Electronic Interface To Help Voters Make Informed Choices in 1994

Citizens Can Use E-mail To Relay Questions for Candidates

It's election year in Hawaii, and Hawaii FYI and HAWAII INC will play active roles in giving the people of the state as much information as possible to help them make their final choices in September and November. Among the initiatives underway:

- POP '94, a non-partisan community effort “to elevate the 1994 election campaign,” is out to determine the questions that must be answered by the candidates if citizens are to cast informed votes, and then to make sure the candidates answer the questions in a meaningful way.

The organizers of the effort, springing from “The Price of Paradise” books and radio program, believe the 1994 election will be a critical one “since choices made this year will reverberate for decades to come.” The program is being presented in cooperation with the Honolulu Advertiser and Channel 2 News.

POP '94 plans to gather questions from the community, refine them at an issues conference July 9 at the East-West Center, and then present them to candidates in a forum that will permit multiple follow-up questions from a panel of experts. One way the public can participate in the program is by relaying their questions for the candidates via e-mail on Hawaii FYI and the Internet. On Hawaii FYI, access %POP94 service; on Internet, send e-mail to pop94@hinc.hawaii.gov.

For more information see the June 5 issue of the Honolulu Advertiser or contact Randall Roth:

2525 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 956-7386
Fax #1: 956-6402
Fax #2: 732-7900

- HAWAII INC, along with the UH Professional Assembly, C&J Telecommunications, and the Coalition for Competitive Telecommunications, will sponsor a forum for gubernatorial candidates from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 25 at Mabel Smyth Auditorium. Topics for discussion include the candidates' positions on issues related to telecommunications and information access, such as tying Hawaii to the National Information Infrastructure, ways to implement public communications access centers and the services they might provide; and public policy related to telecommunications access. The program is free and open to the public. (See page 3.)

- Hawaii FYI expects to take an active role in providing important information to the voting public in the months ahead. One online service will be reports from the Campaign Spending Commission; other offerings currently under discussion are: (1) an electronic bulletin board service containing voter registration information, polling places, important dates, and biographical information and position papers from the candidates; and (2) online election day results from the primary and general elections.

Information junkies need to know that the Friends of the Library will hold its 47th Annual Book Sale July 30 to August 6 at McKinley High School cafeteria. More than 150,000 items will be on sale, including books, magazines, paperbacks, maps, pamphlets, sheet music, records, and audio and video cassette tapes. Don't miss it! P.S., if you want to help, you can call 487-7449.
Letter from the Executive Director

As you are reading through John Naisbitt’s newest volume, Global Paradox, pause for a moment on page 47. In a discussion of community computer networks, Naisbitt says, “we are already seeing the development of community networks, which have been unfolding during the last three years, following the development of thousands of electronic bulletin boards in the 1980s. The best known of the community computer networks are Hawaii FYI (which is being partly used for cultural preservation and language instruction); a community network model called Freenet, used in many areas...; Wellington, New Zealand...; and Big Sky, Montana.” (Participants in HAWAII INC’s annual HINTS conferences have heard extensive reports on both Freenet and Big Sky.)

Naisbitt describes the present community networks as offering electronic mail and discussion groups for local users as well as providing a vast array of information. “The next stage,” he says, “is to start to link up local computer network communities with other such communities, in the direction of a web of networking communities in each country, and global interconnection of all communities.”

He concludes that “The almost perfect metaphor for the movement from bureaucracy of every kind to small, autonomous units is the shift from the mainframe to PCs, with PCs networked together....There is a global shift from the state to the importance of the individual, and riding on the wave of the telecommunications revolution, the opportunities for individual freedom and enterprise are totally unprecedented.”

POP ’94, the program described in the story on the first page of this issue, is one example of the kind of shift toward greater individual responsibility and action that Naisbitt foresees. Its success will depend on frank and free exchange of information, and we at HAWAII INC look forward to helping make that interchange possible.

Governors Will Get a Look at Hawaii FYI

Governor Waihee has invited HAWAII INC to exhibit Hawaii FYI and other telecommunications and information initiatives at the National Governors’ Association meeting July 16-19 in Boston. The exhibit is one of 20 from 14 states nominated for display as innovative technology projects that improve service delivery in the various states of the union.

Other programs on display will include electronic health care information in Arkansas and telemedicine programs in Louisiana and North Carolina, an interactive video network providing tourist information in Kentucky, an automatic booking facility in Maryland and a digital communication system for law enforcement in New Hampshire, a satellite training network in Oklahoma, and a smart card program that distributes food stamps and health data in Wyoming.

Besides technology, Hawaii’s exhibit will also feature traditional Hawaiian products.

FYI Among Six Top Programs In Info Tech

The National Association of State Information Resource Executives (NASIRE) has named Hawaii FYI as one of six winners of its 1994 Recognition Awards in the Field of Information Technology. The award will be presented October 5 in San Francisco.

NASIRE recognizes information technology initiatives “which best assist government officials in innovatively executing their duties and providing cost effective service to citizens.” Criteria for selection included relative significance to the operation of government, benefits realized, return on investment, and feasibility of being used by other governments.

The award describes Hawaii FYI as an electronic services gateway that allows people with personal computers, ASCII terminals, and multi-standard videotex terminals to access a wide range of information products and services. Information includes reports on state legislative action, Honolulu City Council activities, and business information, as well as world news, community events, and environmental information.

Other winners included New York’s Center for Technology in Government, Pennsylvania’s Business Process Development Team, Refugee Data Center in Texas, UtahNet, and Info/Kansas. Honorable mentions went to a central courts video program in California and to the Tennessee regulatory boards system.

NASIRE represents information resource executives and managers from the 50 states, six U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Representatives from federal, municipal, and foreign governments participate as associate members. Corporations, private universities, and non-profit organizations also participate as corporate members.
"Extend the Reach" Put Computers In Hundreds of Hawaii Homes

"Extend the Reach" concluded at the end of May with more than 1,000 people purchasing computers through the special program cosponsored by the Hawaii Department of Education, HAWAI INC, and Apple Computer.

"We are truly delighted with the results of this effort," said Apple’s Sara Fadden. "One of our company’s primary interests has always been the educational use of computers, and it would appear that this particular program will do a great deal to spread that educational effect into the homes of Hawaii's people."

Art Koga, executive director of HAWAI INC, said the program should also have the favorable result of equipping more people to access the world of information available through the statewide information gateway, Hawaii FYI. "We are increasingly a networked society, and it is important for young people—and their parents—to have the chance to get online and learn first hand about the information resources available to them. This program shows what can be done when you combine the technological and training capabilities of the Department of Education, our statewide network, and Apple's willingness to listen and be innovative."

Designed to make computers and electronic networking an integral part of the learning environment of students and their parents, the program provided a limited time offer for the purchase of selected equipment, an invitation to explore Hawaii FYI, and special training classes presented by DOE. (See accompanying schedule.)

Purchasers will soon receive information about how to use the modem that comes with each system to connect free of charge to Hawaii FYI.

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"Extend the Reach" training classes will be shown throughout the state on cable television in August, with additional programs yet to be scheduled for September and beyond. The initial schedule is as follows:

- August 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- August 13, 10-11 a.m.
- August 24, 10-11 a.m.

Fall sessions on ClarisWorks will be announced; call 737-2931 in August for information.

The training programs will be presented on the following cable channels:

- Oahu, Channel 26
- Hawaii Kai, Channel 3
- Hilo, Channel 2
- Kona, Channel 7
- Maui, Channel 8
- Lahaina, Channel 24
- Molokai/Lanai, Channel 8
- Kauai, Channel 10.

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Telecom Forum Slated for Governor Candidates

- "How do you think Hawaii can use telecommunications to be more responsive to my needs?"
- "Do you think future generations in the state will benefit from the use of telecommunications? How?"
- "How do you plan to use telecommunications to improve my child's education?"
- "As one of the largest telecom users in Hawaii, will the state government use its purchasing power to promote competition among infrastructure providers?"
- "The Clinton administration is working hard to establish a National Information Infrastructure. Where does Hawaii fit in that picture?"

These are the kinds of questions that you, the voter, can put to candidates for the office of Governor of Hawaii at a July 25 public forum designed to promote discussion about the impact of the "information superhighway" on Hawaii. Sponsored by HAWAI INC, the UH Professional Assembly, C&J Telecommunications, and the Coalition for Competitive Telecommunications, the forum is scheduled for 6 p.m. July 25 in Mabel Smyth Auditorium. Pat Shutt, past president of the League of Women Voters, will serve as moderator.

Voters should submit questions in advance via e-mail on Hawaii FYI (%GFORUM) or via regular mail to HAWAI INC, Attn: Forum, 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1500, Honolulu, HI 96813. To hear the candidates' answers, plan to be on hand at Mabel Smyth on July 25!
Bulletin Board:
Community Media Conference, Inouye on Legislation, Docket Update, Mayors' Forum

• The Alliance for Community Media holds an international conference and trade show July 20-23, 1994, at the Ala Moana Hotel. Themed “Protect the Voice, Perpetuate the Vision,” the conference features Assistant Secretary of Commerce Larry Irving, Jr. as keynote speaker. Head of the Clinton administration’s National Information Infrastructure initiative, Secretary Irving is expected to discuss his vision of what the technological future means for communities and citizen access to critical communications tools.

Workshop topics will include fundraising, resource development and management, media literacy, public policy, programming, promotion, and outreach.

For information, call 'Olelo: The Corporation for Community Television at 834-0007 x 1747.

• Senator Daniel K. Inouye will speak on federal telecommunications legislation at 4 p.m. July 7. Sponsored by the Coalition for Competitive Telecom and the Interconnectivity Forum. Seating is limited, call Ava at 539-3823.

• Participants in the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission’s Telecommunications Docket No. 7702 have completed the consensus document on Hawaii’s telecommunications infrastructure.

• Upcoming forum: candidates for mayor, City and County of Honolulu. First week in August, details forthcoming. 😊

Hawaii FYI is your quick and easy way to information. To access Hawaii FYI services on your computer or terminal, use the modem to dial:

- Oahu: 536-7133
- Hawaii: 935-7133
- Maui: 242-7133
- Kauai: 245-7133
- Molokai: 1-800-243-7133
- Lanai: 1-800-243-7133

For technical assistance, call:
- Oahu: 586-1919
- Neighbor Island: 1-800-252-1132

For general information on Hawaii FYI or HAWAI INC, call 586-4636.

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201 Merchant Street, Suite 1500
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Phone (808) 586-4636
Fax (808) 586-4625

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