

Q&A

Educating, Advocating for Islands' Contractors

INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY HIGA, GCA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



GCA officers, from left, 2nd Vice President Cedric Ota, 1st Vice President Clay Asato, President George Ehara, Immediate Past President Rick Heltzel and Executive Vice President Johnny Higa

BY CATHY CRUZ-GEORGE

Fair treatment across the industry is important, says Johnny Higa, executive vice president of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, a building industry group that represents more than 600 member companies in Hawaii.



Johnny Higa

Take it from Christopher Knitter, owner of Oahu Metal & Glazing and a board member of the GCA. “Regardless of whether you are a general contractor, subcontractor or vendor, there is a camaraderie that exists amongst the members,” Knitter says. “You can be a new

member or longtime member, everyone is treated the same and with respect.”

Read on as Higa answers questions from *Building Industry Hawaii* about the GCA’s goals this year.

BIH: What has the GCA accomplished over the past year?

HIGA: For four years, GCA has controlled its operational expenses and had a budget surplus for each year during the economic downturn. Membership in the GCA is very strong with only a slight decrease during the recession. In 2014, GCA members’ generosity donated over \$18,000 in GCA’s annual Give Back to the Community project. All proceeds went to the Institute for Human Services and Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders. GCA has 20 active committees

with a cumulative total of over 650 committee members. In 2014, GCA added the Board of Water Supply/ GCA Committee. In 2014, more than 2,000 GCA members and nonmembers participated in GCA activities: educational classes in safety, management, environmental, financial, blueprint reading, project scheduling, miscellaneous webinars, dinner meetings and payment workshops.

BIH: What are the GCA’s goals and challenges for 2015?

HIGA: For 2015, GCA encourages the appropriation and funding of much-needed repair and maintenance to our schools, roads, airports, harbors and government facilities. The GCA will work with government agencies, labor and other partners to address, research