

**Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
Kailua-Kona
November 11, 2011**

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Jamilee Kempton, Michael Kraus, Garrett Webb

Guests: T.J. Serra (Kona Tree Experts), Chris McCullough (DFI Services), Ilana Nimz (Steve Nimz & Associates), Travis Rasmussen (Bezona Botanicals), Karen Ostborg (Hort. Services)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) The old business was skipped this month since this was a special Outer Island meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) What are the needs of arborists and tree workers on the Big Island

i) Training

- (a) Hands-on workshops are needed on the Big Island. Possible venues were discussed along with how to communicate to the industry to get workers to the workshops. Proper pruning training is needed in particular.
- (b) Possible future workshop in late spring/early summer in Honolulu – Mike Kraus felling workshop

ii) Unfair competition

- (a) Certified Arborists on the Big Island have a hard time bidding against uncertified “low-ballers” in the industry. Perhaps a media campaign raising customer (property managers, homeowners, resorts, etc.) awareness about the importance of hiring Certified Arborists might help. The public should be made aware as well.

- (i) Liability
- (ii) Lower long-term maintenance costs
- (iii) Aesthetics
- (iv) Health of the trees

iii) Networking

- (a) Linking HILA, AAA, and LICH to accomplish more than any one organization can

iv) Kona Town Meeting

- (a) Local Certified Arborists should attend to raise awareness of proper arboriculture

v) Certified Tree Worker exam for Big Island

- (a) HILA could take a survey of tree care companies who need workers to get certified, then notify WCISA of interest in the CTW exam.
- (b) Are scholarships a possibility?
- (c) Could Big Island workers be subsidized for coming to Oahu for the CTW exam?
- (d) Who would provide the manpower for a CTW exam? Can they meet the aerial lift standards?

vi) Marketing

- (a) Perhaps AAA and HILA could combine their arborist email lists. It seems to be difficult to get the word about the industry on the Big Island regarding classes, workshops, AAA meetings, conferences, etc.
- (b) There was an idea about publishing AAA's meeting on the Big Island and the issues discussed to raise public awareness of current issues in arboriculture.
- (c) Maybe Garrett could write an article about Kona killing its trees.

vii) How to drive professionalism on the Big Island

- (a) Hawaii County government has no certified workers
- (b) DOT does not plant trees – no tree work

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan (**MAHALO to Jamielee Kempton for taking notes at the meeting**)

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City

Attachments:

1. 2012 AAA Membership Application

**2012 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2012.

Membership: \$10 Student \$25 Government Employee \$50 Individual

\$150 Company \$1,000 Lifetime Member Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

If Company Membership, please designate 3 company representatives*:

Address: _____

_____ **Website:** _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

You may publish this information on the AAA website: Yes No

**Company members may send any of their employees to workshops at AAA member rates*

Please send this completed form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a check made payable to Aloha Arborist Association.

Mahalo for your support!