

MINUTES
HONOLULU COMMUNITY MEDIA COUNCIL
September 8, 2007

Present: Michael Largenticha., Dick Miller, Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Teri Bernales, Gerald Kato (guest), Chris Conybeare, Brenda Ching, Jean King, Marya Grambs, and Joshua Walsh (guest)

- I. Treasurer's Report. Teri has agreed to take over treasurer's duties from Sarah Vann. We have \$10,698 in our checking account, unencumbered, as of the July bank statement. Two additional contributions came in August.
- II. Freedom of Expression in the Schools. Joshua reported that presentations had been given to three high schools for a total of about 275 11th and 12th students and has been very well received. Another 100 students will receive the presentation at Journalism Day at UH Manoa. Law students were urged to become HCMC members. Membership fee for students to be \$10/year. Decision: support the project as an ongoing collaboration between HCMC and the Law School and try to raise money jointly for future years. There is currently \$5,400 remaining from the grant.
- III. World Association of Press Councils/US Assoc.
 - a. Chris sent a letter to President Kabila of Kenya urging him to veto a new law that would severely curtail press freedom. The letter was also released to the press and among others was printed in the Kenya Standard. President Kabila rejected the legislation as "undemocratic" and according to the Media Council of Kenya, the solidarity mobilized by the WAPC helped him reach this decision.
 - b. U Win Tin remains in jail in Burma.
 - c. In the U.S. there used to be a National News Council but this was disbanded in the 1970s. Currently there are 5 media councils in this country – Honolulu, Southern California, Vermont, Minnesota, and the state of Washington . Chris has received a communication suggesting we combine forces to form a new National Association of Media Councils.
- IV. Micronesians and the Advertiser. The Advertiser printed a story about Micronesians being an "epidemic" in Oahu's homeless shelters, and their motivations for being there, based on faulty research conducted by a social work student, in spite of protestations by the Micronesian community and a letter to the editor by Chris on behalf of the HCMC (which was not printed). Subsequently the Advertiser has agreed to a meeting with Micronesian leaders to be educated about Micronesians in the community.
- V. Funding Exchange proposal. Chris, with help from Kathryn Braun, submitted a proposal requesting \$25,000 to support HCMC (hire clerical and coordinating staff); we will hear soon, hopefully.
- VI. Two new funding opportunities have arisen: one for \$5,000 due in October to the People's Fund to put on a media justice conference, which Chris will draft and send around for comments; and a Media Justice proposal due in February for \$10,000. **Note: Chris has subsequently discussed this again with the People's Fund and it appears that the appropriate funding strand is the Media Justice RFP, due February 1st.**

- VII. Shield Law bills. Because of blogger/journalist Malia Zimmerman's threatened arrest for not releasing identity of confidential sources, two drafts of Shield Law legislation have arisen. Questions continue as to whether or to what extent bloggers should be covered; some journalists are reluctant to have the legislature define who is a journalist. There does appear to be a need for some protection because of the punitive acts against journalists recently. Decision: Joshua, Gerald, and Dick will work on setting up a public debate, to potentially include the Law School, SPIJ, HCMC, ACLU, legislators, East West Center, and the Advertiser/Star Bulletin. We could combine this with our annual meeting. Hold it before the end of November.
- VIII. New Programs: Gerald Kato proposed, and the group agreed, for HCMC to co-sponsor a community forum with UH Manoa and UH West Oahu, and hopefully funding from SEED, for investigative journalist Sheila Coronel (originally from the Philippines) to give a series of lectures, with HCMC sponsoring the community event. Gerald and Chris to pursue.
- IX. New Business: LOGO. Agreed for Chris to write a statement on behalf of HCMC, with copies to all of us, to request that Oceanic Cable carry "Logo", a gay/lesbian programming channel.
- X. "Serial Communications" by Honolulu City Council in violation of the sunshine law – HCMC supported litigation – won at Circuit Court, going to Supreme Court 9/12 at 10 am.
- XI. Agreed to send Helen Thomas a lei or flowers in appreciation of her – on Thanksgiving because we just missed her birthday.
- XII. Next meeting: FRIDAY OCTOBER 5 AT 3 PM. Musicians Union.