

## The President's Message



Whew! It has been a more than interesting term but as 2013 draws to a close, I have never been more challenged. When I first decided to “co-chair” the Presidency some 5 years back, little did I know that my term as President would take me this far. I’ve met so many wonderful, caring individuals who have tirelessly given their time and expertise to the gifted and talented. I’ve seen many changes and “directions” taken to survive these challenging times, but it brings to mind what someone told me once: that it’s best to pick your battles and save your energy where it’s most needed! On a national level, I’ve seen so much support for Hawaii as we tried to tie loose ends and continuously try to make new and effective decisions with less money, fewer volunteers and less time. I heard so many parents plea for some answer to their frustration, and discovered that we (Hga) cannot always provide what they need nor all the answers. However, we can support them, offer them leads and resources and take them to a higher level of excellence for their children. Educators from many schools,

public or private, have come forward to offer support, show appreciation and referred many students and families to Hga.

I will continue to remain active on the advocacy and legislation level working with NAGC annually, and hope to be able to bring on a “co-chair” at this level. I also will remain active in the Leadership Development Committee. I feel our new members and students are key advocates for Hga and their voices can be very effective in moving gifted and talented issues to the next level. As of July, the TALENT Act has been introduced in the House by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) and Congressman Tom Latham (R-IA).

As also noted by NAGC, in the Senate, the House bill (H.R. 2338) is a bipartisan bill which reflects the interest in both parties in supporting both excellence and equity in our schools. That interest and support, of course, has been cultivated by NAGC members, state association leaders, and individuals across the country who want to see our schools recognize and support budding talent and high achieving gifted learners.

There has been other positive activity on the Hill as well. Both the House and Senate education committees met to consider the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Although the two bills differ greatly in framing the role of the federal government in education, gifted students are represented in both bills.

In the House, the Education and Workforce Committee passed the “Student Success Act” (H.R. 5), which includes gifted and talented students in the teacher training section of the bill. An amendment suggested by Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY), allows school districts to use their Title II funds (money to districts to improve teacher and principal quality) to increase teachers’ ability to meet the educational needs gifted students. Also, where states reserve a percentage of Title II funds for professional development for new teachers,, the PD may include training in recognizing and educating gifted students. [Click here](#) for more information about H.R. 5.

In the Senate, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee included provisions from the TALENT Act in its “Strengthening America’s Schools Act of 2013,” S.1094. The legislation draws attention for the first time to high-ability students in low-income schools by requiring states to describe how they will support local school districts in identifying, serving and ensuring appropriate learning gains of gifted students, and those not formally identified as gifted, in Title I schools. The provision goes on to provide examples of supporting educational approaches such as early entrance to kindergarten, enrichment, acceleration, curriculum compacting, and dual enrollment in secondary school and postsecondary education. S.1094 also includes a





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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Aloha!

This is the second edition of the bi-annual news and Hga is pleased to continue to keep the communication between its supportive members! "Advance Two Spaces To the Arts," the second annual art exhibit benefitting the Hga, was held from August 19 to September 6, 2013, at the Kapiolani Community College Lama Gallery. Hope you got to see it! The opening reception was well attended by artists and guests on August 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. Mahalo to Susan and the KCC Staff for providing Hga with the opportunity to exhibit in their library on the second floor while renovations continued on the first floor. We extend a special thank you to Director of the KCC Art Department, David Behlke, for his expertise and directives for once again coming through for Hga and making it possible for such wonderful artists to show their artwork on his campus! The exhibit was a success for the Hga scholarship Fund, as \$100 scholarship have previously been awarded for Hga conferences and will continue for future conferences and workshops. Plans for 2014 and forward are pending with new officers.

I encourage students to take advantage of member sponsorships offered by the Association of Hawaii Artists. The organization is having a show at Kapolei Hale from September 24 to October 18, and a miniature show during the entire month of November at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe. This would be an excellent opportunity for our talented young adults to show (and possibly sell) their artwork! Please contact Hga for registration details!

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section that continues research and development in gifted education, including a national research center on the gifted and talented and demonstration grants, similar to the approach formerly found in the Javits Act. As we know, continuing research is essential to developing and testing best classroom practices that support high-ability and gifted students. [Click here](#) for more information on S.1094.

As of July, both bills will now be placed on congressional calendars for consideration by the full House and Senate.

### Summer Session 2013

The summer session was first initiated sometime in March soon after the NAGC Legislative and Advocacy Annual Meeting in DC. While attending the meeting, Hga President Christine Ohtani-Chang had the opportunity to visit the Charter School, School Without Walls and speak with Head Administrator, Richard Trogisch. Upon NAGC recommendation, we further discussed the possibility to collaborate our efforts during the summer refer resources of what they, as a Charter School, were doing and develop Hga summer outreach efforts. The summer session evolved into another "animal" as the means of delivering the advocacy message was presented in a more informal format by way of drop-in sessions due to sign ups. We are confident that we will be able to develop permanent relations with student liaisons after this session and use this as supportive documentation. We believe our goals and efforts remained focused and our objectives were met. Although the estimated number in which we hoped to connect with fell a bit short, we are encouraged by the minimum response for the Hga Summer Session.



ROY OKANO PHOTOGRAPHY

Some obstacles that deterred Hga efforts were once again the lack of response to registration, upfront operational cost of Hga and student/parent conflicting schedules as some were going away for vacation or attending University GT Camps elsewhere. Hga offers summer session support every other year to students, parents and schools/universities. Due to funding concerns, we cannot offer our outreach every summer. Our Conferences also have begun to be offered every other year as well with 2014 being the next calendar year for Hga Conference.

We however, had the unique opportunity to be at a University setting, lower cost, approach a growing population of students in higher education level which opened up a whole new group of would-be advocates and new educators that "may" consider a minor in GT while majoring in Education, IT, Communications, Arts, Business, Government and other majors to say the least.

The sessions proved to be informative for students that dropped in. Unfortunately, Hga had hoped that there would be more students coming by but it remains very unpredictable during these summer months. We were please to welcome a group of high school students from Punahou, a private summer school program, that were able to take advantage of the resources and add them to our possible young advocates. Our formula when we started was to have each student contact or inform at least two other



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students so that our efforts would be twofold in building an awareness to our advocacy efforts. If that much is accomplished then we have not gone unrecognized and done just a little bit more for our high achieving gifted students. The particular lead

### Conference Volunteers Wanted

Please contact [higifted@aol.com](mailto:higifted@aol.com) if you are interested in volunteering for the 2014 Hga Conference. We are looking for volunteers for that day for pre-conference planning, presenters and other miscellaneous tasks.

educator with the group was also with the DOE system during the school year so Hga is sure the opportunity will not go unrecognized.

### Links to Resources and Reports

• Please click to receive the Third

Quarter 2013 Financial Report. <http://db.tt/d0L5vPxc>

- The 60th Annual NAGC Convention is all happening in Indiana from November 7th to the 10th. I've found some bargains on Hotwire.com The prices appear to be as much as 40% off so check it out. For more information on the convention, here is the link: <http://www.nagc.org/nagcconvention.aspx>.
- NAGC President Paula Olzewski-Kubelius discusses how to be a more effective advocate of the gifted and talented in this article: <http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nagc/ground.pdf>.
- NCES Releases New Data on Postsecondary Tuition, Fees and Degrees

Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, the average tuition and required fees at 4-year public institutions (after adjusting for inflation) increased more for in-state students (7% increase) than for out-of-state students (4% increase). During that same time period, 4-year nonprofit institutions increased overall at 3%. However, for-profit institutions reported a 2% decrease. This first look presents findings from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) fall 2012 data collection, which included three survey components: institutional characteristics for 2012-13—such as degrees offered, type of program, application information, and tuition and other costs; the number and type of degrees conferred from July 2011 through June 2012; and 12-month enrollment data for the 2011-12 academic year. For full report, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013289rev>

- Supporting high achievement of low income, high ability students: <http://bit.ly/17ksyHR>
- Using social media and technology to expand skills and engage students in new ways: <http://bit.ly/17JE3VY>
- Free ACT and SAT power prep program to NAGC: <http://bit.ly/14fYQTY>
- The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) wants to let our bright students and their families know about a new annual award competition that offers funding for aspiring scientists ages 13-18. Information is also available on the Cogito site at: <https://cogito.cty.jhu.edu/?p=39168>. If you have any questions, please contact Neshera Anderson at [nander19@jhu.edu](mailto:nander19@jhu.edu).
- Nonprofit VOTE is the leading source of nonpartisan resources to help nonprofits integrate voter engagement into their ongoing activities and services: <http://www.nonprofitvote.org>
- Advocacy is the most effective tool nonprofits and foundations can use to advance their mission and serve their communities. AFJ and Bolder Advocacy can help. <http://bolderadvocacy.org/how-afj-can-help>



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2014 SLATE:

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This year Hga had the opportunity to feature the artistic works and talent of Warren Stenberg at the annual Hga art exhibit: Two spaces to the Arts! We were pleased to see the growing response of additional artists to the show in varied 2D mediums, acrylic, clay, oil, charcoal, pencil, photography, including some 3D entries as well.

Along with the featured artist, Warren Stenberg, were Janet Edwards, Phocus, Sandy Sawin, Renee Fakhrai, Stephanie Hoe, Diana Sellner, Mark Cnudde, Ellen Dieter, Ann Corum, Cecilia Vargas, Joan Dubanoski, Dennis Daniel, Daniel Miyatake, Deborah Bond-Upton, Chizuru Takeda, David Friedman and Kay Armstrong. Mahalo for your participation!

Genius Game is now available for order! \$20.00 plus \$5 shipping. Payment by check or credit card. Email [higifted@aol.com](mailto:higifted@aol.com) to request your game!



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Dear Gifted and Talented Advocate:

We hope you will continue to support our efforts in 2013 by a donation to Hawaii Gifted Association. Your help furthers our professional development efforts in building our resources for the gifted and talented through our advocacy efforts, exhibits, workshops and activities. As you know, our services are free and so is your membership! Your year-end donation assists the Hawaii Gifted Association in serving your community and state by connecting the gifted and talented individuals with the resources that they need.

Christine Ohtani-Chang, President