

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT/OVERSEER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Hawaii LTAP provided support for the first annual Overseer conference held on October 31 to November 2, 2000 on Maui. The conference emphasized the establishment of communication and peer exchange between the four counties.

Stanley Nakasone of the Hawaii County presented a pavement condition-coding scheme to classify various conditions of pavement surfaces. He emphasized the duties of an overseer and discussed the county's work policies for employees. As a result of a citation issued by the OSHA, a safety manual was created and approved by OSHA.

Kauai's Russell Sugano explained that most of his divisions' work involves roadside maintenance and mowing and also flood control on the Hanapepe River. In contrast to Maui's experience, they found that thermoplastics are too costly and inefficient for striping applications. In addition, the Kauai county Solid Waste Section created a recycling center that will handle demolished vehicles.

Raoul Self and Gilbert Ha from the City and County of Honolulu presented various projects on Oahu. The Division of Road Maintenance focuses on road maintenance, signs and markings, and road resurfacing. They also maintain flood controls, ditches, drainage channels and storm drains. Use of plastic drainage pipe is their usual practice. Controlling the growth of herbicides, pressure washing bus stops and trash bins, graffiti eradication and maintaining the bike paths around the island are among their

responsibilities. Drivers and operators are no longer required to take PUC physicals. The law changed Type 3 license at 15,000 GVW.

Leonard Costa spoke on behalf of the County of Maui. Since most districts are isolated from one another, each district must work independently. However, when help is needed, laborers of various districts are gathered to form a team. According to Charlene Shibuya, the County of Maui started a traffic-calming program in 1996 emphasizing the use of speed humps and raised crosswalks. Ian Suzuki described the county's work rules and sick leave abuse policies. To improve the efficiencies of their laborers, equipment operator training programs are offered. Randy Pico explained that these voluntary programs are conducted on Saturdays. Trainees gain by improving the chances of advancement. Brian Hashiro demonstrated a radio system that was installed to further the development of communication with police officials.

William Medeiros and Edwin Emoto led visits to Maui's Lahaina and Wailuku Districts. Other site visits included the Honokowai Erosion Control Facility, the Old Waikapu Road to inspect oil and gravel resurfacing, the Makamakaole herbicide test plot and the Iao Stream Flood Control.

Editor's Note: This summary was drawn from detail conference minutes compiled by Pricilla Echalas.

