

## **A Note from Our Chair**

Aloha Kākou,

On behalf of the Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana (PRiMO), I wish to extend a big mahalo to everyone who attended our 2016 PRiMO Conference. Each you were instrumental to its overwhelming success. None of this would have been possible without your support and dedication. I am amazed, inspired, and grateful.

As you are all well aware, this is inauspicious time for those of us who call the Pacific home. While the knowledge and effort of those living here has never been greater, the problems we are facing have never been more daunting. Although there are natural disasters that we have dealt with for millennia; climate change has created conditions which are difficult to predict and even more difficult to plan for. In spite of this, there were many extraordinary moments in the many corners of PRiMO 2016 that refused to shy away from these formidable issues. When we look back on these points in time, we may come to realize that these were actually very significant junctures where the collective creativity and insights of everyone came together to provide the solutions to the challenges before us. This is why your participation in PRiMO is so critical and why we should all be very optimistic about where we are headed.

This year's meeting demonstrated an especially exciting, engaging, and informative set of speakers and sessions. The keynote speakers enlightened us with some of the unique challenges they are confronting and the novel ways in which they are thinking about and addressing those challenges. The sessions provided an opportunity for people to engage with their peers and develop novel ways to collaborate. These concerted efforts continued into the many breaks and receptions providing me with the confidence we have the right people in the right place at the right time.

The support and interest from the public at the Community Preparedness Night was very impressive and encouraging. For the first time at PRiMO, we provided an opportunity for the public to participate in several sessions and learn how they can personally prepare for hazards. We far exceeded our expectations and hosted over 500 individuals, demonstrating that the work we are all engaged in is not going unnoticed – the public sees the challenges and wants to participate.

By working together, we will adapt and do what is necessary to conserve our way of life. If we all take care of another and go the extra mile to appreciate, work and play together, we all gain. Mahalo nui for your energy, optimism, knowledge and commitment to PRiMO. The PRiMO meeting is but one avenue for us to undertake this work and I look forward to our collaboration continuing and hearing what great work has been accomplished in the coming year.

In closing, there are two words that come to mind: Endless gratitude. Mahalo nui for being in our 'ohana.

Me ke aloha,



Bill Thomas  
Chair, PRiMO Navigators' Council