

# REPORT

## Hawaii Library Association (HLA) Annual Conference (Dec 5-6, 2011 Honolulu, Hawaii)



“As your President for the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) – I must echo the words of many library advocates: “The best part of the HLA Annual Conference was the energy generated by having so many librarians under one roof.” The opportunity to talk with other librarians from all over the country convinced me that, regardless of library type, we all share a common commitment to provide our library patrons the best possible access to information. The face-to-face contact – the human connection – was truly my favourite part of the conference. However, the concrete information that I took away from attending the conference programs was quite significant.”

Atarino A. Helieisar, PIALA President

The 2011 Hawaii Library Association (HLA) Annual Conference is designed by members of the Hawaii Library Association for librarians. The conference is the premier educational conference for information professionals and nearly 200 librarians from across the country (and some from around the globe) come together for close to 40 educational opportunities, numerous social functions, and the chance to network and learn what librarians are doing in their libraries in a one day conference. This year’s conference theme is titled, “The Future of Reading.”

I was fortunate to be the first recipient of the Karen M. Peacock Memorial PIALA Scholarship Award which was established by HLA for a current PIALA member to attend HLA Annual Conference. This scholarship facilitates the PIALA-HLA partnership while honoring a strong support of both organizations. During my attendance at the 2011 Hawaii Library Association annual conference in Honolulu, I participated in the HLA business meeting where I was given the chance to stand in front of the HLA executive board and its members and deliver a short remark in expressing words of greetings from the PIALA executive board and members and honoring a strong support for both library associations to continue their partnership in their commitment to provide best possible access to information that will benefit patrons and communities in the Pacific region. I also expressed my appreciation for being the first recipient of the Karen Peacock Memorial PIALA Scholarship Award which I believe will strengthen the ties of our library partnership with HLA in the years to come. I presented some gifts from PIALA to HLA President Stewart Chun during the HLA business meeting and also met HLA-Vice President / President – elect Christine Pawliuk and members of the HLA Board during the conference.



This year's conference focuses on the future of reading and how it may evolve in libraries. I am happy to say that this conference was my first HLA conference and I enjoyed the networking and sharing of ideas to professionals from libraries of all types. There were many opportunities to make new connections with other HLA members and gain insight from the very people who understand the issues we face each day. As a new participant at HLA, I was also a presenter on a session titled, "Experiences with HLA: A Personal Story." This session covered some personal experiences on how the Hawaii Library Association plays an important role as an international library association partner with the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA). Many of the experiences touched the lives of many in the Pacific especially in Micronesia and provided guidance while we strive to deliver better services in our libraries. The partnership opened many doors for opportunities to become better information professionals. At the end of my session, I answered several questions about PIALA and Micronesia. On the same day, I also attended other sessions delivered by information professionals.



On December 6, I attended a one day cataloging post-conference at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus at the Hamilton Library titled, "Workshop of RDA," presented by Christopher Cronin from the University of Chicago. In the evening, I concluded my day with an early dinner with Jane Barnwell, Ruth Horie and Mr. Daniel Peacock where I expressed my word of "thank you" to Mr. Peacock, for his letter that was read by Ms. Ruth Horie during the 2011 PIALA Annual Conference in Kosrae State this past November. I flew back to Pohnpei on December 7, 2011.

To conclude my report, I want to acknowledge and thank PIALA for selecting me to be the first recipient for the *Karen M. Peacock Memorial PIALA Scholarship* to attend the 2011 HLA Annual Conference. I also want to share my special thanks to Ms. Barnwell and Ms. Horie who spent most of their time helping me from the day I arrived until the day I departed Honolulu. They are PIALA's best friends, heroes, and supporters who walk beside us and are there when we need help. On behalf of PIALA and my family, I want to thank both of these ladies for their generous help during my first HLA Annual Conference. May the spirit of Christmas be with all of you and your families during this holiday season.

Mahalo and Thank You!