Motion:

The Princeville/Hanalei Group of District 6 moves that Hawaii Area 17 use Internet Based Video Conferencing Technology as an option for at least one Area Committee Meeting during Panel 61. Area 17 would be responsible to provide the equipment at the host site. Districts choosing to participate via the Internet would be responsible to provide their own equipment. We suggest using borrowed equipment and/or equipment already owned by Area 17 to allow the Area Chair to participate.

Problem:

Currently Area 17 meets as a body for Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings several times a year by flying to the host District. This has led to a situation in which the largest single item in any Area budget is airfare. The cost to Districts and individual groups to send their representatives off island can be prohibitive forcing them to participate locally or forgo participation completely. The cost of Internet Based Video Conferencing currently is estimated (see cost estimate) to be less than one round trip ticket for inter-island travel.

Solution:

Internet Based Video Conferencing has advanced far enough that online group meetings are commonplace. We think that each island or district, as determined locally, could provide a location with the technology to connect to the meeting. This would include, but not be limited to a high-speed Internet connection capable of carrying video and a computer equipped with a web camera and microphone. It is not the intention of this proposal to determine how this equipment is provided. We think this equipment would initially be borrowed locally rather than purchased.

Cost Estimate:

- WebEx online meeting hosting – 1 month $49 (only one meeting for all connections)
- WiFi/Broadband Connection – borrowed
- Projector for host site – already owned by Area 17
- Computer with microphone/camera – borrowed
- Per District – WiFi/Computer combo borrowed

Conclusion:

While it seems obvious that "one alcoholic talking to another" is the best means of maintaining unity and carrying our message, it is clear that it isn't the only way. Our founders wrote a book for those they could not meet face-to-face. They also wrote pamphlets and spoke on the phone with those in distant places. This request for technological change is not designed to disconnect us from each other or AA as a whole, it is simply a different tool for maintaining our unity.

Panel 59 Elections Assembly – November 20-21, 2010