

HCTM Newsletter

HAWAII COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

October 2011

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President's Message

Scott Powell, 2011 – 2012 HCTM President

Aloha Math Educators,

I hope that this finds you all doing well. We are well into the new school year and HCTM has already had our first mini conference at Kamehameha Schools. I was pleased to see so many teachers there enjoying the wonderful selection of sessions we had available. The trend in the last few years has been to have sessions on something called "Singapore Math". The term came into use in the year 2000 from people in the US and Canada who began to refer to the math text used in Singapore as "Singapore Math" books.

The books became known because the country of Singapore made headlines in 1995, 1999 and 2003 as the top country in the TIMSS study (Trends in International Math and Science Study). This caused others to look at what they were doing in their school system that caused the result.

This interest got me to wonder about Singapore Math and why not America Math? Well, I did a little bit of research on Singapore and its population and education system and found some interesting facts. The whole country is a little over two million people. Their education system has a primary, lower secondary, secondary, upper secondary and post secondary (Polytechnic and University). From what I read, some of the reason that the population is more educated is because of the non-residents who live there. They seem to have a fairly low amount of the population with a secondary diploma (about 50%) and the older folks there have even less education.

My point is the amount of time that teachers, schools and districts spend looking to other countries for the answer to our problems may be better spent looking at what is already here and readily available. We have some very good, research based curriculum that has been developed in the past two decades that is just as good as what Singapore Math has to offer. I think that we often times think that because other countries outperform the US on these studies that we have to copy what they do to achieve the same results.

Instead of Singapore Math pick up a copy of Connected Math or Explorations or Math Connections or Core Math or Hawaii Algebra Product or Trailblazers or Interactive Math Program etc. and see what America Math has to offer.

Sincerely Yours

Scott

Calendar of noteworthy events:

Secondary Teachers mini-conference

October 15, 2011

Roosevelt High

St. Louis Papahana

January 28, 2012

St. Louis High School

HCTM Spring Conference

February 18, 2010

King David Kalakaua Middle School



Have another event you think others in our community would like to know about?

Feel free to submit interesting websites and articles as well!

Email egabriel@sacredhearts.org

HCTM Spring Conference

Sean Moroney, VP Elect/Conference Chair

February 18, the Saturday of the President's weekend in 2012, will be the date of the next HCTM Spring Conference. The theme of the Conference will be Educational Techniques in Mathematics. There will be speakers discussing some of the new developments in Mathematics education, as well as speakers discussing variations on the tried and true. Register to attend by visiting www.hctm.org

A Speaker Proposal Form is available in this Bulletin. Pass it along to a Math teacher you know who is doing some interesting work that would be worth sharing with a wider audience. Fill one out yourself if you feel you have something to share. We look forward to seeing you.

Secondary Teachers Mini Conference

Laura Nagata, High School Director

On October 15, Roosevelt High will be hosting a mini-conference for Middle and High school teachers. Speaking will be HCTM President Scott Powell (about the TI-Inspire), Amy Yonashiro from Iolani School (about the Casio Prism calculator), Michael Long from Kapolei High (about Common Core Standards), Oahu Mathematics League President Lance Suzuki from Maryknoll (about Statistics), and Bianca Thompson, Geoffrey Patterson and Justin Kong from UH-Manoa (about mathematical game theory). The conference will be doing registration from 8:00 – 8:30 AM, first session from 8:30 – 10:00 AM, and second session from 10:15 – 11:45 AM. If you would like to read more about the different sessions or register for the conference, there is a link at the HCTM website. Please contact Laura.Nagata@yahoo.com if you have further questions.

HCTM Membership Renewal Reminder

Deborah Kula, Membership Chair

HCTM memberships for a given school year expire on Aug. 31. Please consider renewing your membership for another year. You may renew membership online (go to <http://hctm.org> and select the Membership Information link) so you won't miss any of the exciting upcoming HCTM opportunities.

If you receive your newsletter in the mail, your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label. If you receive your newsletter via email and are not sure about your membership expiration date, contact Membership Director, Debbie Kula, dkula@sacredhearts.org

History of HCTM

When was HCTM formed? Who were the people involved at the beginning? Who were the leaders?

We need information about HCTM's history.

Please send any information, photographs, memorabilia, newsletters, programs, minutes, etc. to

Meryle Hirotsu, Historian

1626 Royal Palm Dr.

Wahiawa, HI 96786

Copies will be made and the original(s) mailed back to you.

Email: mhiro2006@yahoo.com

NCTM supports HCTM

Kim Slagel, NCTM Representative

As an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the Hawaii Council of Teachers of Mathematics enjoys its support. NCTM will again donate \$3 to HCTM for every NCTM membership renewal. Just go online to nctm.org and indicate you are a current member of HCTM when you renew your NCTM membership. Or if you haven't enjoyed the many benefits of being a NCTM member consider becoming one today. NCTM will donate \$5 to HCTM for each new NCTM membership.

Oahu Mathematics League Calendar for 2011-2012

September 17, 2011

October 22, 2011

November 19, 2011

January 14, 2012

February 11, 2012

March 3, 2012

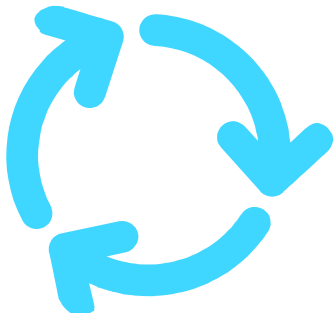
April 14, 2012

If your high school is interested in joining the Oahu Mathematics League, please contact Lance Suzuki at lancesuzuki.omi@gmail.com. More information on the league can also be found at <http://www.oahumath.org/>.

Don't Throw it AWAY – fREeCYCLE It!

Check out HCTM's fREeCYCLE website for new postings. Several Algebra 2 textbooks are currently available for anyone willing to pick them up from the donor. Go hctm.org and follow the link to fREeCYCLE. Description and contact information for the donor is listed.

If you have new or gently used material, textbooks, equipment that you'd like to donate, please contact Kimlynn Slagel at kislagel@ksbe.edu with the description of the donated items, the number of items available and a contact name and email address for the interested parties.



Profiles of HCTM Leaders

Meryle Hirotsu, HCTM Historian

“When was HCTM founded? By Whom? What about OML?”

Three HCTM leaders: **June Yamashita, Winona Oato, and Barbara Kagan** met for lunch to try to recall the names of fellow leaders of HCTM and to reminisce about the events of long ago.

June Yamashita recalls that 15 teachers met in 1961 to form the Hawaii Council of Teachers of Mathematics (HCTM). Amongst the 15 with **June Yamashita** were **Aileen Aizawa** and **Kenji Inouye**. Then a few years later in 1967-68 five persons which included **June Yamashita** of **Kailua HS**, **Newton Nakamoto** of **St. Louis HS**, **Marjorie Cox** of **Punahou**, **Dorothy Ono** of **Kaimuki HS**, and **Gerald Taniguchi** of **Waianae HS** founded the Oahu Math League at an HCTM Board meeting held at Central Union Church in Honolulu, HI. So these five schools held its first OML competition in 1967-68.

Amongst many of June’s accomplishments are as follows:

- President of HCTM 1971-75, 1976-77
- HCTM Board of Directors 1963-71
- Elected NCTM Director 1977-1980
- 1977 Windward Oahu District Teacher of the Year
- 1984 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics State Finalist
- 1986 Windward Oahu District Superintendent’s Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Teaching
- 1990 One of the first four Albert Einstein Congressional Fellows, US Congress

June Yamashita now enjoys spending time with her two grandsons and travelling between Kaneohe and California to be with her son and daughter.

Winona Oato is a familiar face at Kailua High School where she is currently employed part-time assisting beginning teachers. Winona is still actively serving HCTM as she has recently spoken at HCTM’s 2011 T³ Spring Conference and the 2010 Secondary Mini-Conference at Roosevelt High School.

Amongst many of Winona’s accomplishments are as follows:

- HCTM Vice President 1976-1979
- Program Chairman for the Hawaii-Western Region Mathematics Conference in August 1979, August 1981
- OML Coach of Kailua High School 1977 to 2005
- OML President 1991-1992
- Outstanding High School Educator 1994-95, Kailua High School
- Outstanding Mathematics, Science and Computer Science Teachers, 1992
- Nominee from Hawaii for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math And Science Teaching Program 1985
- Hawaii State Teacher of the Year 2005

Barbara Kagan served as HCTM’s 1st Vice President in 1971-73 and 1975-77 and as General Chairman of the NCTM Hawaii Regional Meeting in 1975. Barbara coordinated the first State Hawaii School Math Students Conference held at McKinley High School in 1971.

Amongst Barbara's accomplishments are as follows:

- 1971 Max Beberman Memorial Award for continued development of mathematics resource center for students and teachers at McKinley High School
- 1977 NCTM mini-grant for support and implementation of innovative CMI project to Moanalua High School
- 1981 First Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics State Winner

HCTM would like to thank **Barbara Kagan, Winona Oato, and June Yamashita** (pictured here, left to right) for their dedicated service to HCTM and to the professional development of math educators.



David Furuto is no stranger to HCTM.

David Furuto has served as HCTM President for 3 years, two of them being from 1978-79 and 1994-95. He is currently the Vice President of HCTM and has held that position since 2007. As a matter of fact, David has held almost every position in the organization from secretary, treasurer, 4 year college director, 2 year college director, editor and so on from the 1970's.

David Furuto has been at Brigham Young University for 27 years and at other educational institutions for a total of more than four decades (44 years). He has served and continues to serve Hawaii as the State Director for the American Mathematics Competitions over the AMC-8, AMC-10, and AMC-12, and as the Head of the State Math Bowl.

David has been recognized and honored by the American Mathematics Competitions, and the Mathematical Association of America, in recognition of 20 years of service as AMC State Director (approaching 30 years as of this date). He has also been recognized as an outstanding teacher by the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, by Brigham Young University Hawaii, by the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, by the Governor of the State of Hawaii, and by other State and National Organizations.

David believes in the importance of HCTM in math education in Hawaii and serves because he feels that every educator has a responsibility to help others in the profession and ultimately to help the students that we all should be serving.

David enjoys spending time with his wife and family. David has 6 children, 4 of whom are mathematicians.

David Furuto, HCTM thanks you for your support and dedication!



Oahu Math League Season

Lance Suzuki, OML President

Students gathered at the Kailua High School cafeteria on Saturday, September 17 for the first of seven math meets of the 2011-2012 Oahu Mathematics League (OML) season. At any one meet, an observer can expect to see over 300 of the island's top math students grinding out math problems and representing their school in academic competition. There was definitely excitement in the room as students were called to the first event at 9AM: Algebra II – Quadratic and Fractional Equations. The C Problem (considered the most difficult problem in any given event) was:

“Working together, Pipe A and Pipe B can fill a tank in 2 hours. If both pipes are turned on and Pipe A is turned off after 1.5 hours, it will take Pipe B 75 more minutes to finish filling the tank. How many hours would it take Pipe A to fill the tank by itself?”

The meet rolled on with six other events in Geometry, Algebra I, and Trigonometry. One A Problem (considered the easiest problem in any given event) seemed to give many students difficulty:

“Robert incorrectly asserts that $36 \div 6 \times 2 + 12 \div 2 \times 3 = 6$. However, Miss Bareng, Robert's pre-algebra teacher, tells Robert that he could rectify his equation by inserting exactly one set of parentheses. How could this be done?”

After the points scored by student teams were tallied up, the top five schools in each division were:

Newton Division: Kaiser, St. Louis, Hanalani, Campbell, Sacred Hearts

Leibniz Division: Iolani, Punahou, McKinley, Kamehameha, Mililani

JV Division: Iolani, Punahou, Kaiser, McKinley, Kamehameha & Mililani (tie)

With the addition of Island Pacific Academy and Waianae High School, the 28 member schools will meet again at Roosevelt High School on Saturday, October 22. If your school is interested in challenging your students and fielding a team – or just has a question – feel free to contact Lance

Suzuki, OML President, at lancesuzuki.oml@gmail.com or check out the OML website

(www.oahumath.org). By the way the answers to the problems were: $3 \frac{1}{3}$ hours and $36 \div (6 \times 2 + 12 \div 2) \times 3 = 6$.



Perennial Math Competition
Sylvia Dean, Creator

Perennial Math would like to welcome you to our online competition for grades 4-8. Your students can participate at either a team level or individual student level by registering on www.perennialmath.com. Don't worry if you cannot access the internet, you can always print and administer the tests to log in your students' scores later.

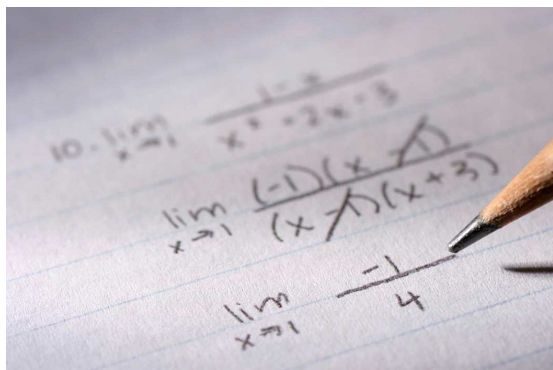
The competition consists of 5 tests each year (November-March). Each test contains 5 questions that get progressively harder. The tests must be completed in 30 minutes.

All students receive a certificate of participation and your team winner will receive a gold medal. Additional awards include plaques for teams who score in the top 10% and dog tags for each student who scores in the top 10% at each grade level. Students who get a perfect score on the test and exceptional teams can have their name scrolling on our wall of fame.

Why should you join? Because our system saves you time from grading and entering scores, gives your students instant feedback on how they did, and our super cool awards make every mathlete feel proud!

Please feel free to contact us for additional information.

Perennial Math
www.perennialmath.com
1-888-835-2366
info@perennialmath.com



High school math contest:
Chance for your student and department
to win up to \$5000

Mike Breen, AMS Public Awareness Officer and
Host of Who Wants to Be a Mathematician

The American Mathematical Society is conducting a national contest for high school students, Who Wants to Be a Mathematician, with a top prize of \$5000 for the winning student and \$5000 for the math department of that student's school. There is no fee to participate.

*When/where: The 2012 contest will take place Friday, January 6, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. The event is part of the Joint Mathematics Meetings, which take place January 4-7, 2012.

*Travel: The AMS will reimburse reasonable travel expenses and room and board for each contestant and a parent/guardian for a maximum of two nights. Contestants and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are welcome to attend other events at the meeting.

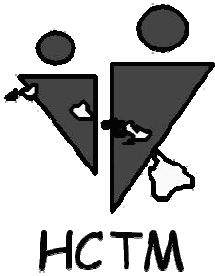
*Qualifying: Contestants are chosen based on their scores on a qualifying test, administered by teachers (or in the case of home-schooled students, by whomever does the teaching at home).

*Request a qualifying test by emailing the AMS Public Awareness Office, paoffice@ams.org, with the subject line "National math contest." In the body of the message, include your name, school, contact information, and courses taught this year.

*Deadline for receipt of tests is Wednesday, Oct. 19. The AMS will select 10 contestants from different regions of the US and will notify those qualifiers beginning Friday, Oct. 21.

*Contest format: There will be two semifinal games, each with five of the contestants. The winners of the two semifinals will go "head-to-head" in the finals for the national championship. The champion will win \$5000 for himself or herself, \$5000 for your math department, a traveling trophy for you to display at the school until the 2013 contest, a trophy for the school/department to keep, and an individual trophy for the winner to keep. All contestants will win prizes, cash for themselves, and cash for your department (the minimum cash prize is \$500 for the student and \$500 for the department).

*See more about the contest at <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/wwtbam/wwtbamnational>.



HCTM ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SPEAKER PROPOSAL
Kalakaua Middle School
821 Kalihi Street
Honolulu, Hawaii • February 18, 2012

Educational Techniques in Math

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

School _____

Home Phone () _____ School Phone () _____

E-mail Address _____ FAX () _____

Title of Proposed Session: _____

Description:

Co-Presenter(s) _____

All Sessions are 90-minutes in duration

Session Type: Hands-on Demonstration Lecture

Check all boxes that apply:

Level K-5 6-8 9-12 College/University Pre-Service Instruction

Math Topic Area: Elementary Middle Grades General Geometry

Algebra Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Calculus

Statistics Other _____

Technology Focus: TI-Nspire TI-83/84 Plus Family TI-73 Explorer™ TI-89

CBR CBL2 TI-Navigator TI-10 TI-15 TI-34XS NONE

Software _____

OTHER Technology _____

Participant Level Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Equipment Requirements: Overhead Projector (for transparencies) LCD Projector

Smartboard Other __Elmo type camera__

Internet Access needed? Yes No

Please return to: **Sean Moroney** smoroney@pRIORITYPRIDE.NET

St. Andrew's Priory, 224 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu HI 96813

Phone: (808) 532-2106 Fax: (808) 532-2465

DEADLINE FOR SPEAKER PROPOSALS IS November 1, 2011

Hawaii Council of Teachers of Mathematics
c/o Deborah Kula
3253 Waiālae Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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