

# Reflection

In 1968, the Hawaii Chapter of IEHA was founded and its inaugural Bosses' Night was held. Four decades later, as my second and final term as Hawaii Chapter President comes to an end, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride and humbleness to have been given this opportunity to serve as President of the largest Chapter in our organization. It has been an honor to work with and receive support from all the members who are so dedicated to the housekeeping industry.

As I transition out of my presidency, it gives me time to reflect on the past. I was fortunate to be a part of so many great activities and events, take part in presenting new educational topics, and participate in various community service projects, for example:

- **Bosses' Night:** Our Chapter's annual gala recognizes those who have allowed the members to get together to share ideas, exchange common challenges in our industry and brainstorm solutions, and form long-term friendships.

- **Vendor Appreciation Day:** This annual event allows us to thank our vendor members for their support and allow them to present their goods and services to the Chapter in a mini-trade show format.

- **Educational Topics and Workshops:** We were fortunate to have presentations by Pat Gable, of United Laundry, on laundry management, and a motivational discussion of embracing change by

Annabel Chotzen, as well as Rose Galera's many informative workshops, including "A Life's Portfolio/Personal and Professional Planning." Second Vice President John Yamamoto also took a proactive approach by thinking "outside-the-box" and lined up guest speakers on topics that not only helped improve our professional outlook, but our personal lives as well.



**Gary Nushida**  
Hawaii Chapter President

- **Environmental Concerns and Green Programs:**

Key community entities, such as the Board of Water Supply, Hawaiian Electric Company, Honolulu Recovery Systems, and the Mayor's Office were guest

speakers at our meetings to discuss ways to cut down on waste, conserve our precious water resources, and emphasize how some hotels are doing more to reduce electricity usage to decrease our carbon footprint on the environment.

- **Community Service Projects:** The Hawaii Chapter has sustained our biannual cleaning of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans' Clubhouse, along with a biannual donation drive of various goods such as towels, sheets, and other personal hygiene items that were distributed to local homeless shelters, veteran centers, and organizations that service the needy. Our donation drive was even recognized by the Governor's office during a grand opening/ dedication of the Next Step Shelter in Kakaako.

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