



ASHRAE
Hawaii Chapter

HE EA MAKAMAE

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Chapter History, Issue #1

Honolulu, Hawaii, 1967-70

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (SY 2009-10)

Chaired by Joseph K. Ting, P.E., P.Eng.

As I was touched with the passing of the late Senator Teddy Kennedy, it has inspired me to scribble the beginning of our chapter history (1967-70). Many of us did not realize that it took about 2-1/2 years for Hawaii Chapter to be chartered.

ASHRAE Hawaii Chapter – The Beginning

“To know what will be our future, you need to know what was in our past,”
- Senator Edward Moore Kennedy

The Beginning - May 29, 1967 is when it all started. It was on this Memorial Day of 1967, that consulting engineer Robert Hamilton first wrote ASHRAE Executive Secretary Robert C. Cross to request the information on how to establish a chapter in the Islands. On June 1, 1967, ASHRAE Membership Secretary Stephen C. Singleton responded and informed Robert Hamilton that a minimum of twenty five (25) dues-paid members was required to petition in establishing a chapter.

At that point in time, the registered Society members were short of the requirement to form a chapter. It took Mr. Hamilton about 18 months to convince many individuals within the

HVAC&R community to petition for the formation of a local ASHRAE chapter. It was not until October 8, 1968, that Mr. Hamilton contacted Mr. Singleton again about the forming of our chapter. The Society reminded Mr. Hamilton to recruit additional members (over & above 25) in order to insure an active group.

On December 4, 1968, Director & Regional Chairman (Region X DRC) Val J. Burke congratulated Mr. Hamilton for his initiative to petition for a chapter in the Islands. On March 28, 1969, Mr. Burke forwarded Mr. Hamilton a copy of “Manual for Chapter Operations” also known to some of us as MCO.

Further correspondence (dated 6/9/69) confirmed the official submittal of twenty seven (27) members with addresses of record to include the entire State of Hawaii and not be limited to the Island of Oahu or the City/County of Honolulu. Together with the said transmittal, Mr. Hamilton confidently expressed to DRC Val Burke that “he can apply the adiabatic cooling process to our request for establishment of the subject chapter before presenting it to the Board of Directors. This is certainly the least we can expect from our Regional Chairman and Vice President with full recognition to his intimate knowledge of vice as practiced in Hawaii”.

The Steering Committee - After the “two long” Memorial Weekends from the day Robert Hamilton initiated his communication with the Society, the steering committee was finally formed on June 9, 1969 and was chaired by Robert Hamilton. The first meeting was held at 12 Noon at the Pagoda Restaurant with the following members in attendance: R.E. Hamilton, K.A. Bowman, T.P. Fitzpatrick, R.R. Hughes, J.F. Lindsay, G. Motonaga, N.L. Soderholm, L. Sorensen, G. Salfen, J.Y. Tanaka & K.P. Whitney. The meeting minutes concluded with the appointment of Karl Bowman & John (Jack) Lindsay as nominating committee members to nominate and recommend the candidates to serve as officers & members of the Board of Governors for the Hawaii Chapter, which should be chartered on September 10, 1969.

“WORK must go on; HOPE rises again; & DREAM lives on”
expressed clearly over & over again by our belated Senator Teddy Kennedy.

Our chapter’s founding fathers’ work had just begun. They were full of hope that their common dream of establishing a Hawaii Chapter of ASHRAE was finally a reality.

The 2nd meeting with the Steering Committee took place on July 7, 1969 to review the Chapter Model Bylaws and edit the appropriate sections. It was on this day that the Committee confirmed Terry Fitzpatrick to serve as Treasurer and Kenyon Whitney to serve as Secretary. At this particular meeting, the attendees recommended that the first meeting of the Hawaii Chapter be held on September 10, 1969 to coincide with the founding date of ASHVE (American Society of Heating Ventilating Engineers) 75 years ago. Towards that end, Mr. Hamilton summarized them in his 7/9/69 letter to the newly-elected Vice President (formerly Region X DRC) Val Burke and to the newly-appointed Executive Secretary Andrew Boggs.

Some controversial discussions within the Society hierarchy started in regards to the issue of 9/10/69 chartering date of Hawaii Chapter. While the Society Executive Committee (ExCom) was going through the difficulty in sorting-out what should be done, the chapter founding fathers held a meeting on July 14, 1969 to plan for the chartering of the Chapter, and held another meeting on July 25, 1969 to

elect the first slate of Chapter Officers and members of the Board of Governors.

The Society ExCom decided to prepare a charter and secure a gavel for the Hawaii Chapter allowing the charter to be dated September 10, 1969. The then Society Board suggested to our chapter founding fathers the chartering meeting be held on January 24, 1970 (Saturday) immediately following the 1970 Winter Meeting in San Francisco instead.

Historic Day for ASHRAE - The reasons for the postponed date of the chartering meeting were stated in the 7/28/09 letter from the Society Executive Secretary: "September 10 is an historic date for ASHRAE as an international Society. It will be a subject of discussion before all of our chapters, and many of our affiliated engineering organizations throughout the world on that date. Hawaii Chapter will be our first chapter off the mainland, and certainly this is also an historic step for the Society. Since we have already planned for extensive programs related to the Society's birthday, we believe it would dilute the importance of the Hawaii Chapter chartering to have it coincide with the Society's principal function."

Towards that end, the postponement of the Hawaii Chapter's official charter ceremony should allow many of the top Society members to participate at this memorable event of the Hawaii Chapter history.

On the minutes of July 31, 1969 meeting held at the Tahitian Lanai, Secretary Kenyon Whitney reported on behalf of the Steering Committee for Hawaii Chapter that the said 7/28/09 letter from the Society was distributed for the members to consider and consensus was reached to accept the Society's recommendation. Shortly after, Ken Whitney resigned from his position as Secretary, as he was relocated.

First Official Meeting of ASHRAE Hawaii Chapter - "Hope rises again and the dream lives on." President-elect Robert Hamilton directed 1st Vice President Richard Hughes to organize the first official meeting of the newly established Hawaii Chapter, which was held on September 10, 1969 (Wednesday) at Princess Kaiulani Hotel (Robert Louis Stevenson Room). The meal cost was \$7 including full-course dinner & music by Hawaiian Trio.

At the time of our charter night on January 24, 1970, seventy-two (72) individuals were bona fide ASHRAE members and a dozen of applications were being considered. That evening, fifty-seven (57) individuals were recognized as the chapter's charter members. The charter presentation night was held at the Kamehameha Ballroom in the new Surfrider Hotel.

There were approximately 120 members, guests and spouses including 30 from mainland United States & Canada. Society dignitaries included ASHRAE President-elect Frank Bridgers, Vice President Val Burke and

Region X DRC Dixon Ervin as well as Presidential Members (Peanuts Vinther & Walter Grant). The singing & swinging Tahitian dances performed by the Kailua Madrigal Singers received a standing ovation for their performances.

Mr. Bridgers officially presented the charter dated 9/10/69 to Chapter President-elect Robert Hamilton, and declared Hawaii Chapter as the 109th Chapter of the Society and the first chapter to be established off the North American continent. Mr. Ervin installed the 1969-70 Hawaii Chapter Officers & Board of Governors. The evening concluded with the Chapter President Robert Hamilton receiving from Mr. Burke the official gavel for the Chapter.

1969-70 Chapter Officers

President	Robert E. Hanilton, P.E.
1 st Vice	Richard R. Hughes, P.E.
President	
2 nd Vice	Karl A. Bowman
President	
Secretary	George Y. Motonaga, P.E.
Treasurer	Joseph Y. Tanaka

1969-70 Board of Governors

Member	John F. Lindsay
Member	Gil Salfen
Member	Nels L. Soderholm, P.E.
Member	Lars Sorensen