

GEORGE ATTA, AICP

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) recognizes George Atta for his distinguished leadership in service to the Chapter, to the planning profession, and to the community of Hawaii. During his tenure as President, from 2003 to 2005, George guided the Chapter through a period of increased engagement in public affairs and outreach to the broader planning community. At the same time, he continued the charge initiated by his predecessor to re-focus Chapter organization and functions to better serve its constituency.



Throughout his term, George has been a strong proponent of the Chapter's role in the professional development of its members. George has led the Chapter in asserting the importance of Planners as advocates of civil society and the public good. He possesses a selfless, dedicated leadership style and natural ability to challenge and motivate his fellow chapter members to greater service. He has encouraged Chapter debate and contributed the language of his own convictions on issues of professional and public importance, including smart growth and new urbanism, energy policy, taxation, transit, land use reform, RLUIPA, and the application of eminent domain in *Kelo v. New London* and locally in *Lingle v. Chevron*.

George has further extended his voice and the Chapter's presence as an active participant in the APA Diversity Task Force and Summit 2004-2005, and Security Policy Task Force 2004-2005, and through the strong relations he has cultivated with other APA state chapters and sister organizations, including the Urban Land Institute, American Institute of Architects, and American Society of Landscape Architects.

George's leadership example extends well beyond his Chapter duties. He served as Chairman of the Group 70 Foundation Fund from 2003 to 2005, overseeing fund raising distribution activities in support of a variety of local social and cultural causes. He is a founding member of the popular Honolulu Harbor Festival, and served for five years on the Festival steering committee. He has served for many years, and continues to donate his energy and talents to numerous boards, societies and forums, including the Japan America Society Program Committee, the East-West Center Internationalization Forum Advisory Board, the TARO Center Board, and the Pacific Marine Life Foundation Board.

In naming Mr. Atta for the 2005 Distinguished Leadership Award, the APA Hawaii Chapter expresses its gratitude for his tireless work, selfless example, and steadfast commitment to APA and to the cause of good planning.

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H A W A I I C H A P T E R



S p o n s o r e d b y H o n B l u e