEO of the hotel, addressed the ACB general assembly. Never in the history of the ACB did the owner or CEO of the hotel venue speak to the conventioners. Kudos to the management and staff of the John Ascuaga Hotel!

The Blind Vending Program – Filo Tu

The Hawaii Vendors showed their strength at the RSVA 2011 convention in Reno, Nevada. From July 9 to 12, our delegates went out to show the nation what Hawaii is all about!



On the first night of the convention, the hospitality was something else! We took a bartender from Hawaii with us, and he showcased many local drinks like Mai Tai's that made the evening a wonderful experience for a lot of mainland vendors.

During the day sessions at the convention, the Hawaii vendors were all there participating in everything that was going on. This year I was the convention chairman, and we also had two Hawaii vendors on the RSVA Board of Directors. Also, the camera person for the convention was also from Hawaii. I want to give a big

“mahalo” to my convention committee...you were just outstanding! Because of all our local connections and sharing of our “aloha spirit”, this year’s convention was considered one of the most successful conventions in years!!

I would like to take this time to say “thank you” to some great people who helped make this a great event. Garret Suzuki and Jim Kahue willingly stepped right up to help make this a great gathering for everyone...Garret was our bartender and Jim was our cameraman. Great job guys! I also want to congratulate Myles Tamashiro for an outstanding job while on the RSVA Board of Directors. His term is now over, but because of the great job he did, the Board elected another member from Hawaii...that would be me, Filo Tu. Thanks Myles for your great work! My final thanks goes out to Warren Toyama who is the Second Vice-President of Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America. The Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of Hawaii membership is very much involved in the national RSVA organization as you can see. I am so proud of what our Hawaii vendors are doing not only for our own local program but for the nation as well! Thanks everyone!!

Hawaii Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired

(HAPVI) – Amy Downard

HAPVI members have been busy, busy, busy! They met at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind in June for “Jammin’ with Blind Musicians” get together. Thanks to Joseph for singing his great tunes for us. Members enjoyed the music, ono food, lots of talk story, and planning for upcoming events.

HAPVI enjoyed its 11th Annual Convention on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at Ho’opono’s Auditorium. At the conference,

LBPH shared updates, including the growing number of digital book player users in our state. If you don't have one yet, contact LBPH. It's super easy to use and easier to move around the story than the cassette players. Kymberlee Gilkey from the Department of Health's 0-3 program informed the group about the services she provides to infants and toddlers who are visually impaired. She goes into the home and preschool settings to work with families and service provider teams to determine visual needs and develop skills to access visual information. Annette Tashiro provided an overview of the services that Ho'opono provides to students and young adults for job awareness and training. Gensen Rabacal, a student at Leeward Community College and graduate of Ho'opono's New Vision Program shared his role as the Leadership Coordinator for the summer youth program. Gensen is a great role model to the students he worked with this summer. Amy Downard (that's me!) was able to share my first DVD from the "My Eye Movie" special project grant from HAB. My 6th grade student, Angel, did a great job in her debut DVD. She shared the information about the parts of the white cane and showed how to carefully scan traffic before and during a street crossing. More to come on this topic below. Congratulations to HAPVI for providing another great convention to all participants and to the elected officers: President-Myles Tamashiro, Vice-President-Vivek Nerurkar, Treasurer-Amelia Cetrone, Secretary-Beth Flormata.

HAPVI will also be hosting a table at the Children and Youth Day at the State Capitol on Sunday, October 2nd to share information and activities about low vision tools, canes and Braille. Hope to see you there!

State of Hawaii Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (SHAER) – Amy Downard

Hawaii has enjoyed another start of the school year with a certified teacher of the visually impaired in every VI teaching position in our state. AND, almost every school district has teachers who are also O&M instructors, so the kids are alright! This has been the longest running stability we have had in Hawaii and am hoping it will stay that way. It makes such a huge difference when students have the stability of qualified teachers of the visually impaired. We may move to other school districts from time to time, but this year, everyone stayed put. Many of our high school students enjoyed participating in Ho'opono's Summer Youth Training Program. Students learned the importance of research to match their interests to job skills. They all had on-the-job experiences at various job sites on the island of Oahu. Our students form life-long friendships with other students who are blind and visually impaired. Ho'opono continues to create a diverse and exciting summer program with students taking on active leadership roles.



Lia Anderson and Jeannie Camacho, teachers from Honolulu District, have been working closely with the Hawaii State Assessment department to ensure that students who are blind and visually impaired have fair access to the HSA-Hawaii State Assessment. These high stakes tests have lots of charts and visual images that need to be produced in a meaningful way to Braille readers. Kudos to these teachers for working long hours to review Braille testing materials.

SHAER members will be meeting soon to discuss training topics and review best practices in assessment and instruction to students with visual impairments. Thanks to HAB for ongoing support to the instruction of students who are blind and visually impaired. Your special funds bring out a higher level of personalized instruction to students on a daily basis throughout our state. See you at White Cane Day in October with our students.

A Special Thank You to HAB from Amy Downard, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Honolulu District

I just wanted to take the time to thank the members of HAB for supporting me in my special project, "My Eye Movie". So far, I have been able to film and photograph students working on their blind-specific skills. One student, a 6th grade girl, used the low vision techniques of lane by lane scanning and using the white cane as an identification tool while crossing a traffic controlled intersection. She was a natural in front of the camera. Another student, an 11th grade young man, showed the different types of magnifiers and the one he likes using the most. He was all business and really enjoyed the experience. He said it made him really think about what helpful tools he used to see things better. The next video will document the upper and lower body protective techniques that a young 4th grade boy uses to move around his classroom safely. He is excited to have his time in front of the camera and his family is looking forward to learning more about these important skills as well, which is the whole point of this project. I have about 101 more ideas for creating these student DVDs/booklets and am so thrilled to have the opportunity to do so. Thank you again so much for believing in me and believing in this

project. I truly think it will make a difference over time as families learn more about the specific skills their kids are learning to access visual information in relation to their specific visual impairment. I will keep you posted, because there is more to come!

Views on Today's Technological Shift – Art Cabanilla

During this year's 2011 ACB convention, it was apparent that a movement toward blindness accessibility among computer users is taking shape. It has come in the form of Apple's products such as its iPhone, iPad, MacBook Pro and its newest addition; the MacBook Air. Apple appears to be gaining a greater share of today's technological market which, has been dominated primarily by Microsoft in the past.

For many blind or low-vision users, accessibility to the computer and/or the Internet had come about thru the use of a PC along with use of a variety of Screen Readers or magnification applications such as jaws for Windows from Freedom Scientific, or Zoomtext from ai Squared just to name a few. Because of this dual configuration of computer and Third party adaptive software, cost for such accessibility has been rather expensive for most to achieve without some form of state agency or private assistance; thus leaving many to go without if such assistance were unavailable.

Due to apple's new commitment to making their products accessible right out of the box, it has enabled more blind and low-vision consumers to now be a part of our technological world of bits and bytes. With both (Voice Over) and (Zoom) integrated right in to its (OS) operating system, Apple is able to offer immediate accessibility for anyone who needs it. As changes or upgrades to its (OS) or your favorite programs are made, both

Voice Over and Zoom will continue to work behind the scenes. Furthermore there are thousands of apps available for download to your favorite Apple device. Because of Apple's integrated accessibility, access to many of these new found apps are immediate for most blind users once downloaded and installed. Cost for such apps is often free or moderately priced making it easy to afford for most.

With the advent of cloud technology, Apple has unveiled its recent creation called iCloud. Thru the iCloud, user data can be stored and pushed wirelessly to all your apple devices with greater ease; thus, placing access to all your data at the touch of your fingertips on any device you choose.

Despite Apple's determination for making their products accessible, use of its products are not as straightforward as one may think. Learning and understanding of its general (OS) operating system and navigation methods is quite different from that of traditional thinking. While navigation by keyboard command has traditionally been used by most, use of finger gestures is a new concept to grasp and takes time to fully understand. If you choose not to use finger gestures, customary keyboard commands are still available and it too requires some getting used to. If you are a new user to Apple's products, conceptual knowledge of Window based operating systems will not necessarily apply in most cases. So, approaching the learning curve with the sense of having no prior experience to computers is best and makes the learning that much more easier. Also, working with friends or someone who has prior experience in use of these products will facilitate the learning that much faster and less

frustrating to learn; as often times, apps we download don't always come with user manuals making it difficult to figure out and use.

Although growth in popularity of Apple's products and apps are taking the technology market by storm, like with any other blindness device, research and assessment of need and user functionality is still highly recommended. So, step wisely before making that leap over to the Apple train; as you may take a larger bite out of Apple than you can chew.

A True Randolph-Sheppard Statesman...Highlighting the Life of Warren M. Toyama, RSVA 2nd Vice-President – Cindy

Carruthers (The Vendorscope, Randolph-Sheppard Vendors of America; Summer 2011, Volume 43, Issue #3)

Warren M. Toyama was born in 1936 in Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii, in the small community of Hawi. He was blessed to be the second to the youngest of nine children; he has four brothers and four sisters.

After attending elementary school for a few years, he was forced by State law to attend the Territorial School for the Deaf and Blind on Oahu, at the tender age of eight. There he learned many skills, most notably reading and writing in Braille. He then attended the Kawanakoa Intermediate School, and went on to McKinley High School for one semester. Eventually, Warren graduated from Kohala High School, and continued on to the University of Hawaii. In 1959 he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

Warren attempted to work during his high school years at jobs like removing weeds in sugar cane fields, but got fired for cutting more sugar cane than weeds.

Upon graduating from college, this ambitious scholar began working for Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, publishers of the World Book Encyclopedia, where he soon rose to the position of District Sales Manager. In 1962, he became part of a corporation of ten blind stockholders who successfully won the bid to operate the Honolulu International Airport newsstand concession. During its eight years in business, Warren served as the president and general manager.

In 1971, he purchased and operated a cocktail lounge, and in 1982 he entered the Blind Vending Facility program. In 1985, Warren was the recipient of the Eva H. Smyth Award. This coveted award is presented by the Hawaii Association of the Blind to an individual who has made distinguished contributions to the welfare and well-being of the blind people of Hawaii. In 1986, the Hawaii Blind Vendors Association presented Warren Toyama with their very first Blind Vendor of the Year Award.

Warren Toyama has always been involved in helping others. In his early twenties, he taught Sunday school classes, and he headed the junior high level Christian Endeavor program at his church. He also helped organize bowling leagues for the blind, and later helped form a bowling club for the blind.

The Hawaii Association of the Blind was the brainchild of Warren Toyama; his ideas and efforts brought it into being. He was its first president, and has been its most dedicated member as well as an important leader.

This intelligent, ambitious and hard-working man has been available at all times of the day or night to assist blind individuals with their problems. He has put his personal reputation and job security on the line many times in order to further the cause of the blind in Hawaii.

Warren married his lovely wife Julia in 1968 and they have one daughter and one twelve year old granddaughter. Warren is also very musically inclined. He plays the flute and the ukulele. The basic philosophy that drives this leader of the blind is that blind people ought to have equal access and equal opportunity to succeed in life with the sighted. No man-made barriers, such as discrimination, prejudice, custodialism, or overprotection, should thwart a blind person's quest for happiness in our society.

RSVA is proud to have this "Statesman" serve as the 2nd Vice-President, and to know that this "Statesman" will always be at its beckon call for support and encouragement.

The 2011 RSVA Vendor of the Year, Filo Tu, recently stated he will always be grateful to Warren Toyama for mentoring him in all facets of life. Thank you Warren for your many wonderful years of service to the blind!

Inspirations – Beth Flormata

There comes a time in our lives when we reach a point and wonder why things happen the way they do. We question ourselves or we question God. Life offers a myriad of opportunities for each and every one of us to deal with the challenges, the joys that make our heart sing, and the sorrows that keep us human. We are given the free will to decide which road to take to get to our destination. But sometimes we struggle in our decision on which route to take. We blame ourselves for the decision if we fail, and in some instances, we blame others for the same mistake in order to absolve us of our failings. No matter what life throws at us, let us allow enough sunshine to keep our attitude bright no matter how dreary the outcome turns out to be. For we must have enough rain in our lives in order for us to learn to appreciate the sunshine even more. The happiness we experience allows us to keep our spirit alive. Life will always test our reserve, no matter who we are, where we are, what we are, and how we conduct ourselves. Patience and resilience will always help us get through the rough times, along with hope, faith, love and caring from the people close to our hearts. There will always be good and evil in this world. I guess it's just the way God and nature made it out to be. But it will be up to us to strike a good balance and not let evil triumph.

In closing, let me tell you a story shared by a friend of mine about two wolves: One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. **One is Evil** - It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good - It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "**Which wolf wins?**" The old Cherokee simply replied, "**The one you feed.**"

Comments and Questions

What do you think of this newsletter? If you have questions, would like more info, or have any ideas, please contact HAB by Phone: (808) 521-6213, or Email: ToyamaJ005@hawaii.rr.com.

HAB is an organization comprised of blind and sighted members, who strongly believe in advocating for independence, equality, and opportunity for all blind persons. The officers are:

- President: Warren Toyama, vendor at Tripler Army Medical Center
- First Vice-President: Filo Tu, President and CEO of Blind Vendors Ohana
- Second Vice-President & Scholarship Chairman: Don Thomson, Retired Professor
- Secretary: Maureen Sheedy, Ho'opono Volunteer
- Treasurer: Amelia Cetrone, retired hotel CEO
- Board Members:
 - Myles Tamashiro, vendor at Kona Airport
 - Art Cabanilla, Access Technology Product Sales For the Blind
 - Landa Phelan, self-employed
 - Ronald Flormata, HAB webmaster

HAB Scholarship

The Hawaii Association of the Blind is offering scholarships to legally blind college students who are also Hawaii residents. The students may be attending any accredited university or college regardless of location. May 15th and November 15th are the deadlines for Fall and Spring applications.

Scholarships may be offered on an annual or a semi-annual basis as determined by the scholarship committee. The committee reserves the right not only to accept or deny scholarship applications, but also to determine the amount and duration of the scholarship. Scholarship recipients must re-apply in order to be considered for future scholarships. Those who are denied a scholarship are eligible to re-apply in the future. Scholarships will not exceed one-year in duration and are not expected to be less than \$500 per semester.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be legally blind as defined by national standards.
- Must be planning to attend college for the period which he/she is applying.
- Must be a resident of the State of Hawaii.
- Must not be a member of any national organization other than The American Council of the Blind, the parent organization of the Hawaii Association of the Blind (since other national organizations have their own scholarships).
- Persons who are not affiliated with any national organizations of blind people are encouraged to apply.

For further inquires please call (808) 521-6213.

College Scholarship Application Form

Hawaii Association of the Blind

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

College: _____ Major (if any): _____

Completed Credit Hours: _____ Class: _____

- Must be legally blind as defined by National Standards.
- Applicants must submit a letter of no more than two pages describing his/her educational goals, and informing us of information he/she deems relevant to the application.
- Applicant must provide the scholarship committee with official college transcripts. If the applicant has not attended college or is in the first semester of attendance, official high-school transcripts are required.
- Applicant must submit at least two letters of reference, one of which must come from a professor or teacher.
- The committee reserves the right to ask the applicant for further information.
- Relevant false information given will cause any scholarship recipient to have his/her scholarship terminated and legal action will be taken to reclaim money already awarded.
- Information omitted which is relevant to the requirements of the scholarship shall be considered to be falsely presented, and thus will result in the same penalty.

Please send scholarship applications to:

Hawaii Association of the Blind
College Scholarship Committee
1255 Nuuanu Avenue, #1102
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Hawaii Association of the Blind
1255 Nuuanu Avenue, #1102
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**FREE
MATTER
FOR
THE
BLIND**