

## HAWAII'S PATHWAYS TO DECARBONIZATION: SHAPING A NEW GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TRAJECTORY BY THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE

The urgency of our global climate challenge has prompted bold action across sectors, industries, and communities. As Hawai'i continues to grapple with the realities of climate change, the necessity for action has moved from theoretical to practical. The Hawai'i State Energy Office's Pathways to Decarbonization Report to the 2024 State Legislature, outlines not just the strategies for decarbonization, but also quantifies and qualifies the results of these efforts, providing a clear path forward.

The backdrop for Hawai'i's decarbonization efforts is defined by ambitious legislation, particularly Hawai'i Revised Statutes 225P-5, which mandates the state reach net negative greenhouse emissions as quickly as practical, but no later than 2045, with an interim target of 50% reduction by 2030 – just five short years away. These targets, align with the Paris Agreement and emphasize urgency but also opportunity. While Hawai'i's GHG emissions are modest compared to global scales, its leadership in climate policy speaks volumes, signaling that small states can serve as beacons of climate action, inspiring broader, systemic change. This transition must not only be reflected in the adoption of low-carbon technologies, but also it must also ensure our communities, can thrive in a transitioned economy.

While the findings of the study and report are not necessarily groundbreaking or revolutionary, they do reaffirm the knowledge we have known for some time, and the report is one of the first to

quantify the level of change needed to transition and decarbonize and discuss some of the tradeoffs associated with different approaches.

One of the critical elements of the report was the quantitative analysis, which serves as a cornerstone for validating Hawai'i's decarbonization strategies. The numbers tell a compelling story: demand or load reductions, primarily driven by aggressive energy efficiency measures, are shown to be the most cost-effective methods for lowering emissions. Energy efficiency might not capture the public imagination in the same way as renewable energy projects, but its impact is undeniable. The second scenario modeled in the report, which emphasizes demand reduction, presents clear financial savings when compared to the reference scenario. The message is clear: energy efficiency is not only environmentally responsible, but it is also economically advantageous.

Another critical element highlighted in the report is the importance of maintaining development timelines for renewable energy projects, the need to hold to and fast track these developments cannot be overstated. The analysis reaffirms that retiring Hawai'i's bottom-of-the-barrel and inefficient fossil fuel generators and accelerating renewable projects will be instrumental in achieving significant emissions reductions. The need to replace fossil fuel plants with renewable sources must remain a top priority across the islands. The

results from this analysis provide a roadmap for decision-makers: investment in zero-emission renewable energy projects and alternatives to oil must be pursued without delay.

In the transportation sector, the results emphasize the importance of electrification and reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The electrification of transportation—coupled with a shift in infrastructure to support energy-efficient alternatives such as electric vehicles (EVs) and public transportation—is essential to meet decarbonization goals. The analysis suggests that investments in public charging infrastructure, particularly accessible and reliable networks, are key to driving EV adoption. The reduction of solitary car commutes, which contribute significantly to traffic congestion and emissions, is another area where infrastructure redesign can yield substantial results, and could also improve the enjoyment of commutes—no one enjoys sitting in traffic, yet many have accepted it as a part of their routine.

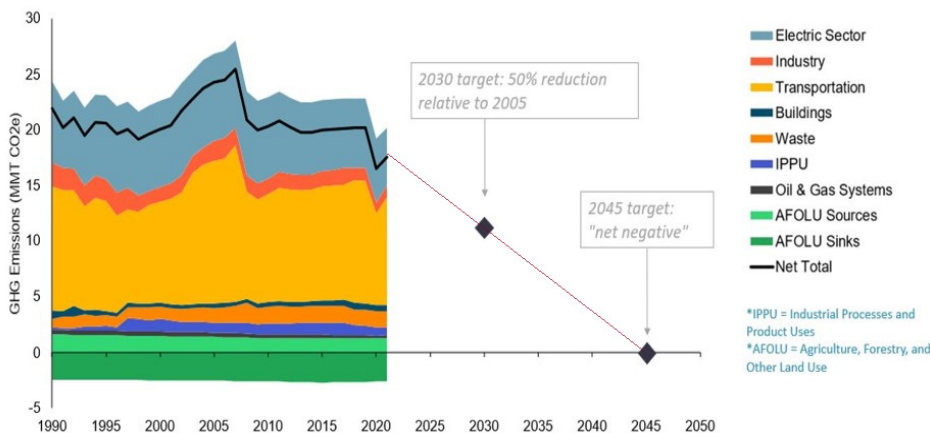
By focusing on actionable steps today, Hawai'i can ensure that the decarbonization pathway it follows not only meets the targets set for 2030 and 2045 but does so in a way that enhances the overall quality of life for its residents. From improved air quality to economic benefits from energy savings, the outcomes are designed to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Another key finding that must not be underestimated is the need to ensure the transition is inclusive.

Decarbonization in Hawai'i is not just a technical challenge but also a social one. The report includes a strong focus on community engagement, particularly with Indigenous and low-income communities. By bringing community voices to the table early and often, Hawai'i's decarbonization strategy is strengthened, ensuring that the benefits are shared equitably.

The input received from Indigenous and community leaders highlights the vital role these groups play in shaping policies that resonate with Hawai'i's cultural values. The values of environmental sustainability, community, and intergenerational equity are interwoven into the fabric of this report. Decarbonization is seen not just as a technical solution to a global problem but as an opportunity to re-align Hawai'i's economy and culture with sustainable, long-term practices that prioritize the well-being of future generations.

Finally, the report also delves into emissions



Source: EPA State Inventory Tool

**Hawaii Emissions from 1990 to 2021 have remained relatively flat since 1990, with two dramatic period of decline tied to closely economic recessions (2008 market crash and 2020 pandemic). In order to change the trajectory, dramatic shifts in both technology and behaviors will be required. Emissions must be decoupled from economic growth.**



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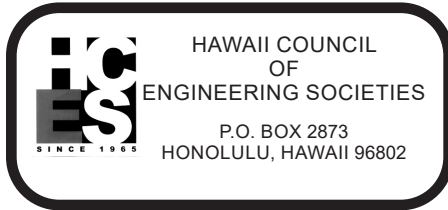
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**“HAWAII’S PATHWAYS TO DECARBONIZATION: SHAPING A NEW GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TRAJECTORY,” CONT’D FROM PAGE 1**

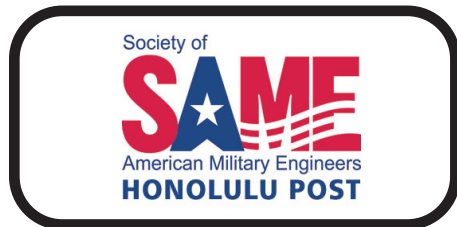
beyond Hawaii’s current GHG inventory, addressing critical gaps such as imported and consumption-based emissions, as well as lifecycle greenhouse gas analysis. The report emphasizes the importance of accounting for these emissions to ensure that local decarbonization efforts do not inadvertently shift the environmental burden elsewhere. By exploring bioenergy, alternative fuels, and carbon offsets, there is a critical need to comprehensively and holistically account for any inadvertent increase in emissions outside

of the state, while reducing emissions within Hawaii’s boundaries. This broader perspective is essential to preventing resource shuffling and fostering genuine reductions in the state’s overall carbon footprint

**TRACKING PROGRESS**

The recommendations in this report are not static; they are designed to be revisited and recalibrated over time. Further, it is critical that if we miss a goal, we don’t give up on the goal altogether. The ongoing tracking of emissions, project timelines, and economic impacts will allow for adjustments that reflect the evolving needs of the state. This iterative approach ensures that policies remain responsive to both technological advancements and community needs, fostering an environment where innovation can thrive alongside social equity.

Hawaii’s commitment to decarbonization is not merely an aspirational goal—it is a practical, results-driven strategy that balances the urgent need for climate action with the realities of economic and social equity. The scenarios presented show that the state’s targets are within reach, but only if collective action is taken today. The results make it clear: the sooner action is taken, the easier and more cost-effective the transition will be. Delays will only make the path steeper and more expensive. Therefore, policymakers, industry leaders, and communities across the islands must embrace the findings of this report and work together toward a common goal.



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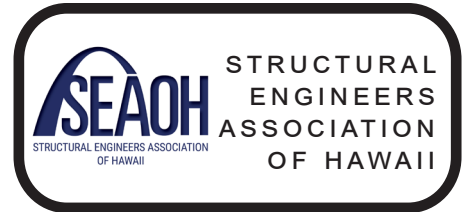
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**PREVIOUS BOD MEETING**

September 4, 2024

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

For all events see [seaoh.wildapricot.org](http://seaoh.wildapricot.org). Look for email flyers for registration of upcoming events.

- SEAOH Annual Convention – September 26 – 28 at Aulani.

**2024 SEAOH SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SEAOH is planning to hold the 12th annual scholarship golf tournament on November 1st at Kapolei Golf Club. Refer to the SEAOH website for an entry form.

**2024 SEAOH SCHOLARSHIP**

SEAOH will be awarding scholarships to students entering or currently attending an accredited college or technical school as full-time students. A request for applicants and the scholarship application form has been posted on the SEAOH website. The deadline to apply is September 20, 2024.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jared Kosaki, Brensen Joel Manding and Alex Nakasato have been approved as Student Members. Uriah McCall of Stantec has been approved as an Associate Member.

The following new membership applications were received: Nicholas Gima, Coffman Engineers, Inc. Student Member Matthew Ogata of Consulting Structural Hawaii, Inc., Associate Member

Please contact any SEAOH Board Member by October 1, 2024 to file comments regarding the new applicants.

**SEAOH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SEAOH is looking to fill spots for the 2025 Board of Directors. If interested in serving on this prestigious board, please contact Mike Greer [mgreer@wje.com](mailto:mgreer@wje.com)

**NEXT BOD MEETING**

Wednesday October 2, 2024. For information, contact SEAOH President Tim Goshi at [tgoshi@kaihawaii.com](mailto:tgoshi@kaihawaii.com).

**DEADLINE FOR  
WILIKI  
IS OCTOBER 15TH**



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**SEPTEMBER**

Mahalo to those who joined us at our section meeting on September 25, 2024, where Daniel Alexander and Germain Salim-Hagihara from the City and County of Honolulu gave an excellent presentation on the Oahu Vision Zero Plan.

Please visit our website for upcoming events and future registrations. [www.ite-hawaii.org](http://www.ite-hawaii.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- October 24, 2024: ITE Hawaii Section Annual Meeting. This year's annual meeting will be held at the Goldwings conference room at the International Trade Resource Center. The theme is ITE Game Night with a Family Feud style competition as well as lawn games. We hope to see you all there!

If you would like to be informed on future ITE events or are interested in becoming a member, email Joel Thomas at [joel@qrse.com](mailto:joel@qrse.com).



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We are excited to invite you to an inspiring event dedicated to celebrating and empowering women in the fields of engineering and construction. ASHRAE presents Women in Engineering & Construction happening Friday, October 25, 2024, 11:30am at LiveStock Tavern (49 N Hotel Street).

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Panel Discussions: Hear from leading women professionals who will share their journeys, challenges, and successes.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers, mentors, and industry leaders.
- Q&A Sessions: Have your questions answered by experts and gain valuable insights.

**WHY ATTEND?**

This event aims to highlight the strength and resilience of women in our dynamic industry. By sharing stories and experiences, we will collectively pave the way for future generations, promote diversity, and build a robust support network.

**HOW TO REGISTER:**

Please RSVP by October 24th at <https://ashraehawaiichapter.info/meetinginfo.php>. Spaces are limited, so be sure to secure

your spot early!

We look forward to your participation and to celebrating the incredible contributions of women in engineering and construction.



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Website: [www.acechawaii.org](http://www.acechawaii.org)

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**RECAP OF SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 9/04**

Thank you to everyone who attended our September General Membership Meeting, which doubled as our annual "Committee Rush" Pau Hana. There was an amazing turnout of about 60 members who came to join a committee! At the meeting, ACEC Hawaii (ACECH) announced a new committee dedicated to climate resiliency and established a framework for group-related committees. Read more about this framework in the newest message to members from ACECH President Shannon Holman, at <https://acechawaii.org/acech-september-2024-presidents-message/>.

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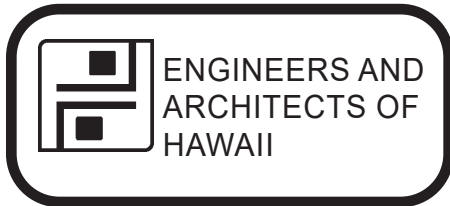
Left: ITE Hawaii Section "Game Night" Meeting on October 24, 2024 at the Goldwings conference room.  
Right: ASHRAE Hawaii Chapter's "Women in Engineering & Construction" on October 25, 2024 at LiveStock Tavern.

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 10/17**

Mark your calendars for October 17! ACECH is having its October General Membership Meeting at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Learn more about ACECH's newest Engineering Partnership initiative in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Engineering and Chamber of Commerce. Following this will be our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Cohort No.5's final capstone presentations. Stay tuned for details at <https://acechawaii.org/october-general-membership-meeting-2/>.

**ACEC 2024 FALL CONFERENCE FROM OCTOBER 20-23**

Registration is now open for ACEC's upcoming 2024 Fall Conference, which will be held in New Orleans from October 20 to 23. This is an amazing opportunity to attend informative sessions with keynote speakers, participate in timely education sessions, and network with fellow industry professionals. Register now at <https://conference.acec.org/>.



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**2024 KAILUA HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL CAREER FAIR**

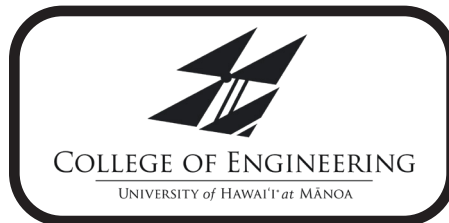
ASME is going to be participating at the Kailua High school career fair on Friday, November 1st from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

**NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled on October 25th, 2024. Please contact us if interested.

**REQUEST FOR SPEAKERS AND TOURS**

ASME welcomes guest speakers to present during our general meetings. Also, ASME would like to ask the membership if they can sponsor a tour of their business. If interested in presenting or offering tours, please contact ASME.



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The local section, AAACE Hawaii, was originally established in 1973. It achieved both the Platinum and Gold Award for seven consecutive years 2014-2023. Our local area continues to achieve CCP, CEP, CST and PSP certifications. For more information, please visit <http://web.aacei.org/certification> and our local website [www.aacehawaii.com](http://www.aacehawaii.com).



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Last meeting: September 5th, 2024

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<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/434284>

For a full list of upcoming events, [visit r6.ieee.org/hawaii/events](http://visit.r6.ieee.org/hawaii/events)

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Seminar Physiological Radar for Biomedical Monitoring and Smart Buildings

Using Predictive Engineering for Multiple Response Optimization of an Integrated Circuit

**IEEE JOB LISTINGS**

The following jobs are currently listed on the IEEE Job Board.

- Bishop & Company - Electrical Engineering  
For job listings, visit [r6.ieee.org/hawaii/jobs](http://r6.ieee.org/hawaii/jobs)  
Want to post a job? [r6.ieee.org/hawaii/post-a-job](http://r6.ieee.org/hawaii/post-a-job)

**UPCOMING CONFERENCE IN HAWAII**

- [2024 IEEE 36th International Symposium on Computer Architecture and High Performance Computing \(SBAC-PAD\)](#), 13 - 15 November 2024 | Hilo, Hawaii, USA | Event Format: In-person
- [2024 IEEE 17th International Conference on Nano/Molecular Medicine & Engineering \(NANOMED\)](#), 2 - 5 December 2024 | Honolulu, Hawaii, USA | Event Format: In-person

For more information about upcoming conferences, visit [link](#).

**USING PREDICTIVE ENGINEERING FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSE OPTIMIZATION OF AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**

On September 13th, the IEEE Hawaii Young Professionals hosted a virtual seminar titled "Using Predictive Engineering for Multiple

Response Optimization of an Integrated Circuit" with a presentation by Eric Maass, PhD. This event was a follow-on to his "Predictive Engineering" seminar in 2023. The event was attended by IEEE members and friends from across the nation. In this presentation, a case study applying predictive engineering for the optimization of 4 requirements for an integrated circuit (Integrated Alternator Regulator for automobiles) was shared. Brief summaries and overviews of other applications of predictive engineering to integrated circuit design stochastic optimization were also covered.

**SEMINAR PHYSIOLOGICAL RADAR FOR BIOMEDICAL MONITORING AND SMART BUILDINGS**

We're excited to announce that our seminar with the amazing Prof. Olga Boric-Lubecke on September 12th was a great success! Co-hosted by the IEEE Hawaii Women in Engineering (WIE), Power and Energy Systems Chapter (PES), and with support from the IEEE University of Hawaii at Manoa (MTT) Chapter, Prof. Olga delivered an inspiring presentation on the cutting-edge advancements in Doppler radar physiological monitoring and its exciting applications. A huge thank you to Prof. Olga

for sharing her innovative research and to everyone who joined us in making this event such a memorable one! Your participation truly made the difference! Looking forward to more impactful events ahead!

<http://www.hawaiispe.org/>

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**HSPE OCTOBER 2024 WILIKI ARTICLE**

Nominations for the Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year candidates are being accepted. Nomination forms will be available by contacting Kurt Kunimune or Pac Chung of HSPE. The awardees will be presented at the Engineer's Week Banquet in February of 2025. Please contact Kurt Kunimune or Pac Chung of HSPE at [kkunimune@bowersandkubota.com](mailto:kkunimune@bowersandkubota.com) or [pchung@bowersandkubota.com](mailto:pchung@bowersandkubota.com) for nomination forms or with any questions. Nominations will be due by Friday, December 27, 2024. Mahalo!

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**Eight members from ASCE YMF attend a presentation by WestPac Financial Partners**



WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.ASCEHAWAII.ORG/YFM.HTML](http://www.ascehawaii.org/yfm.html)

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**YMF GENERAL MEETING**

The next YMF general meetings will be in-person on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 6:00PM and Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6:00PM. Please check our website, social media channels, or weekly eblast for the latest information on our upcoming general meetings and events. If you are interested in attending and learning more about the various professional, social, and service opportunities available through YMF, please contact YMF at [yfm.hawaii@gmail.com](mailto:yfm.hawaii@gmail.com).

**BUILDING YOUR LIFE EVENTS FUND PRESENTATION**

By Ryan Iwata, Technical Presentation Chair  
On Tuesday, August 21, 2024, 8 YMF members attended a presentation organized by WestPac Financial Partners on planning for life events, with an emphasis on navigating the mortgage process. We extend our gratitude to Suzohne West from Security National for guiding us through the options for obtaining the best fitting mortgage loan. Additionally, we thank Roxy and Nick from WestPac for their

continued partnership and for providing these valuable learning opportunities to our group. We look forward to more successful events in the future.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

By Al J Leano and David Nemoto, Social Activities Chairs

On Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 28 YMF members came out to our YMF Social Activities Trivia Night at Coffman Engineers office! Thank you to Coffman Engineers for hosting us in their amazing office space. The members enjoyed plenty of food from Fort Street Cafe and a trivia filled night. Congrats to the winners, Wipeout! Thank you to everyone who came out on a Tuesday night and made the trivia night as fun as it was!

**ASCE YMF JOB SHADOW PROGRAM**

The Job Shadow Program is looking for students and industry professionals interested in becoming a mentee/mentor. Your interest and participation in this program will provide a valuable experience that will help guide students toward a successful path beyond graduation! If you have any questions and/or want to sign up\*, please email the Job Shadow Program directly at [ymfhawaii.jobshadow@gmail.com](mailto:ymfhawaii.jobshadow@gmail.com)

\*Note: Information collected will help the Job Shadow Program pair mentor(s) and mentee(s) up based on their experience and interest.

**2024 PE EXAM UPDATE**

The PE Exam is now computer-based, with appointments available year-round at Pearson VUE test centers. Information about how to register for the exam can be found on the YMF website: <https://ascehawaiiymf.org/pe-exam-information>



**ASCE YMF Social Activities Trivia Night at Coffman Engineers!**



### 2023-2024 ASCE Hawaii Section Officers

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 email: [etomishima@ascehawaii.org](mailto:etomishima@ascehawaii.org)  
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 YMF Pres.: Lance Lam, P.E.  
 email: [president.ascehawaiiyfm@gmail.com](mailto:president.ascehawaiiyfm@gmail.com)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Last held: September 10, 2024

Next meeting: October 1, 2024

### ASCE HAWAII SECTION DINNER MEETING

We will keep you informed via e-blasts and/or notices posted on our website at [ascehawaii.org](http://ascehawaii.org) with the next dinner meeting information and schedule.

Cost: (RSVP via Eventbrite)

### OUTSTANDING CIVIL ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT (OCEA) AWARDS

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hawaii Section requests the pleasure of your company at the 2024 Hawaii Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Awards Banquet on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at The Kahala Hotel and Resort. Please join us in recognizing the outstanding civil engineering accomplishments of Hawaii's design and construction professionals. Please be on the lookout for the ASCE email with the invitation form. For more information on the awards banquet, please contact Norman Leong at [nleong@ascehawaii.org](mailto:nleong@ascehawaii.org) or Dayna Nemoto-Shima at [dnemoto@ascehawaii.org](mailto:dnemoto@ascehawaii.org).

### COMMITTEE POSITIONS

ASCE Hawaii is looking for volunteers for various committee positions, including Advocacy Captain, Report Card Committee Members, and Water Resources Chairperson. If you are interested or have questions on any of these positions, please contact President Eric Tomishima, [etomishima@ascehawaii.org](mailto:etomishima@ascehawaii.org).

### MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already done so, please renew your ASCE membership, which includes 10 free PDHs. You can renew your membership at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).

### ASCE HAWAII SECTION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Please help us increase our scholarship endowment so that we can recognize deserving students. We continue to accept tax-deductible donations with the goal of increasing the annual scholarships. Make your check payable to 'ASCE Hawaii Section' and include the note 'Walter Lum Scholarship Fund' and mail to: ASCE Hawaii Section, P.O. Box 917, Honolulu, HI 96808-0917. If you have

any questions, please contact Steven Doo at [sdoo@ascehawaii.org](mailto:sdoo@ascehawaii.org).

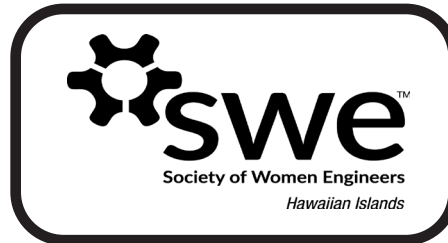
### ASCE JOB LISTINGS

The following job listings are currently posted on the ASCE Hawaii Section website:

- County of Hawaii, Department of Environmental Management Wastewater Division (Civil Engineer I-IV)
- Oceanit (Civil Designer or Senior Civil Designer)
- EnviroServices (Senior Project Manager and Project Manager)

For further information, please visit

<http://www.ascehawaii.org/job-listings.html>



HOME PAGE: <http://hi.swe.org>

EMAIL: [hawaii@swe.org](mailto:hawaii@swe.org)

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### 2023-2024 SWE Hawaiian Islands (SWE-HI) Section Officers

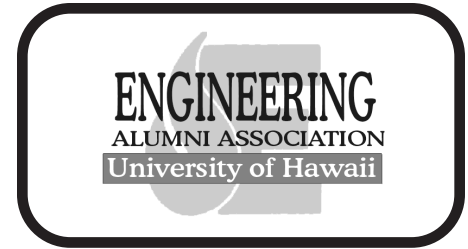
President: Lynette Shiroma  
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 Treasurer: Mary Despe  
 Secretary: Erin Yamaguchi

The mission of the Society of Women Engineers is to empower women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering and technology as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity and inclusion.



### 2024-2025 OFFICERS

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[pwo-representative@hwea.org](mailto:pwo-representative@hwea.org)  
 PWO Representative: Jeff Kafka  
[pwo-representative@hwea.org](mailto:pwo-representative@hwea.org)  
 National Delegate: Audrey Haerle  
[national-director@hwea.org](mailto:national-director@hwea.org)



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<p><b>total POWER SOLUTION</b> HAWTHORNE CAT Hawthorne Power Systems 94-025 Farrington Hwy. Waipahu, Hawaii 96797 808/676-0205</p>	<p><b>HCD</b> ROCK SOLID SINCE 1908 www.hcdhawaii.com sales@hcdhawaii.com</p>	<p><b>HDR</b> Honolulu 808.697.6200 Wailuku 808.359.2518 Hilo 808.202.6528 hdrinc.com</p>	<p><b>HIDA, OKAMOTO &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.</b> CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEERS PACIFIC GUARDIAN TOWER 1440 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 1120 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 PHONE: (808) 942-0066 FAX: (808) 947-7546</p>
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