

2010 Hawai'i-Pacific Evaluation Association Conference Evaluation Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Executive Summary

Out of 130 participants attending the 2001 Hawai'i-Pacific Evaluation Association (H-PEA) conference and the pre-conference workshops, a total of 95 participants responded to the conference evaluation survey, resulting in a 75% return rate. The following summarizes the main findings of the evaluation report. For more detailed discussion of results, as well as reporting of qualitative and quantitative data, please refer to the main report and appendices.

Participant Profiles

- Almost half of the survey respondents were new members indicating that the conference was successful in attracting new membership.
- Among the respondents, the main attendee type was *evaluator* followed by *student*.
- *Elementary/secondary* education and *higher education* were the two most popular fields of interest.
- *Social Services* and *Community Development* were the two most popular fields of interest for new members.

Pre-Conference Organization

- Respondents were satisfied overall with the pre-conference organization.
- *Online registration* and *timely announcement of the conference* received the highest ratings.
- Among the five features, *conference publicity* received the lowest rating.

Pre-Conference Workshops (Thursday)

- Respondents expressed high-levels of satisfaction with the two workshops.
- Brad Cousins' workshop ('Participatory Evaluation...') was generally rated high, but some participants felt that the session covered too much theoretical/background information.
- Respondents showed their great satisfaction with the Lois-ellin Datta's workshop ('Case Studies...'). *Hands-on activity* and the *Hawaiian connection* were the two most popular parts of the session.
- Some respondents felt that both workshops were too basic and lacked a "how to" aspect. They would have also liked more time on discussion with colleagues during the workshops.

Conference on Friday

- Respondents indicated high levels of satisfaction with well over 80% of people responding positively indicating the success of this year's H-PEA conference.
- *Panel and table discussion* and *afternoon keynote* received somewhat lower ratings. Respondents felt that these sessions were less productive and informative compared to other sessions.
- Paper presentation speakers this year were highly rated and received positive comments of the quality of their presentations and their time management.
- Respondents would have liked more time for paper presenters and more papers/sessions.

Conference Expectations

- The conference was most successful in meeting the expectations of ‘*meet new people and networking*’ and ‘*learn something new, learn about new trends and developments.*’
- It was less successful in meeting the ‘*learn evaluation tools, procedures or implementation strategies*’ and ‘*learn about evaluation in diverse populations and indigenous communities*’ expectations.

Suggestions for Next Year’s Conference

- Keep working on improving the conference publicity
- Provide a faster-paced conference program with more sessions
- Have more variety of topics and diversity of speakers
- Have speakers/presenters focus more on implementation and practical evaluation tools
- Offer more structured discussion opportunities
- Allot more time to paper presentation sessions and (more time for presenters and more papers)

Suggestions for Improving the Value of H-PEA

- Offer more workshops and activities during the year
- Focus on practical “how to” topics
- Continue to send out announcements of news and events
- Enrich the content of the website (i.e., post more information and services for members)

Reflection on the Evaluation

- The internet-based survey was found to be very effective in terms of achieving a high response rate and facilitating data-entry and analysis