



**Aloha Arborist Association
Monthly Meeting
May 19th, 2021, 6:30pm**

Called to order at 7:00

**In Attendance: Kevin Eckert, Carol Kwan, Angela Liu, Desiree Page,
Hiram Nihipali**

1. Call to Order and Approval of February and April Draft Meeting Minutes
2. Welcome Guests
 - a. Hiram Nihipali
 - i. Hiram is with the Honolulu Fire Department, and regularly attends AAA events and training.
 1. Angela shared a story that Hiram's department put out a fire that had caught to an exceptional benghalensis on DOE property. She was impressed with the crews care for the tree as they returned days later to water the trees large root zone to aid in its recovery and general health – The tree is located at Kaiulani Elementary by Kamashiro Fish Market off King Kamakapili Church
 2. Hiram explained that debris accumulating from the occupation by homeless people sometimes leads to trees catching fire. Often because cooking fire gets away, but sometimes because of intentional arson set in disputes. Fire was set to 4 African tulips, presumably out of anger over eviction.
 3. Carol recommended Angela submit an article to Western arborist about the Fire Departments efforts in the trees rescue and recovery.
3. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
 - a. Training Committee

Discussion was had about possible grant opportunities for safety trainings from various sources such as TCIA Kevin suggested we look into demand and find out what the tree care community on the islands is interested in learning. Possibly a survey?

 - i. Providing TRAQ to neighbor Islands
 1. Hilo Town – JM Decker Group - 234 Waianuenu Ave, Hilo HI 96720
 - a. We discussed the possibility of TRA workshops as refreshers or preparation for qualification. These workshops could also expand on the information in the TRAQ course.
 - ii. First Aid Course / Aerial Rescue | <https://jmdeckergroup.com/>
 1. Date for August?
 - a. Not decided
 2. Who will instruct?
 - a. Kevin is interested

iii. Possible training on Big Island for County Parks (Justin Barrios)

1. No updates

iv. Chainsaw Workshop w/ Kevin Eckert

1. Will be open to public

b. Jamboree Committee

i. Event Insurance

1. Climb Aloha offered to insure the venue.

2. Waivers of liability will be needed for all participants

ii. Lawrence Schultz Workshop / Volunteer Workday

1. Volunteer workday will focus on removing albizia overhang of a stand of Koa.

2. The work will be recorded and a webinar workshop will be held around it, led by Lawrence.

iii. Food

1. tabled

iv. Sponsor Levels

1. Future events will offer a "title level" of sponsorship. We should look at past sponsorship values to determine a reasonable cost for this level.

4. Unfinished Business and General Orders

a. Kaulunani Council Survey

1. Desiree needs to call a special meeting to go over the provided material and walk through answering the survey.

b. Becoming Non-Profit

1. Tabled

c. [Revisiting our Vision Statement and Mission Statement](#)

d. [Carol's revision](#)

C & d Tabled

5. New Business

a. Chainsaw Safety and Pruning Workshop for Hawaii Reserves in Laie

Arbor Global will do the training under their insurance 1200

i. What's wrong with the BYU Royal Palms?

1. Carol believes its Thielaviopsis

b. Western Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show

i. Virtual Education Booth

1. After discussion, it was determined that we could not gather the volunteer support needed to host a booth at the event.

c. Updates/ Announcements / New Business from around the table

Desiree is on Trees for Honolulu's Future advisory committee

A discussion about the need to recruit an experienced administrative assistant sparked the question, "How can Smart Trees Pacific support AAA and how can we merge resources?"

The Admin position being our largest expenditure should

Committee will be formed to discuss how our relationship should evolve with Smart Trees Pacific

6. Announcements

Please Join us for our next meeting!

June 16th, or 23rd? 2021 – 6:00pm via Zoom