

**Pacific Entomology Conference  
Wednesday, February 16, 2005  
Centennial Meeting of the Hawaiian Entomological Society  
President's Address:  
The Next 100 Years of the Hawaiian Entomological Society**

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This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the continuous, active existence of the Hawaiian Entomological Society! The Hawaiian Entomological Society (HES) was founded on January 26, 1905, with 14 original members and two honorary members. The Society was created to promote the study of entomology, to encourage friendly relations among those interested in this science, and to publish the Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society ("Proceedings") (Saul 1985, Kirkaldy and Swezey 1906). The first issue of the Proceedings was published in 1906 (Evenhuis 1995); this journal continues to serve the entomological community of Hawaii as a venue for sharing research discoveries and recording new and interesting insects. From the inception of the Society through 1992, Society meetings were held each month, except for the month of the Annual Dinner Meeting, during which new officers were presented and the President of the Society addressed the membership (Saul 1985). Meetings were centered on two main activities: a research presentation by an invited speaker, and the "Notes and Exhibitions" portion of the program, a time when members could display and tell about interesting insects they had collected. These observations, which were sometimes personal and amusing, were published in the Proceedings through 1992. They comprise an invaluable history of the first occurrence of exotic species in Hawaii, and a folksy glimpse of life as an entomologist during the time when many professionals in our discipline spent considerable amounts of time in the field, observing insects and noting their population fluctuations, host plants and behavior.

The first HES-sponsored conference was held in 1991. It was a huge success, with 202 individuals attending. In the March, 1992 meeting of the Society, Marshall Johnson delivered a Presidential Address to the Society titled "The Hawaiian Entomological Society in the Year 2000." This speech was published in the Proceedings in 1995 (Johnson 1995). Dr. Johnson questioned whether our Society could survive in its current format to the Year 2000 and beyond. He discussed the main functions and activities of the Society, and suggested where improvements could be made. Dr. Johnson recommended that the monthly Society meetings be reduced to three per year, and that the HES should establish an annual scientific conference. He said that efforts should be made to broaden the scope and editorial composition of the Proceedings. This would help the Proceedings achieve a reputation as a competitive, internationally recognized entomological journal. His recommendations were largely implemented. After 1992, meetings were held quarterly, and the Pacific Entomology Conference was made an annual event. However, the 2001 and 2002 Conferences had to be canceled because the number of people who pre-registered for the Conference was too low. A well-attended and successful conference was held in 2003, and the Executive Committee decided at that time to hold Conferences every two years, instead of every year, as a means for ensuring enthusiasm and a good turnout for the event.

So after 100 years, what is the condition of our Society? Is our Society strong? In many ways, our Society is functioning well. We continue to publish the Proceedings, and steps have

been taken to increase the quality and geographical appeal of this journal. We continue to bring together entomologists to hear interesting scientific presentations at both our regular Society meetings and at the Pacific Entomology Conferences we sponsor. Financially, we are sound, largely due to the diligence and wise decisions of our long-time Treasurer. But our Society cannot be considered strong at this time. Our Constitution and By-Laws, revised in 1995, specify that the Executive Committee, comprised of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Advisor, should establish and maintain 10 standing committees, as follows: (a) Annual Conference Committee; (b) Editorial Committee; (c) Finance Committee; (d) Liaison Committee; (e) Membership Committee; (f) Nomination Committee; (g) Program Committee; (h) Science Fair Committee; (i) Committee on Common Names of Hawaiian Insects; and (j) Awards Committee. Only a few of these Committees are active at this time. Instead, most of the functions, activities and decisions of our Society are being directed by a handful of committed individuals. This situation, if it continues, will lead to problems and eventual burnout of the individuals carrying the load. So what can be done to reinvigorate our Society and bring it back to its full potential?

As a first step, the Executive Committee and the membership must commit to the idea of strengthening our committee structure. The Standing Committees and their functions are specified in our Constitution and By-laws because their activities represent the core reasons for the existence of our Society. Given the current low level of participation by members of our Society, it may not be practical to simultaneously re-establish and re-invigorate all inactive committees at once, expecting them to immediately function as specified in our By-laws. However, we could begin by re-establishing our Nomination Committee, to increase the probability that we'll have a real choice when it is time to vote for officers. We should elect people who are not only qualified, but who are willing to work hard to improve our Society and to encourage other enthusiastic people to accept leadership positions.

What would it take to get you involved in our Society? Are you willing to serve on one of our Standing Committees? Do you have an idea for a new HES activity? If you are interested in researching environmental issues and representing our Society's position to government officials, the media and the public, perhaps you would be interested in serving on the Liaison Committee. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to the field of entomology or to our Society in particular, maybe you would like to serve on the Awards Committee. If you don't like the direction things are going, and would like to see some new blood in the leadership of HES, you should volunteer for the Nomination Committee. Please get involved. The more active members we have, the greater good we can do for our profession, our Society and Hawaii at large. By being here today, you've indicated that you believe in the value of coming together to share scientific information and discoveries related to the science of entomology in the state of Hawaii. That's why our Society exists. May it continue to exist and be strong during the next 100 years.

### Literature Cited

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