

wiki o hawaii

ENGINEER
OF HAWAII

VOL. 61 NO. 11

SERVING 2000 ENGINEERS

MAY 2026

UH ENGINEERING SPOTLIGHTS STUDENT-DRIVEN INNOVATION, CELEBRATES DONOR SUPPORT



UH President Wendy Hensel, UH Mānoa Interim Provost Vassilis Syrmos, UH Mānoa College of Engineering Dean Brennon Morioka and Gov. Josh Green with the Rainbow Warrior Racing EV Formula team.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Engineering hosted its 26th annual banquet, bringing together approximately 1,000 students, faculty, alumni, industry leaders and supporters to celebrate the innovation and impact the college has on the state of Hawai'i.

Held on April 17 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, the event began with a student project expo, where dozens of teams presented hands-on work across aerospace, robotics, sustainability and artificial intelligence. Projects included bioinspired soft robotics systems, student-built satellites, autonomous drones and renewable energy solutions aligned with campus sustainability goals, offering attendees a firsthand look at applied learning with real-world relevance.



UH President Wendy Hensel

Following welcome remarks by Dean Brennon Morioka, UH President Wendy Hensel and Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green, as well as dinner service, the formal program featured an awards ceremony recognizing contributions to the engineering community. Dayna Nemoto-Shima (Pacific Geotechnical Engineers, Inc.) and Brandon Shima (UH) received the Outstanding Service Award, Greg Hiyakumoto (R.M. Towill Corporation) was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Bharath Kadaba (Lu Labs) earned the Dean's Award of Excellence.

CONNECTING TALENT WITH OPPORTUNITY

"The future of engineering in Hawai'i depends on how well we connect talent with opportunity, and those relationships happen because of the people who attended our annual banquet," College of Engineering Dean Brennon Morioka said. "Our industry partners and donors are the heart and soul of our local economy and help create pathways for students to lead, to solve and to stay and make a difference right here at home."

The formal program also highlighted the featured student project, the unexploded ordnance (UXO) project. The multidisciplinary effort applies advanced sensing technologies and robotics to safely detect unexploded ordnance in Hawai'i, addressing long-standing environmental and public safety challenges.



The 2026 banquet awardees with Dean Brennon Morioka and Tristan Aldeguer from Hensel Phelps

"I got the opportunity to go to the 21 years of peace celebration at Mākua Valley and it really was an amazing opportunity to actually get to talk to the community and we got to talk to students too," said UXO student project leader Kamalani Goo. "It was really instilled in me that we need to be having these conversations and building these relationships because no one truly understands the issues as well as the community that is experiencing them."



Andrew Alling, Brianna Tabayoyong and Kamalani Goo presenting their UXO project

The event concluded with a live auction and more networking, celebrating the shared commitment to advancing engineering in Hawai'i. The college extended its mahalo to donors and Hawai'i's engineering industry for their continued support, including mentorship, internships and career development opportunities that help shape student success. All net proceeds from the annual banquet goes directly to supporting the many student projects showcased at the event.



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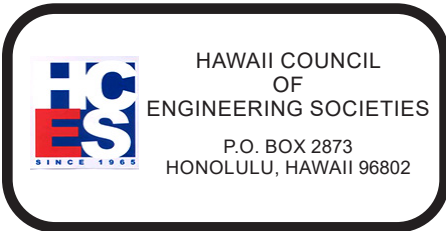
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DEADLINE FOR WILIKI IS MAY 15TH



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One recent national event and another Hawaii local event are having noticeable construction industry cost impacts.

United States initiated major military operation against Iran on February 28th and began its naval blockade of ports in the Strait of Hormuz on April 13th. AAA's tracking of average regular unleaded gas prices in Hawaii reflects an increase from \$4.45 to \$5.65 per gallon in that time span, or about a 27% jump. Such fuel price jump likely would have garnered more industry reactions and adjustments had we not experienced, or been conditioned, to similar fuel price volatilities emerging from the pandemic few years ago. Gas prices peaked at an even higher \$5.81 in early July 2022.



Gas price display at an Iwilei gas station in July 2025, or nine months ago.

The recent intermittent Kona Low Storms spanning from March 10th through April 8th have caused widespread private and public property damage across the Hawaiian Islands. The Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was made on April 8th and hence now authorized federal financial aid to help Hawaii recover from damages assessed as topping more than a billion dollars. The ongoing emergency and recovery construction efforts foreseeably will continue to have lingering contractor availability and cost impacts for the months ahead.

A reminder to the section membership is that the annual section board officer nomination and election is approaching. Get ready to volunteer and help guide the section in its upcoming year. Also announcing that the Hawaii Section website is being migrated to a new site.



A reminder of the March 2026 Kona Low Storms.

The new website is hosted through the AACE International and can now be visited: <https://communities.aacei.org/aacehawaiisection>.

AACE International was founded in 1956. The local section, AACE Hawaii, was originally established in 1973. 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.



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- | | |
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APRIL ITE HAWAII EVENT

Mahalo to those who attended our technical tour of the H3 Tunnels facilities! It was an eye-opening experience to see inside of the tunnels which so many of us have traveled through and taken for granted. The tour group was able to see facilities such as the exhaust and supply fans, as well as cross passes, electrical, and communications rooms. Although we were all exhausted from all of the walking, the opportunity to see the H3 tunnel infrastructure was well worth the sore feet.

ITE WESTERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Hotel and meeting registration for the ITE Western District Annual Meeting (June 28 – July 1) in Bellevue, Washington is open and more information can be found on the WesternITE website.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or are interested in becoming a member, please send an email to: ite.hawaii.section@gmail.com.

INTERESTED IN PLACING AN AD IN THE WILIKI? EMAIL US!



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FRANCIS RHODES MONTGOMERY DESIGN COMPETITION

ASME Hawaii is hosting the UH Manoa mechanical engineering students design competition on Friday May 8th, 2026 from noon. Feel free to contact us if you want to know more about this event.

ASME-HAWAII NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled via Microsoft Teams for Friday May 29th, 2026 from 5:30 PM. Please contact us if you are interested in participating.



PO BOX 3348, HONOLULU, HI 96801
 Web Page URL <http://www.seaoh.org>

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PREVIOUS BOD MEETING

April 9, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

ASCE/SEAOH Joint Event – May 29, 2026 at The Edge

SEAOH 2026 Annual Convention – September 25-26, 2026, Aulani

MEMBERSHIP

The following new membership applications

were accepted:

Derek Aegerter, Associate – Martin, Chock & Corden Inc.

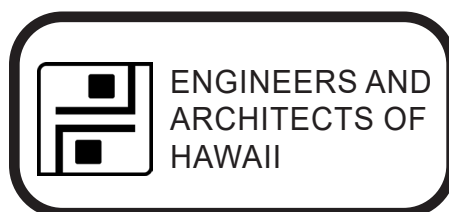
Mohammed Alam, Associate – Department of Civil, Environmental & Construction Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SEAOH members recently participated in career nights at Moanalua Elementary, Mililani Middle, and Hookele Elementary, helping spread the word about structural engineering. Students enjoyed building LEGO structures and testing them on a shake table. Thank you to all who volunteered to inspire the next generation of engineers. If you would like to participate in future events, please email info@seaoh.org.

NEXT BOD MEETING

May 5, 2026. For information, contact SEAOH President Eric Tomishima at eric@iestructural.com.



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FRIDAY MAY 1ST

Speaker: Alex Silvert – Federal Criminal Law Consultant – Author “The Mailbox Conspiracy” see eaH YouTube Channel

Topic: “Restoring Public Trust”

Alex will start with a discussion of the verdict in the Kaneshiro/Mitsunaga trial. That case centers around the federal bribery statute and its limitations. That will lead directly into a discussion of the facts and circumstances currently surrounding the alleged taking of \$35,000 in a paper bag by an unknown but influential legislator in 2022. His discussion will touch on the petition **Restore Public Trust** submitted by Hawaii's citizens which is currently pending action before the Legislature to instigate an investigative committee tied to Hawaii's Attorney General's investigation and the Lt Governor Sylvia Luke's decision to withdraw her candidacy for a second term.

FRIDAY MAY 15TH

Speaker: Matt Gravette – RAB Lighting -Regional Manager

Topic: Commercial and Residential Lighting and Controls

RAB Lighting provides high quality, affordable, well designed and energy efficient LED lighting and controls. RAB also provides free lighting design services to anyone who needs assistance. Founded in 1946, RAB has a vibrantly growing infrastructure of manufacturing facilities and engineering capabilities that ensure great product design and quality.

Matt will present RAB Lighting's products and design services for Hawaii.



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HCESORG@GMAIL.COM





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

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secretary.ascehawaiiymf@gmail.com
- Rebecca Pitts, Past-President
pastpresident.ascehawaiiymf@gmail.com

YMF GENERAL MEETING

The next YMF general meeting will be in-person on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 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.

MOANALUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BRIDGE NIGHT BY IAN ENDRINA AND JEFFREY DING, OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

On March 25th, seven ASCE YMF members volunteered for the Moanalua Elementary School Bridge Night event! While the students stressed out about their bridges, they came to our tables to create their own catapults and paper skyscrapers! It was super fun to see the students be so passionate about shooting their catapults and making sure their towers didn't topple over. Next year the whole school might be invited to the event so we might need everybody's help!



PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL NETWORKING EVENT BY IAN ENDRINA AND JEFFREY DING, OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

On April 1st, four ASCE YMF members were among 15 engineers who participated in a panel at the Pearl City Highschool Networking Event, representing a range of engineering disciplines and answering questions from junior and senior students preparing to transition to college. The event concluded with a networking session, providing students the opportunity for more one-on-one conversations and deeper discussions. It was a great opportunity for the students to get

college/career advice from professionals, and also for professionals to learn about and interact with the next generation of engineers.



YMF GOLF POLO FUNDRAISER

We're excited to announce a final pre-order release of this year's YMF golf polo!

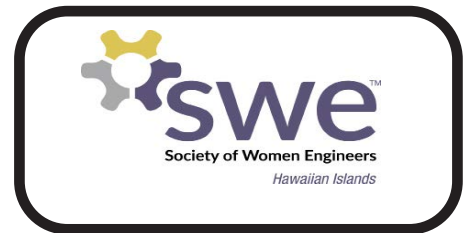
The cost of our limited edition ASCE YMF Hawai'i Five Birdies golf polo is \$65 for ASCE Paying Members and \$75 for Non-paying Members. Five Birdies polos are normally sold for \$100 per polo, so even \$75 is already 25% off! Please contact us at yfm.hawaii@gmail.com if you are interested. Pre-Order ends on Wednesday May 6, 2026 and Payments are due by Friday May 8, 2026.

Shirt orders may be shipped or picked up at select locations for your convenience. Shipping to the mainland is also available for those outside of Hawaii.



MARCH AND APRIL GENERAL MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who came out to our March 4, 2026 meeting at The Social Honolulu and the April 1, 2026 General Meeting at Coffman Engineer's Office. We had a great turnout with over 30 attendees at both meetings. Thank you to all our members for attending!



HOME PAGE: <http://hi.swe.org>
EMAIL: hawaii@swe.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/swe.hawaiianislands

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- Vice President: Vacant
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- 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.



April General Meeting



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 YMF Pres.: John Kim P.E.
email: president.ascehawaiiymf@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Last held: April 7, 2026

Next meeting: May 11, 2026

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

ASCE Hawaii is looking for volunteers for various committee positions, including Local Legislative Affairs Committee Members, Advocacy Captain, Infrastructure Report Card Committee Members, and Water Resources Chairperson. If you are interested or have questions on any of these positions, please contact President Steven Doo, president. ascehawaii@gmail.com.

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.

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 Amanda Waki at presidentelect.ascehawaii@gmail.com.

ASCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date for this year's tournament, currently planned to be on Friday, August 7, 2026 at Pearl at Kalauao

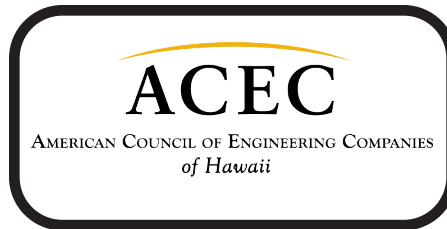
ASCE JOB LISTINGS

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

- **Board of Water Supply** (Chief of Water System Operations, Water Quality Administrator [Program Administrator], Program Administrator, Assistant Program Administrator, and Assistant Field Operations Manager)
- **Gentry Homes** (Civil Engineer II)
- **Schnabel Engineering** (Mid-Level Project Engineer)

For further information, please visit

<http://www.ascehawaii.org/jobs/>



ACEC Hawaii

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MEMBER INPUT SURVEY

Aloha ACECH Members -

We're meeting with Hawai'i's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. and we would like to bring forward issues that are directly impacting our work here at home.

Share your input on federal requirements, funding, and project delivery through this short survey.

Please submit by COB TODAY!
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfX4Zs92YtLoCsyj2sW2CGFZAT-QT3M5hr32TVC-y0hmG7NIQ/viewform>

Mahalo for supporting our community!

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

The 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards has been postponed due to last Friday's Flood Watch and High Wind Advisory, which was when the event was to take place. The Silent Auction as well as the Annual Meeting has been suspended until another date is secured.

Mahalo for your understanding and please stay tuned for updates via email, website, and social media!

MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 5/19

Join ACEC Hawai'i for a special May General Membership Meeting featuring the City & County of Honolulu's Wastewater Engineering & Construction (WEC) team and industry partners, reflecting on more than five years of Collaborative Project Delivery (CPD).

As CPD continues to evolve, this interactive "talk story" session will highlight real project experiences and lessons learned from both CPD and non-CPD projects. Panelists will share insights on scope definition, planning-level effort, risk alignment, and how collaboration adapts to changing project needs and expectations.

Don't miss this discussion as we explore shared challenges and lessons learned to help inform future refinements to CPD.

When: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Check-in: 9:30 A.M.

Panel Discussion: 10:30 A.M.

Lunch: 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Panel Discussion: 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Location: Japanese Cultural Center
 2454 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96826

Register by Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at <https://acechawaii.org/acech-may-general-membership-meeting/>

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON 6/15

Mark your calendar for the ACEC Hawai'i June General Membership Meeting on June 12 at Po'ipū Golf Course.

Hear from Meredith Clement of Kennedy Jenks as she shares insights on public infrastructure funding sources and opportunities shaping projects across the state.

Additional details and registration will be announced soon.

MAHALO TO EVERYONE THAT JOINED US FOR APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & GOLF EVENT ON MAUI!



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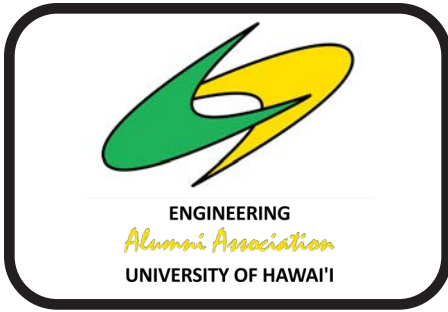
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UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://linktr.ee/eaauh>

- **1st event:** EAAUH Golf Tournament, 6/25.
- **2nd Event:** EAAUH Summer Picnic, 6/27.



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ENGINEERING SOCIETIES' OUTREACH CALENDAR

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST EVENTS IN THE ENGINEERING COMMUNITY!
 EXPLORE UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR BELOW.

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 eaH Meeting #1	2
3	4	5 SEAOH BOD Meeting	6	7	8 Francis Rhode Montgomery Design Competition	9
10	11 ASCE HI ExCom Meeting	12	13	14	15 eaH Meeting #2	16
17	18	19 ACECH May General Membership Meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 ASME-HI General Membership Meeting ASCE/SEAOH Joint Event	30
31						

HAWAII COUNCIL OF
ENGINEERING SOCIETIES
P.O. BOX 2873
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96802

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