BACKGROUND OF THE CENTER

The story of the Hawai‘i Research Center for Futures Studies (HRCFS) is one of impressive contributions from very limited resources, most of which have now been stripped entirely away over the last decade of cutbacks. If proper funding were restored, the value of the Center to Hawaii and the region could be greatly enhanced.

The HRCFS was established by the Hawai‘i State Legislature in 1971 to collect and disseminate information about futures studies and to do futures research for public and private groups within the State, the region, and throughout the world (Chapter 222).

Locally, since that time, the HRCFS, located within the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) of the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, has proven to be an invaluable resource. As the annual reports show, it has provided futures-oriented information and conducted workshops for almost all State, County, and City agencies as well as for many commercial and nonprofit local groups throughout the State.

The HRCFS also works closely with the Alternative Futures Graduate program within the University of Hawai‘i’s Department of Political Science. That program, created in 1977, has produced scores of women and men who have gone on to become professional futures consultants in many fields, locally, nationally, and worldwide. One component of the graduate program is a paid internship that many students experience either with the Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF), in Alexandria, Virginia, one of the oldest and most respected futures consulting firms in the world, or with the HRCFS itself. The HRCFS also cooperates with the Program in Public Administration, and other SSRI and University units on applied futures-oriented projects especially in global change and environmental management in Hawai‘i and throughout the Pacific Island region.

Nationally, the HRCFS has itself become a major futures resource. For one example, the HRCFS was responsible, with IAF, for creating the concept and reality of “judicial foresight”--incorporating futures studies into judicial administrative decision-making. This began with work done by the HRCFS with the Hawai‘i State Judiciary from the 1970s onward. Subsequently, the HRCFS has engaged in judicial foresight activities indirectly with all, and directly with ten, other U.S. state judiciaries, as well as with the U. S. federal judiciary, many national and state bar associations, and more recently with several foreign judiciaries, primarily in the Asia-Pacific. The State Justice Institute, a U.S. federal agency for state judiciaries, made the category “Futures and the Courts” one of its major funding categories specifically because of work done with and through the HRCFS and the IAF. The HRCFS has also consulted with many other governmental units, universities, businesses, religious organizations, and nonprofit entities throughout North America.
Globally, the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF), the premier world organization of groups and individuals conducting futures research at a professional level, chose the Center to house the WFSF Secretariat during the 1980s and early 90s, and awarded the HRCFS its highest honor for excellence in futures research in 1994.

The Center has been an Affiliate Campus of the International Space University (ISU) of Strasbourg, France since 1996. As such, UH faculty and students have participated in the Masters in Space Studies (MSS) program at the main campus in Strasbourg and the Summer Session Program (SSP) which is held in different locations around the world (most recently, California Polytechnic University-Pomona; University of Bremen, Germany; Federico Santa Maria Technical University, Chile; and Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand).

Similarly, selected ISU MSS students come to the University of Hawai‘i campus each year for their Internship Program. HRCFS and ISU also cooperate in various research, training, and outreach projects.

**Externally Funded Research Projects:**


A book based on the conference is currently being considered for publication by the University of Hawaii Press and by Routledge Press of the UK.

--"Environmental Scanning," Conducted every two years for the Office of Planning, Judiciary, State of Virginia, since 1994. The most recent scan was undertaken in 2002.

**International Space University Student Internships:**

1999--Laurance Higgs (UK)
2000--Jonathan Ricketson (Australia)
2001--Sandra Janosik (Canada) (interned with Tom McCord, Hawai‘i Institute of Geology and Planetology).
2002--Summer Ann Ash (US) interned with Karen Meech (Institute for Astronomy) and Desiderio Magtanggol Reyes (Philippines) interned with the Futures Center
2003--Stuart Briese (Australia)

**Recent Books and Monographs**


Tae-Chang Kim and Jim Dator, eds., *Co-Creating a Public Philosophy for Future Generations*. London: Adamantine Press, 1999 (From a conference held in Honolulu, sponsored by the HRCFS, and funded by the Future Generations Alliance of Kyoto, Japan)

**Recent publications in books and journals**


"The day 'America' changed for the world," *Journal of Futures Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 1, August 2003, pp. 81-84


Jim Dator, "When courts are overgrown with grass: Futures of courts and law," *Futures*. Vol. 32, No. 1 February 2000


Jim Dator, "Return to long waves," *Futures*, Vol 31, No. 3/4, April/May 1999

Jim Dator, "From tsunamis to long waves and back," *Futures*, Vol 31, No. 1, February 1999

**Recent Articles about the Center**


October 18, November 12, Interview with *Asahi Shimbun* reporters. Article appeared in *Asahi Shimbun*, November 27, 2002

July 15, 26, 29 Telephone interviews with Joshua Davis of *Wired Magazine* about the practical uses of futures studies. Article appeared in *Wired*, October 2002, p. 48


Wade Kilohana Shirkey, "Futurists hope Y2K won't end thinking about possibilities," *Honolulu Advertiser*, December 31, 1999

**Workshops and Presentations during 2003**

**International presentations**

February 5-8, Academic Council and Curriculum Planning Meetings, International Space University, Strasbourg, France

February 10, "Futures for European Space," Advanced Design Group, European Space Agency, ESTEC, Leiden, Holland

August 5-19, Futures Theme Day, Space Education Theme Day, Architecture/Behavior interactive workshop, Space Ethics (with Jacques Arnould) for ISU Alumni Conference, International Space University Summer Session 2003, Strasbourg, France

August 11, "Futures theories and methods," a discussion with Dr. Veronique Lamblin, Director of Research, Futuribles Internationale, Paris, France

September 3-7, meeting with the Board of Trustees, International Space University, Strasbourg

November 12, "Futures of identity, racism, and diversity" for the International Symposium on Mestizaje and Racism, Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City

November 17-18, lectures and workshops on futures studies and governance for space settlements, MSS03, International Space University, Strasbourg, France

**International presentations in Hawaii**

April 9, "Architects as Surfers: Surfing the Tsunamis of Change", Fifth International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture, "Creating Livable Communities in Asia Pacific", University of Hawaii School of Architecture,


October 27, meeting with the President (John Lee) and two officers of the Korea Information Strategy Development Institute (KISDI). An agreement of cooperation between KISDI and the HRCFS was signed at the end of the meeting.

**Presentations on the US Mainland**

May 30, "Past and Present Futures Studies" for the Board of Directors, Institute for Alternative Futures, Alexandria, Virginia

December 6, Executive Council meeting of the World Academy of Art and Science, Washington Dulles Hilton Hotel
Presentations in Hawaii

January 30, Futures Studies for Architecture, Incoming doctoral class, College of Architecture, UHM

March 31, "Scenario writing" for Journalism 360, "History and Trends in Journalism", Prof. Ann Auman

April 15, "Structure Matters" for Polsc 630, International Relations, Prof. Carolyn Stephenson

April 29, May 1, May 6, "Futures Module" Public Administration Program

June 13, Interview with Russ Tyler of Esquire

July 1, Discussion of "Tsunamis of change" with Prof. Wendy Schultz and fifteen graduate students in the Program on the Future, University of Houston, Clear Lake, via PEACESAT two way video network.

July 30, "How legislatures can help us surf the tsunamis of change," for the WESTRENDS section of the convention of the Western division of the Council of State Governments, Lyon Arboretum, arranged by Sen. Brian Taniguchi.


October 3, "Mortgage Banking for the New American Empire, and other futures" for the Mortgage Bankers Association of Hawaii Annual Conference Marriott Ihilani at Ko Olina

October 11, "Futures of racism" for Anthropology 2000: Introduction to cultural anthropology. Prof. Lynnette Cruz, Hawaii Pacific University


October 27, Lecture on futures studies for Honors Student Seminar, Prof. Ann Auman, BusAd G101

October 31, Lecture on "Surfing Tsunamis" and workshop on Alternative Futures for the Strategic Planning Session of the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union, held at JAIMS (Japan-America Institute of Management Science)