

## Proposed Videoconferencing Requirements and Setup

It has been asked of me to suggest a setup for videoconferencing Area Committee meetings over the internet with participants from the neighbor islands, and to estimate the cost of this additional functionality. Here are my suggestions with some options.

The key components of a videoconferencing setup are:

- **Videoconferencing Service** such as Skype, Dim Dim, WebEx. The service must be able to support multiple participants at the same time. The free version of Skype supports only one-to-one sessions, the paid (\$8.99 /mo) version supports up to five participants. Dim Dim provides multi-participant videoconferencing for free, and WebEx is a premium paid service (\$60.00 /mo). We may not be able to rely on free services, since the trend is for previously free services to start charging a subscription fee for multi-participant videoconferencing.
- **Internet Connection** this can be available internet at onsite or mobile internet service.
- **A computer with at least 1 video camera/microphone for each site.** On Oahu at the main meeting site I would recommend using multiple cameras with software such to select the person who is talking. A moderator would do the camera switching at the computer. The audio at the main site could be taken from the PA system.

Based on the above, the major expense is the hardware which for an additional laptop and cameras would be about \$900.00. Ideally, to be truly self-supporting in this respect, the Area 17 may want to consider purchasing a mobile internet device and subscribing to a mobile internet service, providing that finances allow this. As the Website Committee chair I have a computer and mobile internet access available at Area meetings, and I am willing to allow Area to use this equipment for videoconferencing while I hold my service position.

Hugh C.