

## HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

### **HFIA Hold Annual General Meeting; Elects this Year's Leaders**

*Hilo, Hawaii, March 8, 2007*

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) held its Annual General Meeting at the Outrigger Canoe Club in Honolulu in February. Special guests Laura Thielen, Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Mark Anderson, Deputy Director with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) spoke at the event. Both speakers expressed an interest in working with HFIA to promote responsible forestry, creating a balance between the forest products industry and environmental concerns for Hawaii's two million acres of forests.

HFIA members elected its 2008 Board of Directors, who elected this year's Executive Officers. This year's officers are President Mike Robinson, Certified Forester with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL); Vice-President Lloyd Jones, CEO of Martin & MacArthur; Treasurer Peter Simmons, Regional Asset Manager with Kamehameha Schools; and Secretary Mats Fogelvik, woodwork artist and owner of Fogelvik Furniture on Maui.

In addition to Mats Fogelvik and Mike Robinson, the following Directors were re-elected to three-year terms: Bill Cowern, President of Hawaiian Mahogany Co., Inc.; Nick Dudley, Research Scientist with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; Bob Osgood, Agricultural Consultant in Hawai'i, East Africa, and Madagascar; and Aileen Yeh, Horticulturist with Aileen's Nursery and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

Two new Board members were elected this year; Don Bryan, President/CEO of Tradewinds Forest Products, Inc. and James Quinn, Co-owner of Hawaii Island Hardwoods, LLC (HIH). Former Vice-President Bart Potter, a wood specialist and founding member of HFIA, ended his 18<sup>th</sup> year of dedicated service on the HFIA Board. Travis Idol, an assistant professor of tropical forestry and agroforestry at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, ended a one year term as Director. Travis remains on the Board of the Hawai'i Forest Institute, HFIA's non-profit affiliate.

The rest of the HFIA Board of Directors are: Kip Dunbar, Owner of Kainalu Ranch; Tai Lake, Owner of Tai Lake Fine Woodworking; Larry Nitz, Researcher with Kula Mill Farms, Inc.; Sally Rice, Vice-President of Agro Resources, Inc.; Steve Smith, Principal of Forestry Management Consultants Hawaii; Jay Warner, Owner of Awapuhi Farms & Mill; and Ed Winkler, General Manager of Winkler Woods, LLC.

“I am extremely optimistic and excited about the next decade for Hawaii’s forests and its forest industry”, said Mike Robinson as he initiates his second year as HFIA President. Executive Director, Heather Gallo came onboard in February 2007. “I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Hawai’i community through such a passionate group of volunteers. I look forward to working with HFIA to further strengthen our mission by exploring new restoration projects and diversifying our funding base”, she said.

HFIA, a 501(c) 6 not-for-profit corporation, is entering its 19th year of operation. “Hawai’i is now poised to fully realize the significant investments of time, money, and efforts of the HFIA over the past 18 years. We will see a diversified industry that represents a full range of forest products, from the eucalyptus chip to the koa table”, said Robinson. “We will see new processing facilities that are competitive in the international market. Landowners will see the results and join in the expansion of commercial forests. With demand will come the supply of research, education, and job training necessary to support the industry”, he said. “Perhaps, most importantly, many people will once more experience the land and what it can provide – aesthetics, recreation, income, wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water – the bounty of the forest”, said Robinson.

The HFIA has a diverse membership of over 200 members including woodworkers, forestry professionals, land owners, sawyers, government officials, and interested citizens. HFIA’s many projects include hosting the annual Hawaii’s Woodshow™, restoring a 70-acre dryland forest at Ka`ūpūlehu in North Kona, promoting the Hawaii’s Wood Brand™, supporting the Hawai’i forest industry through the legislative process, sponsoring symposia and workshops, and offering professional training.

To learn more about HFIA membership and other opportunities, call Executive Director Heather Gallo at 808-933-9411.