Hawaii-Pacific Evaluation Association
First Annual Conference:
"Evaluators' Exchange"

September 8th, 2006
Raddison Waikiki Prince Kuhio

Conference Evaluation Report

H-PEA Conference Evaluation Team

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Introduction

This inaugural conference of the Hawaii-Pacific Evaluation Association, "H-PEA First Annual Evaluators' Exchange," brought together 69 evaluators, university faculty members, and graduate students to the Radisson Waikiki Prince Kuhio Hotel on September 8th, 2006. In accordance with the mission of the organization itself, the primary purpose of the conference was to promote communication, discussion, and exchange of information among individuals concerned with evaluation in the Hawaii-Pacific region.

Conference events included a panel discussion on the state of evaluation in the Hawaii-Pacific region, a review of the association's draft by-laws, election of executive committee officers, a keynote address by Lois-ellin Datta, a poster presentation session, and conversation tables organized by different evaluation areas. Of equal note were the many opportunities—scheduled and unscheduled—for networking and collaboration between conference participants. The conference initiated meaningful professional dialogue across a variety of evaluation contexts.

This report describes and interprets the results of the conference evaluation survey included in the informational packets distributed to all conference participants. The actual evaluation form is included in Appendix A. Detailed descriptive statistics of item-level data along with open-ended responses where appropriate are reported in Appendix B. A total of 47 participants responded to the survey resulting in a 68% return rate.

Sections I-V below each report the findings of the corresponding sections of the original evaluation form. Section VI lists some suggested strategies for future conferences. For section I, distributions were calculated using the total number of responses to each individual item due to the fact that respondents were allowed to choose more than one response. For all other sections, the total number responses equal the number of respondents.

I. Conference Participant Profiles

In Section I, participants' background information and how they found out about the conference are depicted in pie charts. Note that the questions in this section allowed respondents to choose more than one answer. Thus, as mentioned in the introduction, the *N*-distribution in this section reflects the total number of responses as opposed to the number of survey respondents. Actual respondent answers provided when the 'other' response was chosen are listed in Appendix B.

1. Participant Occupations (Total number of responses = 52*)

Distribution of Participant Occupations

Consultant, 5, 10%
Student, 16, 31%
Faculty, 12, 23%
Others, 19, 36%
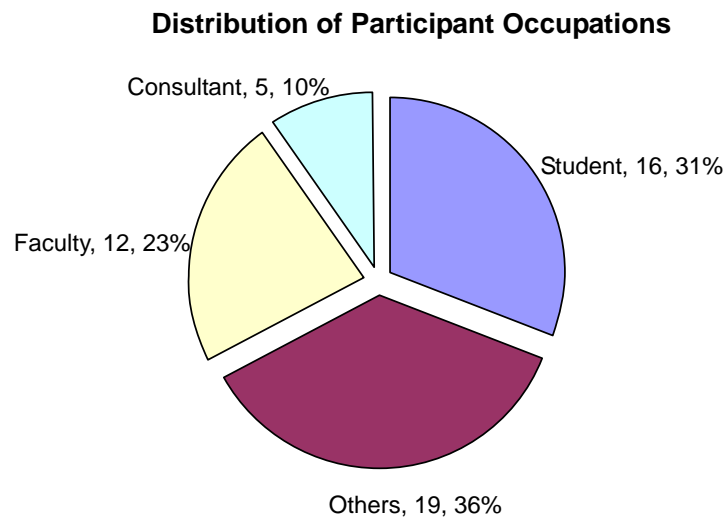
*3 participants marked 2 categories, 1 participant marked 3 categories.

Initial inspection of the responses reveals "Faculty" and "Student" as the main occupation categories with "Other" also being chosen often. This may, however, give a slightly misrepresentative picture of participant occupational profile due to some possible ambiguity or lack of clarity in category labels. Participant level analysis showed that many of the "Other" responses might be conceptually classed with 'consultant' in a larger evaluator category. These "Other" responses also seem to suggest an additional 'administration' category. In other words, conference attendee profiles might be slightly more diverse than implied by the categorical selections provided in the questionnaire item options. In light of this, it is also possible that there are other populations that did not participate.

2. Participant Work Settings (Total number of responses = 49)*

Distribution of Participant Work Settings
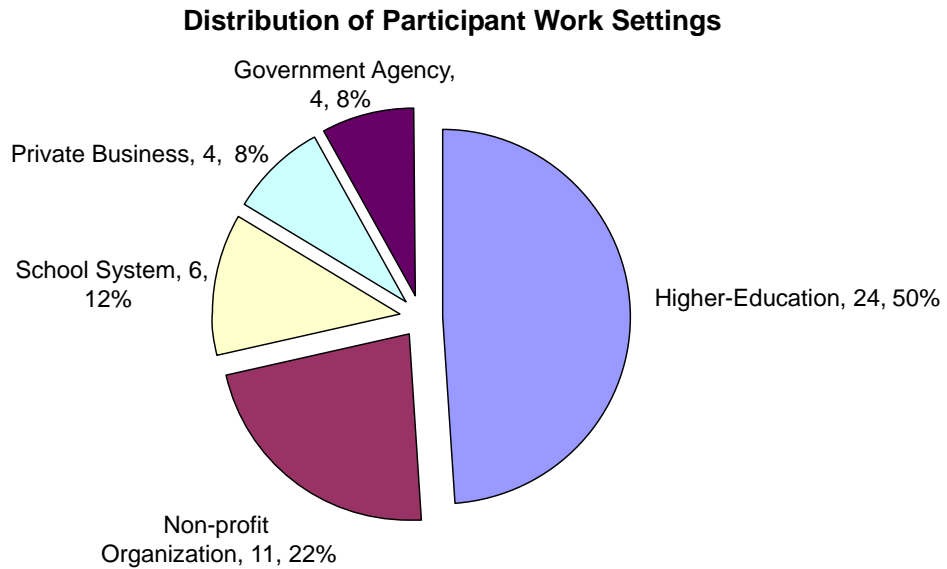
*2 participants chose 2 categories (higher ed. /private business; higher ed. /school system).

A large majority of the respondents (30 out of 49 responses) indicated they work in some type of educational setting, with another sizable minority (11 out of 49 responses) from non-profit organizations. Here too there seemed to be noticeable skewing toward participants working in educational settings and a marked lack of presence from the private business sector and non-educational governmental agencies.

3. How did you learn about the conference? (Total number of responses = 47)*

Distribution of Publicity Sources
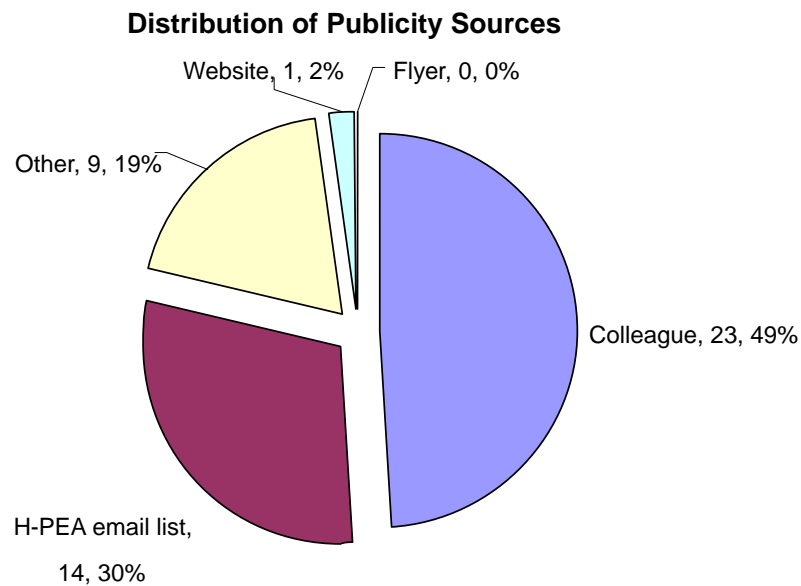
*No overlaps.

A large majority of respondents indicated that they learned about the conference either from their colleagues (23 out of 47 responses) or from the H-PEA email list (14 out of 47 responses). This skewing is even more dramatic in light of the fact that 8 of the 9 'other' responses could arguably be categorized as 'colleagues' (e.g. several specific names were given and several responded that they were on the conference planning committee) and the last 'other' response indicated the person found out about the conference from a UH email list. The implication here is that the website and flyers may not have contributed additional publicity beyond that provided through the other modes. It may be that these sources were indeed somewhat ineffective, or alternatively, the disproportion in responses may also be that these sources were encountered after or in addition to the "word-of-mouth" sources (i.e., they were superfluous or pre-empted).

4. Participant Areas of Interest in Evaluation (Total number of responses = 60)

Distribution of Participant Areas of Interest in Evaluation
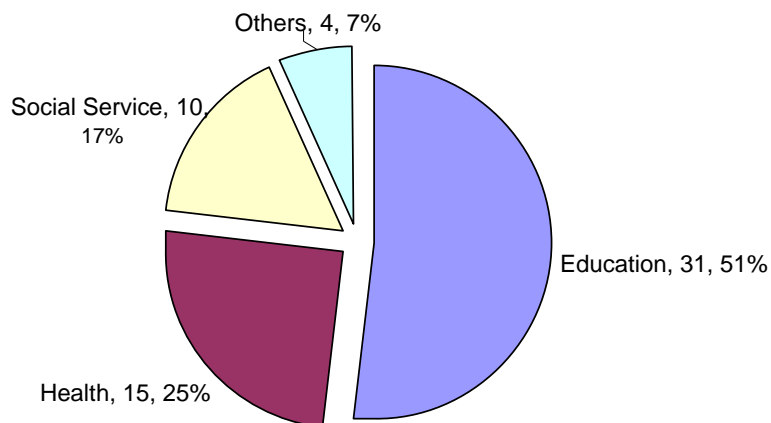
*4 participants chose 3 categories, 6 participants chose 2 categories, and 1 blank answer.

As might be expected in view of the occupational and work setting participant profiles, a large majority of the respondents (31 out of 60 responses) were interested in education with health and related sciences forming the second major interest (18 out of 60 responses including 3 of the 'other' responses arguable classed with 'health'). Social service represents most (10 out of 60 responses) of the remaining responses.

II. Conference Organization

For Section II, and Sections III and IV below, bar graphs are used to show the distribution of the responses on the scales of each item. There were a total of 47 respondents. Brief analysis, with the addition of some illustrative comments supplied by respondents, follow each bar graph. Detailed descriptive data and statistics as well as further comments are listed in Appendix B.

Question: Please rate the following features of conference organization:
Pre-conference

Pre-conference Organization

On-site

On-site Organization

	poor	fair	good	excellent	NA	Blank
Check-in procedure (M = 3.91, SD = 0.28)	0		4	42	0	1
Lunch and refreshments (M = 3.85, SD = 0.36)	0		6	35	2	4
Conference packet (M = 3.89, SD = 0.31)	0		5	41	0	1
Location (i.e., convenience) (M = 3.72, SD = 0.58)		3	7	36	0	1
Adequacy of the facility (M = 3.80, SD = 0.45)	1		7	38	0	1
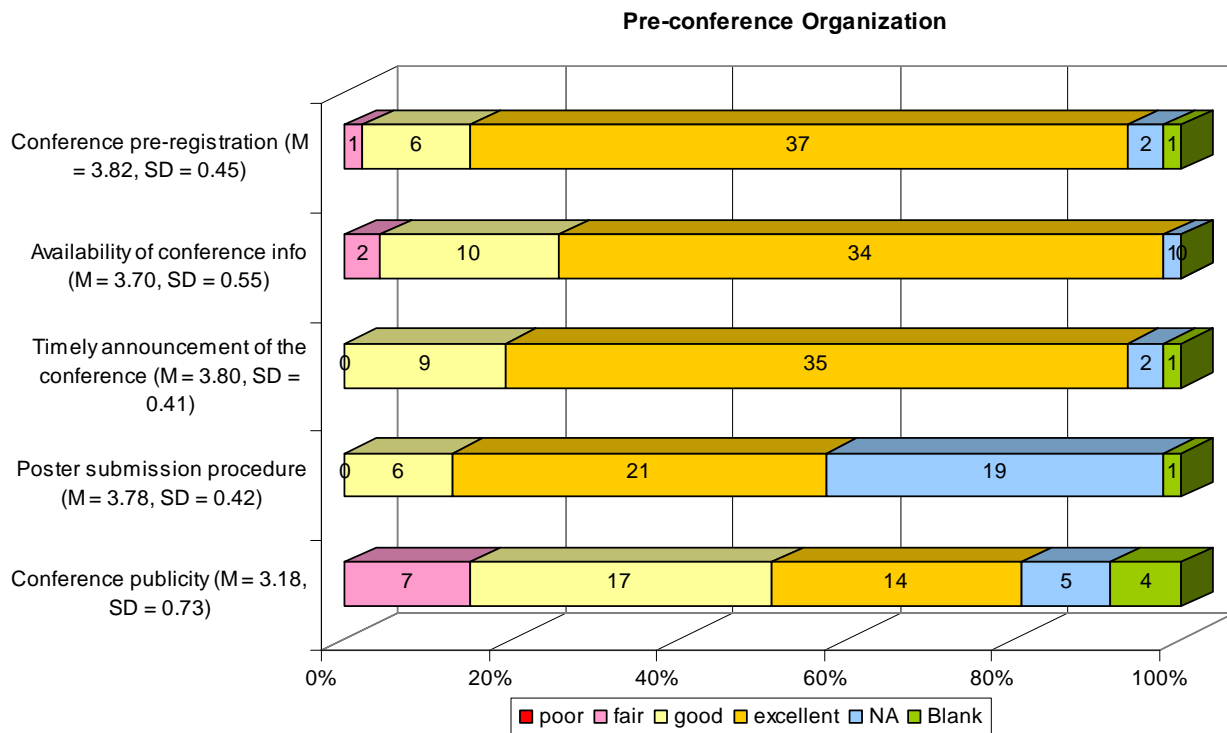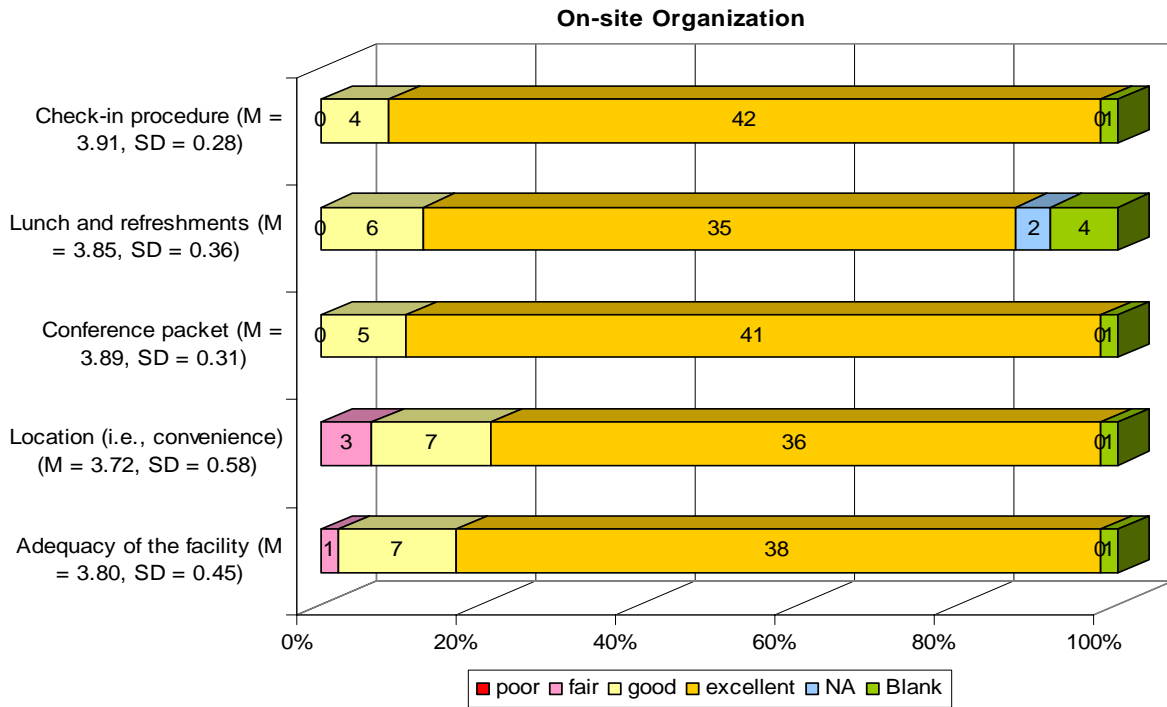
In general, respondents showed their great satisfaction with the organizational features of the conference, for both pre-conference and on-site organization. Positive comments provided in this section include: "Great setting for the meeting"; "Excellent conf. -- well-organized, great speakers, etc."; "Very stimulating", "Poster submission procedure was very timely and supportive; "Very nicely done—great venue, too"; and "Thanks for putting information on website—and putting out a website". The only item that stood out with a somewhat lower rating was *Conference publicity* (mean=3.18). Only 14 respondents rated it as excellent. 7 rated it as fair; 17 good. 5 checked N/A, and 4 did not answer. Some respondents' comments might help to explain the lower rating on this item: "Outreach to people who teach courses in evaluation in 'all' UH departments"; "More publicity, widespread awareness..."; and "Let's get more people involved". Also, as implied by the pie chart for "How did you learn about the conference" in Section I, the major means of publicity for this conference were word of mouth among colleagues and the H-PEA email list. Attempts to strengthen other forms of publicity might be warranted in order to complement these more well-developed modes.

III. Conference Events

Question: Please rate each event you attended.

Conference Program

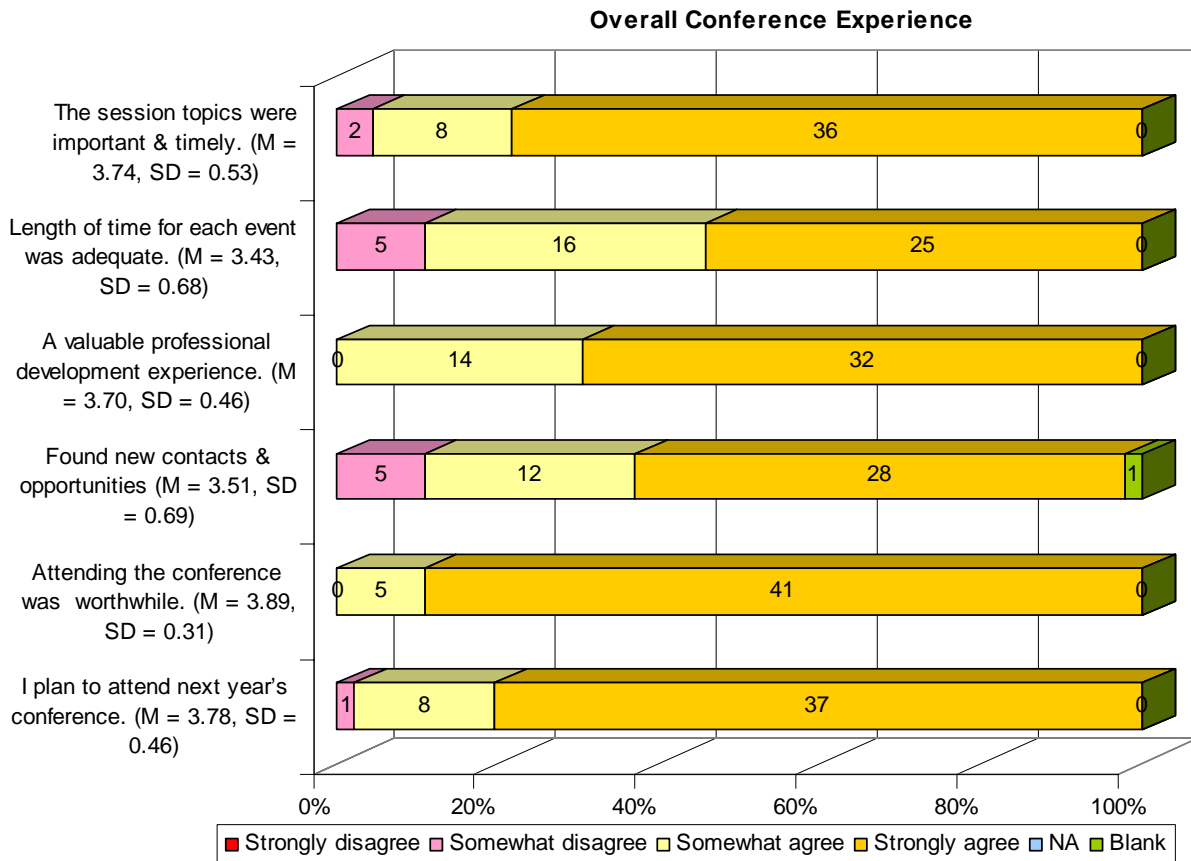| Event	poor	fair	good	excellent	NA	Blank
Panel discussion (M = 3.64, SD = 0.53)		1	15	31		0
Business meeting (M = 3.48, SD = 0.62)		3	18	25	0	1
Keynote address (M = 3.78, SD = 0.42)		0	10	35	1	0
Poster session (M = 3.73, SD = 0.50)		1	10	33	2	1
Conversation tables (M = 3.63, SD = 0.58)		2	11	28	3	2
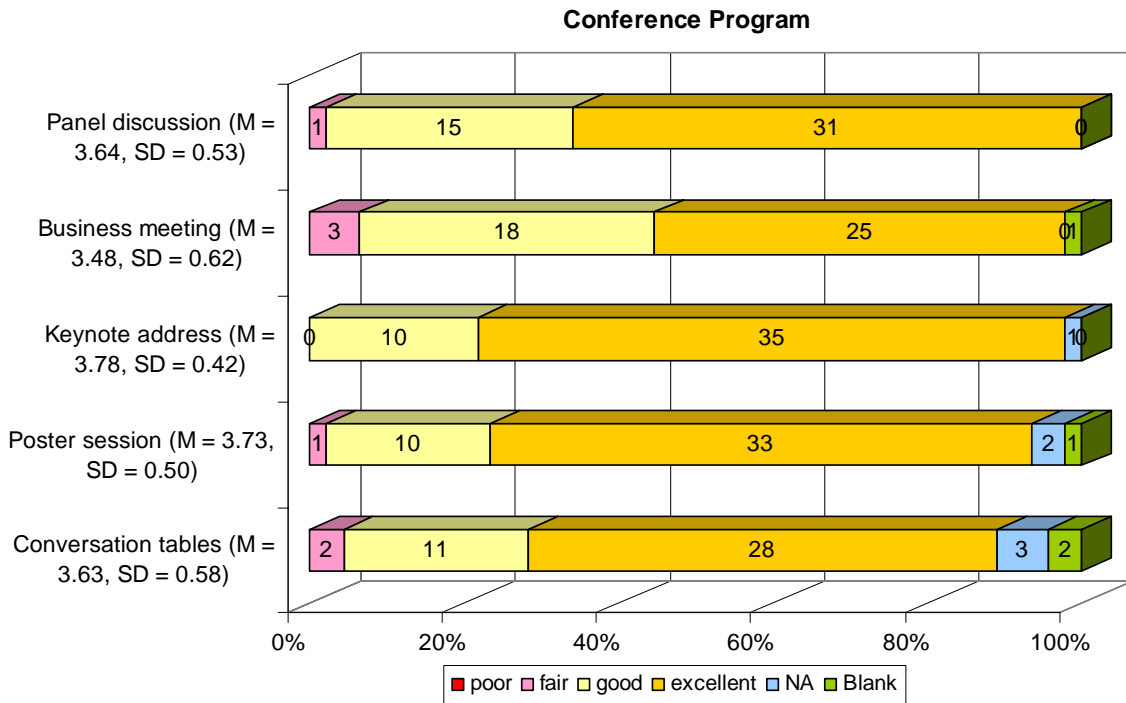
Respondents rated each of the conference events quite high, seeming to indicate an overall satisfaction with the program selection. The event that enjoyed the highest rating was "Keynote address", about which respondents commented: "Excellent" (mentioned by 3 people), "Lois-ellin was inspiring", and "Fabulous – well thought out". The event that had the lowest rating among the five was "Business meeting". The reason for its lower rating was not clear from the only two comments, which were: "I know, necessary", and "Short good but should work interpreting data and chart". About the "Panel discussion", a few respondents remarked positively about the great speakers, their diverse backgrounds, the insights they had about evaluation, the open atmosphere, and etc. However, several respondents also showed their concerns about the timing of the panel discussion, commenting that some panelists' presentations were too long, and suggesting better allotment of time for each panelist. A couple of respondents commented that they found "Conversation table" valuable, good for networking, and able to stimulate discussion. A couple of suggestions about "Conversation table" included having more focused topics and having the tables farther apart so that there was less interference among tables. The two comments about "Poster session" were "Students did a good job" and "Need more

variety of topics".

Although respondents were asked to specify the topic of the conversation table they joined, only 14 of them responded to this item, most likely due to the inconspicuousness of the item which was at the very end of the first page of the evaluation form. Among the 14 answers, 8 reported that they joined in the education table, 3 went to social welfare/community development, 1 culture, and 2 health. This distribution is somewhat consistent with the information on the pie chart about participants' interest areas in evaluation in Section I.

IV. Overall Conference Experience

Question: Please rate your overall conference experience.

Overall Conference Experience

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	NA	Blank
The session topics were important & timely. (M = 3.74, SD = 0.53)		2	8	36		0
Length of time for each event was adequate. (M = 3.43, SD = 0.68)		5	16	25		0
A valuable professional development experience. (M = 3.70, SD = 0.46)		0	14	32		0
Found new contacts & opportunities (M = 3.51, SD = 0.69)		5	12	28		1
Attending the conference was worthwhile. (M = 3.89, SD = 0.31)		0	5	41		0
I plan to attend next year's conference. (M = 3.78, SD = 0.46)		1	8	37		0

Overall, respondents gave high ratings to the items in this section, again showing positive conference satisfaction. Many of the respondents seemed to feel strongly that the conference was a valuable experience, and that they would attend next year's conference (41 out

of 47 strongly agreed that attending the conference was worthwhile). A couple of general comments were: "Excellent professional development opportunity", "Found funding for research", and "Good choice of presenters". Among the six items, "length of time" and "found new contacts and opportunities" showed more variability than others with proportionately more "somewhat disagree" responses. In the comments column, several participants wrote conflicting comments about the length of the panel and poster sessions, perceiving these two as either too long or too short. There were also a couple of comments wishing for longer conversation and interaction. As for networking opportunities, the lower rating might be linked to the lack of variability in conference participants' backgrounds as outlined in Section I and the limited scope of conference publicity identified in Section II.

V. Future Planning of the Conference

1. Timing of the Conference
Question: Would you prefer to have the next conference during a particular time of the year? If yes, when?

The scheduled time of this year's conference seemed to be satisfactory. Over half (26 out of 47) of the respondents expressed no preference for the timing of the conference. Overall, the majority of explicit suggestions were in line with the same general time of year as this year's conference. The only exceptions were two suggestions for a spring conference. Regarding the day of the week, it seems everyone would be happy with a Friday or a Saturday.

2. Suggested Keynote Speakeers
Question: Who would you like to have as a keynote speaker at a future conference?

Synthesizing the information provided in participants suggestions for future conference planning with nine responses for suggested future keynote speakers, it seems that there were four types of speakers desired:

(1) *methodology experts*, e.g. Brad Cousins from Higher Education in Canada who was recommended as an expert in participatory program evaluation and John Norris as an expert in utilization-focused evaluation approach.

(2) *famous evaluators and/or speakers*. The two evaluators suggested were Ilona Lincoln from AEA and Michael Scriven from Claremont University.

(3) *people who approach evaluation from a broader social context*. For example,

someone who could address the interaction between evaluation and policy change like Emily Friedman or a representative from a native Hawaiian organization to answer what evaluation could do for this type of a program. This line of thinking is also reflected in the various suggestions to keep the conference participatory and the need to involve non-evaluator stakeholders like government agencies or organizations who would be likely to contract for evaluation services.

(4) someone who can speak about *systematic adaptive evaluation*, e.g. Lois-ellin Datta.

3. Suggestions for Continued Conference Events

Open-ended comments of positive and/or negative opinions of this year's conference events as well as possible missing elements of the event were addressed in Section V, Questions 3-5. Below are the compiled lists of suggestions made by the participants. The number next to the comment indicates the number of respondents who expressed a similar opinion.

Question: What did you like about this year's event that should be continued?

Summary of suggestions for continued conference events
• Conversation table/networking/group discussion (22)
• Talk story and share experience (4)
• Poster session (7)
• Panel discussion (6)
• Format/structure of the conference(3)
• All/everything (3)
• Just the fact that it took place (1)
• Short business meeting (1)
• The focus on unique to Hawaiian issues (1)
• Lois-Ellin should 'definitely' be part of any future events (1)

This question provided an opportunity for attendees to comment on what they liked about the event. 36 out of 47 respondents (77%) supplied comments and suggestions. Attendees perceived the conference as a place to open a dialogue and seek "opportunities for networking and collaboration," in accord with the H-PEA mission statement. Many wanted to keep the conversation table, networking opportunities, and group discussion in the program. It was stressed that the conference should continue to provide opportunities for participants to communicate, network, and share evaluation experiences, as can be seen from the following participant comments: "The open discussion conversation tables were a big plus."; "It was very

open atmosphere. Very open to talk and learn"; "Conversation table-good for networking"; "(I liked) 'Talk story' time to learn about others' work in evaluation"; "Introducing more evaluation examples others have done."

4. Suggestions for Additional Future Events
Question: Are there any topics/activities that you would like to see included in future events?

Summary of suggested topics:
- Participatory evaluation and its implementation (2)
- System model/thinking and detailed logic model and example (2)
- Example of the complex adaptive systems model for evaluation from Lois-Ellin (1)
- How government (fed) regulations can be addressed (fought) (1)
- Success strategies in working with contractors/programs (1)
- Required "fidelity (models)" that worked in Hawaii or other Pacific Island (1)
- Sharing challenges in evaluation work (1)
- The debate over the 'role' of evaluators, ethical issues (1)
- Incorporating cultural/contextual factors in evaluation (1)
- How to make evaluation valuable & pleasant. (1)
- Quality of reports. (1)

Summary of suggested activities:
- Interaction format suggestions (5):
    o Be able to move (around) conversation tables
    o Consider a world café style conference format
    o Evaluation networking
    o Have focused topic-driven conversation tables
    o Pick one or two special issues and discuss solutions at conversation tables
- Workshop on evaluation tools and topics (6)
    o Evaluation funding information
    o Evaluators' concerns
- Discussion on methodology and evaluation techniques/tools (6)
    o Qualitative and quantitative
    o Participatory program evaluation approach
    o Difference in opinions on methods
    o specific technology GPS w/ evaluation-hands on.
- Case presentations (2) and paper presentations (1)
- Capacity building (3)
- Involvement of agency (1)
- More student participation (1)
- Mix of formal & informal (like this time) (1)

30 respondents (63% of total) provided comments concerning specific evaluation topics and other activities to be included in future conferences. Many addressed various examples and specific models to be introduced at the conference, including participatory program evaluation, system models, logic models, complex adaptive models, and models that work in Pacific Region. Specific information that participants want the conference to touch upon were evaluation methodology and tools (quantitative vs. qualitative), cultural/contextual factors in evaluation, capacity building, evaluators' concerns, ethic issues, challenges at work, and success strategies.

Some of the activities participants suggested were: workshops, more hands-on activities, case presentations, paper presentations, world-café style format, focused topic-driven conversation tables, conversation tables on issues and solutions.

Participants suggested the following "How to" questions to be raised at the conference: (a) How to make evaluation valuable and pleasant, (b) How to conduct and implement participatory evaluation, (c) How to fight with government (federal) regulations, and (d) How to successfully work with contractors/programs.

5. Suggestions for changes
Question: What aspects of this year's event should be changed for the 2007 H-PEA conference?

Suggestions for changes in future conferences:
- No change (5):
  - Thanks (2)
  - Met all expectations (1)
  - Add additional events (1)
- Include paper session (1)
- Make it longer (1)
- Make it shorter (1)
- Take a group picture in the end (1)
- Involve non-evaluators in conference participation (1)
- Incorporate more people from organization that hire evaluators & legislators or government agency staff that purchase evaluation (1)

Also in this section, we summarize suggested changes for future conferences. These suggestions emerged not only from the analysis of responses to question 5, but are additionally supported by responses and written comments from other sections.

The keynote address was well received and many commented that it was excellent (e.g., "Keynote-fabulous-well thought out"; "Lois-Eloin was inspiring"; "Lois Ellin should <u>definitely</u> be part of any future events! She provides excellent perspective").

Panel Discussion

All of the panelists brought extensive background experiences and unique perspectives to the discussion. Participants commented: "The variety of backgrounds panelists had were good"; "There are very professional evaluators on the panel"; "They were sincere and honest about their experiences and realities of evaluation. All had great historical perspectives and suggestions for the future."; "Panel—excellent speakers."

However, many pointed out that improvement is needed in the area of time-management and allotment (e.g., "One presentation was <u>too</u> long & rambling"; "Panel-somewhat rushed for time"; "One panelist went way over in time. Inconsiderate to other panelists."). Warning panelists with larger time-keeping signs and also allocating more time for panel discussion might help to alleviate these difficulties. Many expressed that they wanted to hear more from each of the speakers (e.g., "More time for morning speakers"; "Would be ok to allot 30 minutes per presenter"; "Longer panel session, more interaction"; "Presentations were too short – I wanted to hear more from each speaker").

Conversation Table

Many commented on the valuable experience they had at the conversation table. Some suggested that the conversation table either should have had more focused topics or been further divided into more groups according to specialized areas (e.g., "More opportunity for interaction in focused ways, like the conversation tables but topic-driven"; "Maybe get a list of specific issues + each year pick <u>one</u> or two where at the conversation tables"). Some logistical suggestions were made concerning the need to: allocate more time for conversation tables (e.g., "not enough time on conversation tables"); make sure conversation tables are set farther apart or in a different room (e.g., "Conversation tables should have been farther apart. It was hard to hear people speaking over the next group.); allow people to move around conversation tables or attend multiple conversation table sessions.

Poster Presentation Session

There was mixed feedback on the allocation of time for the poster session. One person expressed that there was too much time for the poster session, whereas another person expressed

there was not enough time to communicate. One person commented that there needs to be more variety of topics for the posters.

Outreach/Publicity

Participants suggested that the H-PEA conference publicize more and raise widespread awareness about the conference, not only among local evaluators but also clients and other communities (e.g., "incorporate more people form organization form that hire evaluators to do evaluation & legislators or government agency staff that purchase evaluation"; "consider involving community (non evaluators) participation, if we value participatory evaluation."). Also, some "outreach to people who teach courses in evaluation in "all" UH departments" is needed.

Overall, the event was well received and many expressed the desire to have a similar event next year (e.g., "[change] nothing but [want] additional events). Some other suggestions were to substitute the conference with training opportunities, workshops, or networking parties. For instance, one respondent suggested: "Sponsor discussion lunches for evaluators on various topics throughout the year."

VI. Conclusion and Strategies for Future Conferences

From the conference evaluation findings, it is apparent that this very first H-PEA evaluators' exchange was quite a success. In particular, a lot of attendees appreciated the chances for networking and group discussions provided by the conference. Many participants were grateful to the committee members for simply planning and organizing this inaugural event.

"It was great! It met all my expectations. Thank you."
"All good. Many thanks to all + to the folks who put this eval. together."
"Absolutely. Grateful to everyone who carried out this conference."
"Thanks for putting info on website-and putting out a website."
"Nothing-everything was perfect"
"Very nicely done-great venue too. Let's get more people involved."
"Mahalo nui!"
"Excellent conf. - well-organized, great speakers, etc."

Based on the comments and suggestions made by the respondents, we propose the following strategies for planning future H-PEA conferences and events.

- In order ***to encourage participation from various evaluation constituents,*** the conference needs to be announced to all domains and sectors that require evaluation-related work in the Hawaii-Pacific region, through flyers, emails, websites, and etc. The conference could involve people who are evaluators, constituents hiring or contracting evaluators, and other interested parties.

- In order ***to increase publicity of future conferences and events***, following locations can be suggested as potential place to distribute flyers (announcement about the conference and call for proposals): (a) various conferences and professional development meetings held in Hawaii-Pacific region, (b) evaluation classes held at UH and other institutions.

- In order ***to encourage variety of topics to be presented***, a suggested list of topics in the call for submissions for a poster may help and encourage people to submit their work. Individual paper/case study presentation, discussion session, and workshop session, could also be considered as an alternative conference program.

- In order ***to create more opportunities for professional development***, workshops or discussions on methodological and practical concerns about evaluation can be popular and beneficial programs/events. It can be either included in the conference or in addition to the conference.

- Conversation tables, as suggested by a few participants, may need more focused topics. The conversation tables can be grouped by specific topics, as well as by disciplines. One strategy ***to solicit topics and facilitators for conversation tables*** is to call for proposals for conversation tables. The proposed topics can be introduced ahead of time with a short description of the topic on the website and also in the conference packet, so that attendees can expect what will be discussed.

- In order ***to facilitate more network/recruiting opportunities***, it might be a good idea to let members provide link to their website on H-PEA website. Most people/organizations now have their websites that explain their work, so it could be helpful to learn about other professionals.

Appendix A

H-PEA Conference Evaluation Form

Instructions: Please complete and return this evaluation form <u>in the box at the</u> **REGISTRATION TABLE**. Your input is important to us for future planning of the Hawaii-Pacific Evaluation Association (H-PEA) Conference. Mahalo!

I. Participant Information *(Please circle all that apply).*

1. Which of the following are you?

   [Faculty / Consultant / Student   / Other _____]

2. What is your primary work setting?

   [Higher education / School system / Government agency / Non-profit organization /

   Private business / Other _____]

3. How did you learn about the conference?

   [H-PEA email list / Flyer / Colleague / Website / Other _____]

4. What is your area of interest in evaluation?

   [Education / Health / Social service / Other _____]

II. Please rate the following features of conference organization *(Please √ the box).*
Scale: 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = excellent; n/a = not applicable

Pre-Conference	1	2	3	4	n/a	On-site	1	2	3	4	n/a
Conference pre-registration						Check-in procedure					
Availability of conference information						Lunch and refreshments					
Timely announcement of the conference						Conference packet					
Poster submission procedure						Location (i.e., convenience)					
Conference publicity						Adequacy of the facility					
Comments:											

III. Please rate each event you attended *(Please √ the box).*
Scale: 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = excellent; n/a = not applicable

Conference programs	1	2	3	4	n/a	Comments
Panel discussion						
Business meeting						
Keynote address						
Poster session						
Conversation tables						

Topic of the conversation table you joined: [   ]

IV. Please rate your overall conference experience *(Please √ the box).*

Scale: 1 = strongly disagree; 2 = somewhat disagree; 3 = somewhat agree; 4 = strongly agree

Overall conference	1	2	3	4	Comments
The session topics were important and timely.					
Length of time for each event on the schedule was adequate.					
The conference was a valuable professional development experience.					
I found new contacts and opportunities for future collaboration.					
Overall, attending the conference was a worthwhile experience.					
I plan to attend next year's H-PEA conference.					

V. Future planning of the conference

1. Would you prefer to have the next conference during a particular time of year? [Yes / No]

   If yes, when? [   ]

2. Who would you like to have as a keynote speaker at a future conference?

   Speaker:_____   Affiliation: _____

   Reason: _____

3. What did you like about this year's event that should be continued?

4. Are there any topics/activities that you would like to see included in future events?

5. What aspects of this year's event should be changed for the 2007 H-PEA conference?

Appendix B
Conference Evaluation Results

I. Participant profiles

1. Participants information (can have more than one)

ID	N	List of Others
Others	19	Project manager, evaluator, director of R+E unit, member, non-profit
Student	16	employee, non-profit executive director, RCUTT-university affiliated,
Faculty	12	research, specialist, work w/ numerous governmental health programs,
Consultant	5	program director, staff
Total	52*	

*3 participants marked 2 categories, 1 participant marked 3 categories.

2. Participants' work setting (can have more than one)

Work Setting	N
Higher-Education	24
Non-profit Organization	11
School System	6
Government Agency	4
Private Business	4
Others	0
Total	49*

*2 participants chose 2 categories (higher ed and private business; higher ed and school system).

3. How did you learn about the conference?

Information Provider	N	List of Others
Colleague	23	UH email list, Judith, an conference planning
H-PEA email list	14	committee, committee member, email from Henry
Other	9	Ichiho, John Norris, Nancy marker, on committee
Website	1	
Flyer	0	
Total	47*	

*No overlaps.

4. Participants' interest in evaluation (can have more than one)

Interest Area	N	List of Others
Education	31	General & culture, Social epidemiology,
Health	15	Health & human services, mental health
Social Service	10	
Others	4	
Total	60*	

*4 participants chose 3 categories, 6 participants chose 2 categories, and 1 blank answer.

II. Conference Organization

1. Rating on pre-conference organization

Pre-Conference	N	M	SD	Min	Max	Scale2 fair	Scale3 good	Scale4 excellent	NA	Blank
Conference pre-registration	46	3.82	0.45	2	4	1	6	37	2	1
Availability of conference information	47	3.70	0.55	2	4	2	10	34	1	0
Timely announcement of the conference	46	3.80	0.41	3	4	0	9	35	2	1
Poster submission procedure	46	3.78	0.42	3	4	0	6	21	19	1
Conference publicity	43	3.18	0.73	2	4	7	17	14	5	4

2. Rating on on-site organization

On-Site	N	M	SD	Min	Max	Scale2 fair	Scale3 good	Scale4 excellent	NA	Blank
Check-in procedure	46	3.91	0.28	3	4	0	4	42	0	1
Lunch and refreshments	43	3.85	0.36	3	4	0	6	35	2	4
Conference packet	46	3.89	0.31	3	4	0	5	41	0	1
Location (i.e., convenience)	46	3.72	0.58	2	4	3	7	36	0	1
Adequacy of the facility	46	3.80	0.45	2	4	1	7	38	0	1

3. Comments on Conference Organization

Positive Comments	Suggestions
• Great setting for the meeting • Excellent conf. -- well-organized, great speakers, etc. • Very stimulating • Poster submission procedure was very timely and supportive • Very nicely done—great venue, too • Thanks for putting information on website—and putting out a website	• Outreach to people who teach courses in evaluation in "all" UH departments. • More publicity, widespread awareness, nice chant to open the conference • Let's get more people involved. • Not enough parking at the hotel

III. Conference Programs

1. Rating on Conference Programs

Conference Program	N	M	SD	Min	Max	Scale2 fair	Scale3 good	Scale4 excellent	NA	Blank
Panel discussion	47	3.64	0.53	2	4	1	15	31	0	0
Business meeting	46	3.48	0.62	2	4	3	18	25	0	1
Keynote address	47	3.78	0.42	3	4	0	10	35	1	0
Poster session	46	3.73	0.50	2	4	1	10	33	2	1
Conversation tables	45	3.63	0.58	2	4	2	11	28	3	2

2. Topics of the Conversation Table joined

Topic	N
Education	8
Social Welfare/Community Development	3
Culture	1
Health	2
Total	14

3. Comments on Conference Programs

Panel Discussion

Positive comments
• I think the variety of backgrounds panelists had was good.
• They were sincere and honest about their experiences and realities of evaluation. All had great historical perspectives and suggestions for the future.
• It was very open atmosphere. Very open to talk and learn
• Hot discussion.
• All excellent speakers

Negative comments
• Shawn's presentation was too long & ramming.
• One panelist went way over in time – inconsiderate to other panelists
• Some panelists went too long.
• Panel – somewhat rushed for time
• Panel – would be to allot 30" per presenter and allocate

Conversation Table
• The conversation table really stimulates the talk between members and helps us understand the field better.
• Conversation needs more focused topics.
• Conversation tables should have been farther apart. It was hard to hear people speaking over the next group.
• Good for networking
• Valuable

Keynote Address
- Excellent!! (mentioned by 3 people)
- Lois-ellin was inspiring
- Fabulous – well thought out

Business Meeting
- I know, necessary
- Short good but should work interpreting data and chart.

Poster Session
- Students did a good job.
- Need more variety of topics.

IV. Overall Conference Experience

1. Rating on overall experience

Conference aspects	N	M	SD	Min	Max	Scale 2 Somewhat disagree	Scale 3 Somewhat agree	Scale 4 Strongly agree	NA	Blank
The session topics were important and timely.	46	3.74	0.53	2	4	2	8	36	0	1
Length of time for each event on the schedule was adequate.	46	3.43	0.68	2	4	5	16	25	0	1
The conference was a valuable professional development experience.	46	3.70	0.46	3	4	0	14	32	0	1
I found new contacts and opportunities for future collaboration.	45	3.51	0.69	2	4	5	12	28	0	2
Overall, attending the conference was a worthwhile experience.	46	3.89	0.31	3	4	0	5	41	0	1
I plan to attend next year's H-PEA conference.	46	3.78	0.46	2	4	1	8	37	0	1

2. Comments on overall conference experience

General comments:
   • Excellent professional development opportunity.
   • Found funding for research
   • Good choice of presenters

Length of time:
   • panel too long (2)
   • Request longer panel (3)
   • Request longer conversation/interaction (2)
   • Poster too short (1)
   • Poster too long (1)

Suggestions for future:
   • (small group) training/workshops (3)
   • network party/discussion luncheon (2)

Future Plan to attend: • Leaving island (1)

V. Future Planning of the Conference

1. Whether have time preference

Answer	*N*	Suggestions
No	26	This time/Sept (13)
Yes	16	Spring (2)
		Fall (1)
		Not Summer (1)
		Not Feb, Mar, Apr (1)
		Maybe Saturday (1)
		Not sure it matters (1)

2. Who would you like to have as a keynote speaker at a future conference?

Speaker	Affiliation	Reason
		Native Hawaiian agent head to answer what evaluator can do for a program
Brad Cousins	Higher ed in Canada	Expert in participatory program eval
Brian Lanton	UH CRD6	
Emily Fridman?	Indep. Health Policy "Work"	The connection between. Evaluation & policy change resources interaction
Ilona Lincoln	AEA	Great speecher, great contest
John Norris (2)	UH SLS	Can speak to 'utilization' (underlined) of evaluation results
Michael Scriven	Clarement University	Guru + appropriately controversial, good speaker Controversial → stirs things up
someone else like Lois-ellen!		

3. What did you like about this year's event that should be continued?

- Conversation table/networking/group discussion (23), including Talk story and share experience (4)
- Poster (7)
- Panel (6)
- Format/structure (3)
- All/everything (3)
- Just the fact that it took place (1)
- Short business meeting (1)
- The focus on unique to Hawaiian issues (1)
- Lois Ellin should 'definitely' (underlined) be part of any future events (1)

4. Are there any topics/activities that you would like to see included in future events?

Suggested activities:
- Interaction format suggestions (5):
  - Be able to move (around) conversation tables
  - Consider a world café style conference format
  - Evaluation networking
  - Have focused topic-driven conversation tables
  - Pick one or two special issues and discuss solutions at conversation tables
- Workshop on evaluation tools and topics (6)
  - Evaluation funding information
  - Evaluators' concerns
- Discussion on methodology and evaluation techniques/tools (6)
  - Qualitative and quantitative
  - Participatory program evaluation approach
  - Difference in opinions on methods
  - specific technology GPS w/ evaluation-hands on.
- Case presentations (2) and paper presentations (1)
- Capacity building (2)
- Involvement of agency (1)
- More student participation (1)
- Mix of formal & informal (like this time)
- Work session targeted on an agreed-upon topic

Suggested topics:
- Participatory evaluation and its implementation (2)
- System model/thinking and detailed logic model and example (2)
- Example of the complex adaptive systems model for evaluation from Lois-Ellin (1)
- Professional development (1)
- How government (fed) regulations can be addressed (fought) (1)
- Success strategies in working with contractors/programs (1)
- Required "fidelity (models)" that worked in Hawaii or other Pacific Island (1)
- Sharing challenges in evaluation work (1)
- The debate over the 'role' (underlined) of evaluators, ethical issues (1)
- Incorporating cultural/contextual factors in evaluation (1)
- How to make evaluation valuable & pleasant. (1)
- Quality of reports. (1)
- Poster session sort of weird. Not really needed.(1)

5. What aspects of this year's event should be changed for the 2007 H-PEA conference?

- No change (5):
  - Thanks (2)
  - Met all expectations (1)
  - Add additional events (1)
- Include paper session (1)
- Make it longer (1)
- Make it shorter (1)
- Take a group picture in the end (1)
- Involve non evaluators' participation (1)
- Incorporate more people from organization that hire evaluators & legislators or govt agency staff that purchase evaluation (1)