



# ASHRAE

Hawaii Chapter

## HE EA MAKAMAE

*A monthly publication by the American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.*

Chapter History, Issue #6

Honolulu, Hawaii, Winter of 2011

### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (SY 2010-11)

Chaired by Joseph K. Ting, P.E., P.Eng., CxA

*From the time I first encountered Robert at the Hawaii Baptist Academy Middle School project in 2004, he has always struck me as a humble person. That being said, we are presenting to you the humble beginning of our 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter President from the day he was laid off as an account clerk to his current position as Carrier Hawaii's Vice President & Controls Engineering Manager. Like his partner, John Arizumi, his influence in our HVAC&R community has continued to form and shape this industry in the State of Hawaii.*

### **Robert L. Pascua – 24<sup>th</sup> President of Hawaii Chapter (SY 1992-93)**

**KAPOLEI:** My career in HVAC&R was 50% passion and 50% luck. I was fortunate to have found a very rewarding career in this industry. I have been with Carrier working at American Equipment and then Carrier Hawaii for 29 years.

Back in 1981, I had been laid off from my job as an account clerk at Schuman Carriage, the old Cadillac/Buick dealership because of cutbacks. Through a friend who was working in the parts department at American Equipment, I got a job interview with John Arizumi. They had to find a replacement for Curtis Kenmotsu, their former estimator, who was leaving to work for Norman S. Wright.

With an accounting degree, I had no background in air conditioning, except for the Carrier service training manual my friend gave me to read the night before. I just needed a job. When John asked me what my career goals were, I must have looked like "a deer in the headlights". When he asked me what I know about Carrier, I said, "A big name in air conditioning." Then he asked me what I knew about air conditioning. I replied, "I know where the compressor is in a car." He started to chuckle & I thought he was going to show me the door. I pleaded him, "I will learn & work hard. Just teach me." He laid out his expectations & I agreed. That was the start of my HVAC&R career since October 1981.

To get up to speed, I'd come to work early and he would spend a half-hour giving mini-techs on various subjects pertaining to the job. I'd work all day, take home work I didn't finish, and made sure I read over the material we covered. Fortunately, his way of teaching made it interesting and easy to grasp. After three months, I got bored just doing air devices and fans, and asked him to do air conditioning selections. An engineer's engineer, John started with the basic fundamentals: air cycle, air distribution systems, psychrometrics, load calculations, refrigeration cycle and pressure enthalpy diagrams, chilled and condenser water cycles. We didn't even sell pumps, yet I learned how to design closed and open hydronic systems and calculate NPSH. We even had few classes on acoustics/vibration, corrosion and solving two-dimensional moment diagrams for spring selections. For me, this was fascinating stuffs. When we finished VAV, I got the big picture.

At that point in time, Dick Dearing (Continental Mechanical) had called us to do a design-build VAV system. I jumped at the opportunity and John entrusted me to do the job. Soon I was working directly with Dick and landed my first VAV job: static regain duct design, controls, and all associated details.



In our office, the sales engineer is the point man from start to finish. From working with consulting engineers, bidding, selling, job supervision, trouble-shooting, and final acceptance of the project. This is different from most sales offices, but the experience is far more gratifying.

I joined ASHRAE in 1982. I shadowed John in his Hawaii Chapter involvement and assisted him in several events and seminars. I served as the Hawaii Chapter president in 1992-93 succeeding the late Lester Nakata.

In 1986, Carrier offered us the chance to purchase Carrier Hawaii. After a long struggle getting financing, we finally pulled it off in September 1990. We never looked back, the freedom to run our own company, our way.

My role now is Controls Engineering manager at Carrier Hawaii, even though I am its vice-president. This is the most interesting and dynamic part of HVAC. A controls engineer is like the conductor of a symphony: The best design with the best equipment cannot perform at their best without good operating controls, just as great musicians cannot make great music without a great conductor. Our strong understanding of equipment and systems differentiates our company.

When asked when I wanted to take over the company, I told John I will not run it. When he retires, I retire. We jokingly tell people we plan to "die in our boots", like Fred Kohloss.