

January 15, 2026

MEMO TO: David Raatz, Director of Council Services

F R O M: Keone Hurdle, Legislative Analyst *KH*
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney *CNN*
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst *JPP*
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary *JY*

SUBJECT: **HAWAI'I CONGRESS OF PLANNING OFFICIALS CONFERENCE,
AUGUST 27-29, 2025** (PAF 25-010(10))

Along with Senior Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier, we attended the Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials Conference in Honolulu on August 27-29, 2025. This report supplements her attached report dated September 2, 2025.

The HCPO Conference was co-hosted by the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the American Planning Association's Hawai'i Chapter.

The conference's first day featured mobile tours. Day two featured the keynote speech, the APA-HI Awards, and breakout sessions. On the conference's third and final day, State and county planning directors or their representatives held a panel discussion, which was followed by a final round of breakout sessions. The agenda is attached.

Presentations from the breakout sessions can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCPO2025>.

The remainder of this report highlights the mobile tours and breakout sessions we attended, identified by their titles, in chronological order.

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve Walking Tour and Fishpond Boat Tour

The tour offered a hands-on exploration of Kāne'ohe Bay's unique estuarine and cultural landscapes, beginning at He'eia Pier and including an ocean tour around Coconut Island (Moku o Lo'e) and visits to the two He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve sites.

Participants observed the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology’s Mālama ‘Āina Plan for Moku o Lo‘e, the first planning document in the State to guide island-scale adaptation to sea-level rise through a Native Hawaiian stewardship framework. The plan integrates traditional indigenous knowledge with contemporary science to inform long-term environmental management and resilience strategies.

The Mālama ‘Āina Plan addresses sea-level rise, providing a model for linking shoreline, wetland, and estuarine management with broader ecological and cultural objectives. Attendees saw how strategies are implemented to support ecosystem restoration, cultural preservation, and research initiatives.

The Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology’s collaboration with local kūpuna and community members showed resilience planning is most effective when it combines scientific guidance with local knowledge and cultural values, ensuring environmental and community priorities are met.

Is Waikiki Washing Away? Coastal Hazards and Adaptation Walking Tour

A panel presented on climate-related hazards and resilience-building efforts, including Adapt Waikiki 2050—a project to promote beach-infrastructure adaptation.

Attendees were shuttled to Waikiki Aquarium and then walked the length of the Waikiki coastline on a tour led by Dolan Eversole, Waikiki Beach Management Coordinator with the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program. Mr. Eversole highlighted areas of coastal erosion, sand replenishment, engineering approaches to retain valuable beach resources, effects of specific groin and seawall installations, and the rapidity of change in the built environment. The talk provided insights into challenges and the solutions that can be developed when parties are incentivized and work collaboratively.

Punalu‘u Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation Project

Punalu‘u Stream was altered in the 1900s to cultivate sugar cane. The channelization led to annual flooding in parts of lower Punalu‘u Valley, damaging properties, infrastructure, and crops.

Kamehameha Schools began work on the Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project with several objectives:

- stream restoration,
- flood mitigation,
- cultural and natural resource protection,
- ecological restoration, and
- eco-cultural education.

The project cost is about \$21 million. A summary of the project details is attached.

Kaleo Manuel, Director of Water Resources for Kamehameha Schools, gave a walking tour around Punalu'u Stream. Participants were provided an opportunity to fertilize 'ulu trees with fish bone meal and fish for invasive species in the Punalu'u Stream.

Public-Private Partnerships in Hawai'i

Public-private partnerships in Hawai'i are being used to deliver complex projects like student housing for the University of Hawai'i and the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District, an integrated stadium-district model.

The partnerships combine private financing and long-term operations with fixed public contributions, offering innovation and lifecycle cost control. Lessons show that public-private partnerships reduce some risks but add political, financial, and governance challenges. Success depends on clear risk allocation, upfront planning, and ongoing community engagement.

The Hawai'i Water Plan Framework Update: Supporting the Integration of Water and Land Use Planning

The panel—including representatives from the State Land Use Commission, Commission on Water Resource Management, and county

planning and water officials—discussed the need for an integrated approach to water and land use planning. Key comments included the following.

According to CWRM, aquifers' sustainable yields should be integrated into community plans. The agency hopes that, with the Water Use Plan's update, recommendations will become requirements. CWRM would like to include climate-change projections in the update and to elevate the Hawai'i Water Use Plan's importance.

On Hawai'i, County water is needed to proceed with development. Department of Water Supply comments are essential to a project and are a key factor in recommendations. The County does not have an enforcement mechanism to constrain water use, which is disincentivized by higher charges.

Maui County must confront the question of how to manage growth in a meaningful way in each community plan. Old systems will not serve the County in the future. A carrying-capacity model of planning is needed instead of a goal of housing a fixed number of people. The Charter requires the Department of Water Supply to implement the General Plan, not the other way around.

For projects before the State LUC, if water is presented as not being available, the LUC has a problem moving forward with the project. The LUC relies on the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Commission on Water Resource Management for help.

Navigating Rising Tides: Tools and Innovations to Address Sea Level Rise

Representatives from the State Department of Transportation, University of Hawai'i, and ICF International spoke about sea-level rise across Hawai'i and its impacts on our shorelines, infrastructure, and property. The panel showcased tools to offer attendees a way to strategize and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including:

- The Coastal Viewer from UH Mānoa's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology.
- The State Department of Transportation's "digital twin modeling" for harbor infrastructure assessments.

- The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development's Sea Level Rise Viewer.

Hawai‘i’s Housing Market and the Effects of New Supply

This session showcased a study on housing mobility that examined a family's move to condominiums, creating a vacancy chain that impacted vulnerable populations. The study tracked how household movement freed up housing in some cases and contributed to overall availability.

Wildfire and the Built Environment: A Regulatory and Programmatic Approach to Resiliency

Kaua‘i County Council Bill 2961 (2025), signed into law last summer, established a Wildland Urban Interface for plantation camps. Elizabeth Pickett, executive director of Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization, and Kaua‘i County Planning Director Ka‘āina Hull noted that Kaua‘i’s plantation camps were identified to be in wildfire-prone areas. This status prompted the integration of safety standards directly into zoning and permitting for plantation-camp districts.

Creating a Local Hawai‘i Housing Market: Fact or Fiction

This session featured a discussion among three speakers: Alana Kobayashi Pakkala from Kobayashi Group, Arjuna Heim from Hawai‘i Appleseed, and Josh Wisch from Holomua Collective.

The panel summarized a program in Vail, Colorado, that allows a buyer to receive downpayment assistance from the government in exchange for deed restrictions on the property.

The Hawai‘i Housing and Finance Development Corporation is considering altering buyback restrictions so that a buyer may be allowed to sell a unit based on an indexed amount for the life of the unit. A 4 percent compounded rate would promote perpetual affordability.

Maximum floor-area ratios promote luxury housing, while higher density is needed for kama‘aina housing.

Panelists discussed the Native Hawaiian diaspora. People who want to return home should be prioritized. Community land trusts can create their own rules. Could a State law require that buyers stay for 10 years or, alternatively, stay for five years and sign an agreement that they can only sell to local residents?

Resilient by Nature: Revitalizing our Urban and Community Forests

This session focused on an Urban Forest Management Plan, which is needed in Honolulu, where urban-forest cover dropped by 5 percent from 2010 to 2013. With only 8 percent tree-canopy cover in some areas compared to the national average of 20 percent, urban-greening initiatives are critical.

Human actions threaten urban trees, which should be prioritized in development. The actual tree count is only 100,000, not the previously estimated 250,000, highlighting the need for better tracking.

Community engagement is vital for tree-planting efforts, but regulations complicate the inclusion of desired fruit trees. Additionally, a shortage of qualified personnel hampers tree maintenance, while integrating native species can enhance cultural value.

Meaningful Community Engagement

This session featured the Hawai‘i Bicycling League, Peter Koonce Consulting, the City and County of Honolulu’s Complete Streets program, and SSFM International. Panelists discussed how meaningful community engagement can shape resilient outcomes, particularly in projects aimed at improving conditions for vulnerable road users. Attendees learned about factors that make engagement effective and obstacles such as power imbalances, equity challenges, and cultural competency.

Panelists emphasized the importance of involving diverse community members early in the planning process, including underserved populations and those most affected by transportation projects. Strategies included:

- partnering with community organizations,
- hosting accessible outreach opportunities, and
- using a variety of engagement tools to ensure broad participation.

By combining advocacy groups, engineers, planners, and local government with other community voices, complete streets initiatives in Honolulu have implemented protected bike lanes, safer pedestrian crossings, and other improvements.

Unlocking Growth: Land-Secured and Tax Increment Financing Strategies for Hawai‘i’s Economic Development

The panel discussed financing alternatives for development, including tax increment financing under Sections 46-101 through 46-106, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. Representatives from Stifel Public Financing provided examples of transit-oriented development projects they have worked on. The St. Louis Ballpark Village project used higher-density housing to revitalize Downtown, which had been deteriorating. The project was coordinated with the State, City, St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, and a private developer.

The representatives said they work on two types of development-secured bonds:

- land-secured districts, such as community facilities districts, known as CFDs; and
- tax-increment districts.

They touched upon two CFDs in Hawai‘i: Kukui‘ula in Kaua‘i County and Kaloko Heights in Hawai‘i County.

Designing a Diversified Economy: Aligning Infrastructure, Innovation, and Workforce for Hawai‘i’s Resilience

Dane Wicker, Deputy Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, said that Hawai‘i’s economy is dependent on tourism and construction,

with a need for diversification. State mandates for local procurement and affordable housing create competition for resources.

Legislation supports the Food and Product Innovation Network, and a new manufacturing facility aims to meet local aerospace needs. The State is developing a Renewable Portfolio Standard strategy and exploring geothermal energy sites to reduce development risks. Housing development lags behind goals, leading to plans for better allocation alongside energy and agricultural land use. Energy discussions often emphasize the impacts of land use, particularly between biofuels and solar energy.

Lessons in Plan-gineering

Speakers from planning and engineering backgrounds shared real-world examples from O‘ahu, where integrated “plan-gineering” teams have addressed environmental, infrastructure, and community needs. Early coordination avoids silos and conflicting agency mandates.

When planners, engineers, and water-resource managers jointly frame a project’s goals, including flood mitigation, water quality, green infrastructure, and long-term resilience, outcomes are more likely to balance ecological, social, and technical demands. This outcome aligns with broader professional literature advocating for close planner-engineer alliances in sustainable water management.

Barriers such as lack of funding, limited interdepartmental coordination, and absence of clear responsibility can slow or derail plans even when technically sound. Overcoming them requires political will, flexible regulatory frameworks, and commitment to cross-sector cooperation.

Climate Planning for a Rapidly Changing World

Representatives from Kaua‘i County’s Department of Planning and Raimi + Associates presented on the Kaua‘i Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The plan was drafted in response to climate change and impacts to ecosystems, infrastructure, people, and neighborhoods.

Discussion focused on how the Department prepared the plan, including community-engagement strategies and equity considerations. The plan includes

79 strategies, including plan development, capital-improvement programs, asset alterations, zoning and building Code updates, County leadership initiatives, and community outreach.

Learning from Iwilei: Toward a Collaborative Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Framework

A collaborative TOD framework for O‘ahu rail stations revealed \$4.9 billion in infrastructure needs. A proactive planning approach will be tested in Iwilei, with an emphasis on pre-zoning to reduce developer costs. Kamehameha Schools plans 4,500 housing units and 150,000 square feet of retail space in nearby Kapālama.

Eight TOD plans aim to boost housing from 6,000 to over 27,000 units, with interim permits for projects. An infrastructure needs assessment highlighted deficits, and the Iwilei Infrastructure Master Plan will address regional drainage upgrades. In 2023, \$25 million was allocated for electrical improvements, with \$10 million for future design work. Recent legislation expanded the TOD program's powers.

Pili Nā Moku: Aligning Holistic Environmental Stewardship, Community Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction

The University of Hawai‘i’s Sea Grant College Program was awarded \$68.5 million from the 2024 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, establishing Pili Nā Moku. The project focuses on five moku that lack historic climate-adaptation investments and have potential to promote Native Hawaiian stewardship and cultural practices.

The five moku are in West Kaua‘i, in Wai‘anae, on Molokai, in Central Maui, and in Kohala. The Central Maui project involves the Mā‘alaea Regional Resilience Laboratory. Activities include:

- land acquisition,
- community outreach,
- adaptation-pathway planning,

- Kanaio Stream restoration, and
- dune restoration.

Psychology of Choice

The psychology of choice influences planning decisions, leading to resistance to affordable housing despite urgent needs. A learning organization model emphasizes the need for continuous research and collaboration.

Immediate action is needed for greenhouse-gas mitigation, stressing rational decision-making over emotional responses. Default decision-making often favors safe, easy options, leading to irrational choices.

Successful decision-making requires aligning motivation, ability, and triggers. Hawaiian cultural principles challenge conventional approaches, and conflicts often arise from differing priorities. Building community relationships that respect local traditions is crucial for developing effective planning solutions.

Data-Driven Resilience: Transforming Hawai‘i’s Travel and Transportation

Speakers from the O‘ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, the University of Hawai‘i, and DBEDT highlighted:

- practical applications of data, including mobile-device data,
- transit ridership surveys, and
- travel-behavior metrics.

Presenters emphasized how data dashboards, performance metrics, and regional travel studies can inform multimodal-transportation investments, improve network connectivity, and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

What Planners and Their Clients Need to Know Now: 2025 Law Update

Three attorneys presented on various legal issues on land use and zoning:

- Brad Saito, Deputy Corporation Counsel, City and County of Honolulu.
- Cal Chipchase, Partner, Cades Schutte LLP.
- David Callies, Professor Emeritus, William S. Richardson School of Law.

Hawai‘i’s Updated Energy Strategy: Planning for Hawai‘i’s Energy Future

The State Energy Office aims to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Renewable targets are set at 40 percent by 2030, 70 percent by 2040, and 100 percent by 2045.

Hawai‘i has the highest electricity rates and carbon intensities in the United States. O‘ahu’s energy demand is projected to grow with increased transportation electrification.

We appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference. If you have questions, please let us know.

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Attachments

cc: OCS Supervisors
Senior Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier

September 2, 2025

MEMO TO: David M. Raatz, Jr., Director of Council Services

F R O M: Yvette Bouthillier, Senior *yo*
Committee Secretary

SUBJECT: **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: HAWAII CONGRESS OF PLANNING OFFICIALS CONFERENCE, AUGUST 27-29, 2025** (PAF 25-010(10))

I attended The Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials Conference that was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikīkī Beach Resort, Honolulu, Hawai'i from August 27 through 29, 2025.

Summarized below are the following sessions I attended.

August 27, 2025

Mobile Workshops

Is Waikīkī Washing Away? Coastal Hazards Adaptation Walking Tour

Before the beach walk-and-talk session, the panelists presented "Adapt Waikīkī 2050," a project that collaborates with City agencies and community partners to promote the adaptation of both existing and new infrastructure and development for mid-century and beyond, along with other related initiatives.

At the conclusion of the beach walk-and-talk tour, I discovered that the Waikīkī shoreline is artificial. The beach has been created by importing sand and constructing seawalls and other structures to manage erosion and water drainage. I experienced firsthand the coastal conditions and engineering that contribute to the dynamic and ever-changing nature of the Waikīkī coastline. A better understanding of resilience planning requires collaboration with stakeholders, government jurisdictions, and the community to achieve the desired outcomes for coastal communities.

August 28, 2025

Breakout A

Civic Infrastructure

Education as Transportation Infrastructure: Onramps for Sustained Youth Participation in Planning

The speakers discussed about the p4cHI process, which stands for Philosophy for Children. This approach involves gathering students' thoughts, ideas, and feelings, and integrating them into the inquiry process to enhance the learning experience. By incorporating input from children, the process fosters engagement and support for regional transportation planning process.

Breakout B

Natural and Built Environment

Beyond Recreation: Greenways as Emergency and Climate Resilience Tools

The panelists spoke about the benefits of greenways in Hawai'i, highlighting several key points:

- Multifunctional infrastructure: Greenways serve various purposes, including recreation, emergency evacuation and response, wildfire protection, and transportation connectivity.
- Cost-effectiveness alternative: Greenways offer a lower cost, more friendly alternative to traditional roadway construction.
- Cultural sensitivity: These projects consider the cultural significance and sensitivities of the areas they serve.
- Emergency Response: Greenways can serve as a secondary route for emergency response and evacuation, allowing first responders to bypass congestion during critical times.
- Flood control: They contribute to flood management in the region.
- Wildfire protection: Fuel breaks created by greenways help protect communities from the spread of wildfires.
- Utility corridors: Greenways provide opportunities for installing underground high-voltage lines along undeveloped paths.
- Infrastructure resilience: They help minimize conflicts and enhance the resilience of local infrastructure.
- Parks and recreation: Greenways promote recreational spaces for the community.

The panelists also discussed comprehensive guiding principles that encompass economic prosperity, public health, environmental health, equity, resilience, and the benefits of a balanced transportation mode split.

In response to questions, they mentioned that native trees could provide shade, enhancing the fuel break's effectiveness without worsening it. They also noted the potential to extend the use of R-1 water south of the West Maui

greenway for irrigation and planting. Evacuation preparedness is tailored to specific events.

Additionally, the discussion covered utilizing a business model to fund trail-oriented development, assessing the use of business district improvements, seeking state and federal funding that requires thorough environmental studies, streamlining the planning and permitting process, and educating stakeholders to expand the greenway's purpose beyond recreational use. The panel also addressed the question of who would be responsible for maintaining the greenway project.

Breakout C
Housing and Community Development
Creating a Local Hawai'i Housing Market: Fact or Fiction

The speakers discussed the following learning objectives:

- Impediments to affordable housing development.
- Current affordable housing policies.
- Actions that can have a meaningful impact on long-term affordable housing.

From the discussion, it is evident that there is a need to create a “local housing market” that enables the entire workforce to purchase homes, particularly for those in the “missing middle” group. This group includes individuals who are working their way up the housing ladder, not just for first-time homebuyers. Housing programs should be designed for individuals who do not fit into the Area Median Income (AMI) bracket, as well as for workforce housing that ensures older residents (kupunas) can also remain in their homes. It is essential to make the process flexible for local residents and not prohibitively difficult to obtain housing.

Furthermore, there should be no income restrictions that favor only the low-income category. County and state governments need to align their efforts to create a sustainable housing market in Hawai'i. Questions arose about how to encourage locals to buy homes, whether there should be income preferences in the local market, and how land use ordinances can incentivize the development of luxury homes.

As stated at the end of the session, fostering an affordable housing market for local households will help Hawai'i cultivate a more resilient economy. This approach would aid in retaining the local workforce and reducing vulnerability to economic downturns and fluctuations in financial markets.

Breakout D
Housing and Community Development
Unlocking Growth: Land-Secured and Tax Increment Financing Strategies for Hawai'i's Economic Development

The panelists addressed the following key topics:

- Land-secured and tax increment financing (TIF) strategies. Two primary types of development district financing:
 1. Land-secured financing: This strategy involves securing a loan against the intrinsic value of the land.
 2. Tax increment financing: This approach efficiently captures and utilizes the surge in property tax revenues from new developments within a designated geographic area to fund vital public infrastructure improvements.
- The discussion also covered Community Facilities Districts and Tax Increment Districts, emphasizing how these mechanisms can be structured to finance early-stage infrastructure and stimulate significant private investment. Furthermore, the panelists examined the strategic alignment of special taxes, leasehold-secured bonds, and project-specific tax revenues with phased development timelines.

The panelists engaged attendees on how to leverage land-secured and TIF in high-priority growth areas in Hawai'i. These targeted areas include the new Aloha Stadium Entertainment District, the Iwilei-Kapalama Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Corridor, the Keohokalole Highway Corridor, the Līhu'e Town Core, and the Ka'ahumanu Community Corridor.

Breakout E
Climate Readiness
Beyond Design Guidelines: What We Learned Trying to Get People to Use Them

In this session, the speakers provided an overview of development guidelines, specifically focused on Climate Change Design (CCD) guidelines, as well as lessons learned from the ongoing process of developing and implementing these guidelines for the City and County of Honolulu's capital projects. They identified both the challenges and opportunities that arise in addressing related needs.

The CCD guidelines were created to enhance climate resilience and tackle various issues. During their discussion, the speakers delved into each guideline, covering the key do's and don'ts of understanding CCD, integrating the CCD toolkit into project and design processes, and the flowchart for the climate exposure screening tool, which outlines inputs and outputs based on basic project information. They also reviewed the climate change design guidelines and the accompanying checklist.

Key takeaways from the pilot included the fact that the design guidelines and associated tools make climate data more accessible, thus providing significant value for disciplinary analysis. However, it was emphasized that these guidelines do not replace the need for long-term system upgrade plans or district-scale adaptation planning. Pilot projects are valuable for promoting the use of the toolkit, and it is important to note that the guidelines do not substitute for engineering judgment or policy decisions.

Additionally, they discussed what they have learned about encouraging the use of this new resource, fostering buy-in, and integrating climate considerations into existing systems.

August 29, 2025
Breakout F
AICP Corner
Planning Ethics

In his presentation, Mr. Chang covered several critical topics that are essential for understanding planning ethics:

1. A thorough refresher on Planning Ethics (Hawai'i and AICP Code of Ethics).
2. An overview of the 2024 Case/Inquiry Activity that highlights current trends and issues.

3. A focused discussion on equity within the Aspirational Principles, which include public interest, integrity, equity, public trust, and improved planning knowledge.
4. An engaging group discussion on 2024 Scenario Cases, including:
 - o Ex Parte Communications
 - o He Said/She Said/They Said
 - o Private Sector Consultant Conflict of Interest
 - o Abuse of Power

Throughout the group discussion on ethical conduct, I recognized the importance of planning ethics as the moral framework guiding decision-making in city planning and development. It is vital to consider the potential impacts of planning decisions on various stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and the environment.

Breakout G
AICP Corner

What Planners and Their Clients Need to Know Now: 2025 Law Update

The speakers delivered vital updates on the following:

1. Understanding accessory uses under local zoning regulations.
2. Revisiting “NEPA Back to Basics” following the U.S. Supreme Court’s impactful Seven County decision.
3. Exploring impact fees and other exactions in light of the Sheetz case, and considering the Maui Lani case, which poses the critical question: “How many bites at the apple can you take?” The question is essential for understanding finality and addressing repetitive challenges.

Following the engaging discussion on accessory uses in local zoning--covering issues such as Euclidean zoning review, the accessory use doctrine, statutory and common law, and key elements of accessory uses like incidental (reasonable relationship), subordinate (smaller or minor in comparison), and customary (standard, not rare)--I left with a stronger and more confident understanding of the subject. Additional examples of recognized accessory uses included aviation landing strip for agriculture, temporary shelters at churches, various home occupations, and helipad at construction company headquarters.

David M. Raatz, Jr.
September 2, 2025
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Thank you for the opportunity to attend this conference. If you have questions, please contact Yvette at ext. 7758.

paf:ybb:25-010(10) report



Resilient by *Design*

PLANNING FOR HAWAII'S TOMORROW

Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials Conference

August 27-29 | 2025

Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikīkī Beach Resort
Honolulu, Hawai'i

conference agenda

MOBILE TOURS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27	
<i>*all tours will meet at the Tapa Conference Center; start times indicate departure times</i>	
7:30am-4pm	Registration
9am-12pm	Honolulu Complete Streets Biking Tour
9am-1pm	Tour of HIMB's Mālama 'Āina Plan Deconstructing Waste: Challenges and Opportunities to Scale
9am-3pm	The Future for Agribusiness Development: Central O'ahu Ag Tour Kahe ka wai ola o Punalu'u: Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation Project
10am-2pm	Is Waikīkī Washing Away? Coastal Hazards Adaptation Walking Tour
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28	
7:30-8:30am	Continental Breakfast Palace Lounge
8:35-8:55am	Opening Remarks: Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9-9:45am	Keynote Address: Sue Schwartz, FAICP, APA President Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9:45-9:55am	<i>Break</i>
9:55-10:55am	Breakout A
10:55-11:05am	<i>Break</i>
11:05am-12:05pm	Breakout B
12:05-1:35pm	Lunch + APA Awards Ceremony Tapa Ballroom 2-3
1:35-2:35pm	Breakout C
2:35-2:45pm	<i>Break</i>
2:45-3:45pm	Breakout D
3:45-3:55pm	<i>Break</i>
3:55-4:55pm	Breakout E
5-7pm	Pau Hana Reception Palace Lounge
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29	
7:30-8:30am	Continental Breakfast Palace Lounge
8:35-9:30am	Directors' Panel Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9:30-9:40am	<i>Break</i>
9:40-10:40am	Breakout F
10:40-10:50am	<i>Break</i>
10:50-11:50am	Breakout G
11:50am-12pm	Mahalo + Closing Tapa Ballroom 2-3
<i>Pau / Lunch on Own</i>	
POST-CONFERENCE TRAINING	
1-3pm	AICP Exam Preparation 'Iolani 1-4 Hawai'i Cultural Resource Information Systems (HICRIS) Workshop Honolulu 1
1-3:30pm	Spatial Fictions: Crafting Community Futures with StoryMaps Honolulu 2
1-4pm	Foundation of Facilitation Honolulu 3
1-5pm	ArcGIS Urban: Streamlining Urban Planning Workflows 'Iolani 5-7

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Opening Remarks, Keynote Address, and Breakouts

23 Friday, August 29

Directors' Panel, Breakouts, and Post-Conference Training



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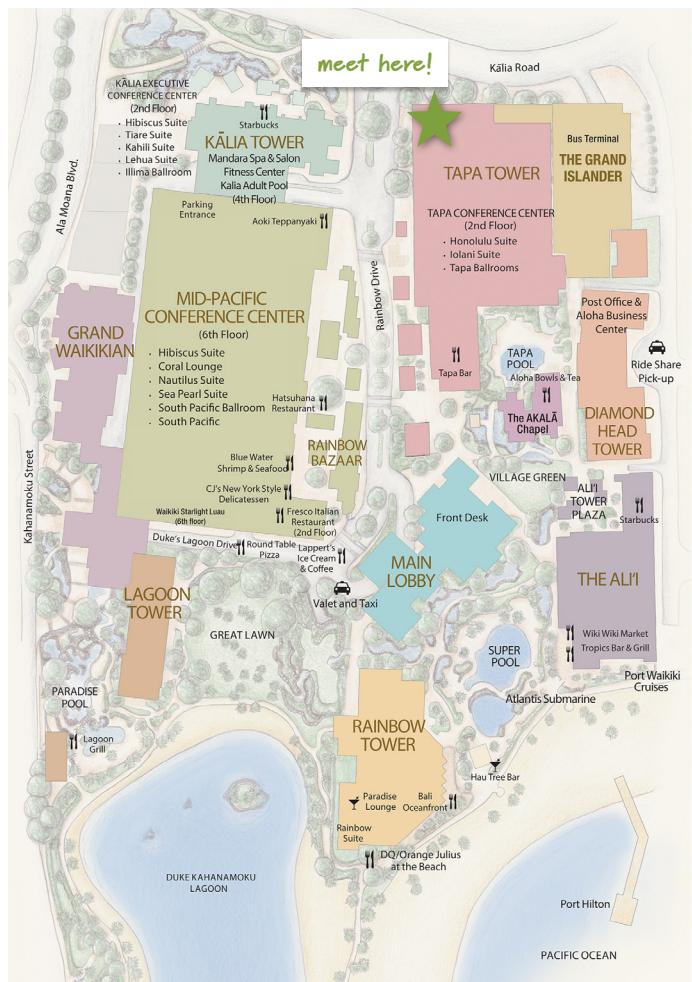
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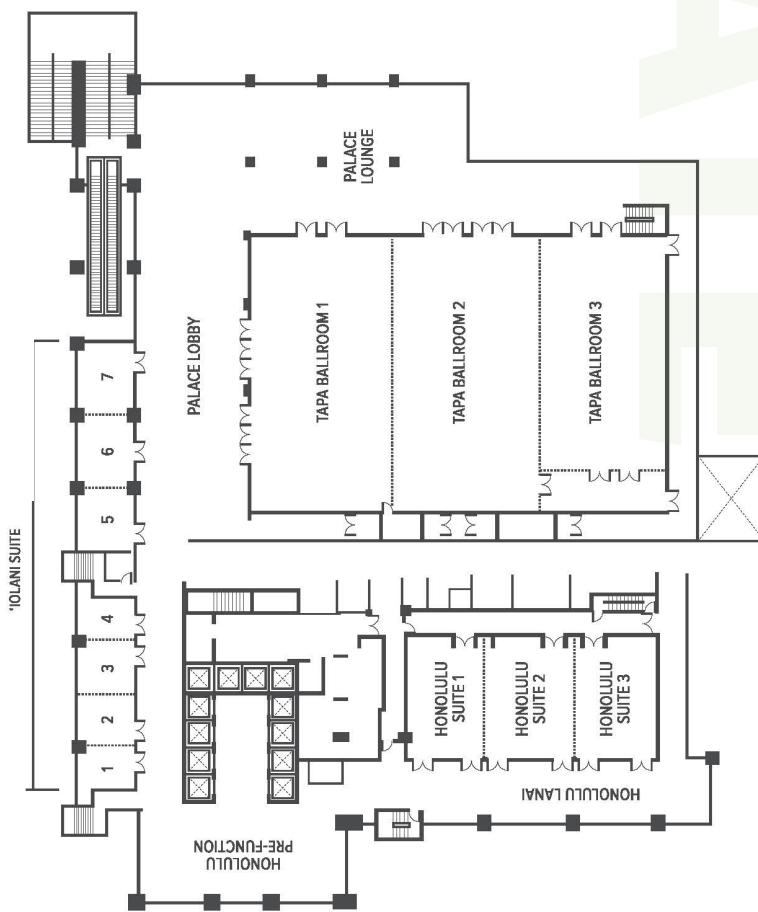
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Hilton Hawaiian Village Property Map



Tapa Conference Center Map



Welcome!

The State of Hawai‘i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development is honored to co-host this year’s HCPO Conference with the American Planning Association Hawai‘i Chapter.

This year’s conference theme, ***Resilient by Design: Planning for Hawai‘i’s Tomorrow***, invites us all to explore how intentional, forward-looking planning can strengthen our communities, safeguard Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources, and prepare us for a future being shaped by environmental, economic, and social change.

The HCPO Program provides breakout tracks to explore how thoughtful design—of systems, policies, infrastructure, and community processes—can prepare us to anticipate and ready ourselves for the transformations of tomorrow. Each track brings together sessions that speak to a shared theme. Taken together, these sessions highlight resilience not just as a goal, but as an ongoing act of reflection, strategy, adaptation, and innovation.

To help guide your experience, we offer on pages 10 and 11 a set of critical questions to spark inquiry and deeper engagement. These questions challenge us to consider where we are with designing systems capable of adapting to the accelerating pace of change. Whether you choose to dive deep into one area or explore connections across topics, we invite you to reflect on what intentional design looks like in practice—and where the gaps remain.

We hope the HCPO Conference leads to further conversations, dialogue, and action long after the conference ends—to ensure that this special place we call home weathers and thrives in meeting the climate, housing, ecosystem, and socio-economic challenges ahead.

About the Hawai‘i Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO)

The Hawai‘i Congress of Planning Officials was formed: to provide an annual forum to address the various planning issues facing the community; to promote intergovernmental and interagency cooperation in identifying informal and formal alternatives which may be pursued to resolve such issues; and to encourage the exchange of new ideas and solutions to planning problems. HCPO members include the County and State planning agencies and the American Planning Association Hawai‘i Chapter. Since as early as 1979, the HCPO annual conference has been hosted in turn by the four County Planning Departments and the State.

About the Logo

The symbol for the 2025 HCPO conference is inspired by the native Hawaiian *nanea* flower. Known for enriching soil with nitrogen, the *nanea* naturally fertilizes surrounding plants while providing resilient groundcover.

Much like the *nanea*’s role in Hawai‘i’s ecosystem, this year’s conference seeks to nurture ideas, strategies, and collaborations that strengthen our communities, infrastructure, and natural resources amid evolving challenges.

Rendered in a doodle style, the illustration reflects the creative and dynamic spirit of planning thoughtful, place-based solutions for Hawai‘i’s tomorrow.



message from the governor of the state of hawai'i



E komo mai to the 2025 Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) conference at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Mahalo nui loa for all of you who are joining us in this important planning forum. It is our greatest hope that during this conference, we foster discourse and develop solutions to the critical issues affecting our state. With this gathering of planning officials and administrators, it is our intention to enlighten, clarify, innovate, and discover adaptive solutions to the issues that face our island state.

In this year's conference, ***Resilient by Design: Planning for Hawai'i's Tomorrow***, we invite you to explore how intentional, forward-looking planning efforts can strengthen our communities and safeguard Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, while promoting sustainability.

The central themes for HCPO 2025 are: Wayfinding to Housing and Communities for All; Building Resilience with Nature; Advancing Climate Readiness; Improving Governance and Civic Infrastructure; and Redesigning Systems for a Changing Hawai'i.

I encourage all of you to be part of the solution. It is our hope this conference forms bonds and facilitates partnerships, continues dialogue, provides fresh insights, and fosters progress. May this conference be productive and valuable to you and ultimately benefit all who call Hawai'i home.

We also send our aloha to all of the sponsors, the Hilton Hawaiian Village for hosting us, and the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development who organized this year's HCPO. Like the nanea flower, planning not only sets strong foundations but also enriches the communities around us.

Please make the most of this conference as we work together to create a brighter future for all.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Josh" and "Green" connected and "M.D." in a smaller, more formal script.

Governor Josh Green, M.D.

wednesday, aug 27 | mobile workshops

7:30am-4pm	Registration
9am-12pm	Honolulu Complete Streets Biking Tour
9am-1pm	Tour of HIMB's Mālama 'Āina Plan
	Deconstructing Waste: Challenges and Opportunities to Scale
9am-3pm	The Future for Agribusiness Development: Central O'ahu Ag Tour
	Kahe ka wai ola o Punalu'u: Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation Project
10am-2pm	Is Waikīkī Washing Away? Coastal Hazards Adaptation Walking Tour

MOBILE WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY:



Honolulu Complete Streets Biking Tour

9am-12pm

This interactive and experiential tour will guide participants on a bicycle tour of recent Complete Streets projects in urban Honolulu. These projects, which range from protected bicycle lanes to bus-priority lanes to crosswalk improvements to pedestrian mall upgrades, are all intended to enhance transportation safety, choice, and sustainability by designing our roadways for all those who use them, not just those driving. These projects increase non-driving mode share and are helping the City meet its climate and sustainability goals, as well as make transportation more affordable for residents. City staff and advocates will share project details from long-range planning through operations and maintenance, and discuss how these projects have been shaped by community engagement, data analysis, and practical constraints.

Led By: Renee Spath-Espiau, Complete Streets Administrator, City and County of Honolulu



Tour of HIMB's Mālama 'Āina Plan

9am-1pm

A tour of the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (located on an off-shore island in Kāne'ohe Bay) in light of its newly completed Mālama 'Āina Plan, which is the first plan in Hawai'i to prepare an entire island for sea level rise. This plan was co-designed with Indigenous Knowledge holders, and framed around the Eight Considerations of Pono Stewardship, to ensure that the island will be stewarded by Native Hawaiian values into the future. Now completed, it also represents a big step towards fulfilling University of Hawai'i's strategic priority of becoming a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning.

Led By: Kawika Winter, Director, He'ea National Estuarine Research Reserve



Deconstructing Waste: Challenges and Opportunities to Scale

9am-1pm

O‘ahu’s waste crisis is reaching a tipping point. The island’s primary landfills are nearing capacity, forcing difficult decisions about where—and how—we manage the tons of discarded material generated each day. At the same time, Hawai‘i remains tied to a global economy built on a “take–make–dispose” model, where products have short lifespans and local reuse or recycling options are limited. This mobile workshop uses the Aloha Stadium as a contextual reference for examining institutional challenges and identifying opportunities to shift toward an island economy that prioritizes the reuse and recycling of materials, prolongs their value, and reduces waste.

Speakers:

- Quinn Vittum, Executive Director, Re-Use Hawai‘i
- Samantha Spain, Community Relations and Communications Specialist, Stadium Authority



The Future for Agribusiness Development: Central O‘ahu Ag Tour

9am-3pm

Farming and agriculture in Hawai‘i are a tough business. The critical components for a successful agricultural industry—land, water, labor, transportation, markets, and now biosecurity—are as much a challenge now as in decades past. This mobile workshop will highlight the work of private agricultural entrepreneurs and State programs and investments that are helping to transform Hawai‘i’s agricultural landscape and promote resilience for agriculture and Hawai‘i’s people for the future. The workshop will present the

challenges and opportunities for promoting and sustaining farmers and agricultural operations and food security in Hawai‘i from various perspectives. Participants will gain a better understanding of what is needed to sustain a viable and resilient agricultural sector in Hawai‘i and how these needs and supports might be woven into plans and planning practice.

Speakers:

- Chris Bailey, Manager, Wahiawā Value-Added Product Development Center
- Juli Burden, Program Director, HARC Hawai‘i Agrivoltaic Research and Demonstration Center
- Kimi Makaiau, Project Supervisor, University of Hawai‘i Community Design Center
- Marvin Min, Senior Vice President, Hawaiian Earth Recycling
- Stephanie Whalen, President, Kunia Village Title Holding Corporation
- Wendy Gady, Executive Director, Agribusiness Development Corporation



Kahe ka wai ola o Punalu‘u: Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation Project

9am-3pm

Kamehameha Schools identified the lower Punalu‘u Stream Valley on coastal O‘ahu as an opportunity to implement a project that incorporates its ahupua‘a management to provide flood mitigation and restore natural ecological form and process to its land. The Punalu‘u Stream Restoration and Flood Mitigation Project restored stream and floodplain processes, mitigates flood impacts and sea level rise, protects cultural and natural resources, increases community engagement, and provides land-based educational activities. The project is one of the largest re-naturalizations of a stream in Hawai‘i and a model for nature-based solutions and applying traditional ecological knowledge.

wednesday, aug 27 | mobile workshops

We welcome those who are interested in learning about the history of the ahupua'a of Punalu'u through a water lens to attend this site visit and experience.

Led By: Kaleo Manuel, Director of Water Resources, 'Āina Pauahi Group, Kamehameha Schools

- Kitty Courtney, PhD, Marine Environmental Scientist, Tetra Tech, Inc.
- Noelle Cole, AICP, Policy Planning Branch Chief, City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting



Is Waikīkī Washing Away? Coastal Hazards Adaptation Walking Tour

10am-2pm

This workshop will highlight climate-related hazards facing Waikīkī and introduce some solutions for greater resilience being pursued at the State and County levels including: Adapt Waikīkī 2050, a project engaging City agencies and wider community partners to promote adaptation of existing and new infrastructure and development to mid-century and beyond; and other related projects and initiatives.

Next is an engaging beach walk-and-talk with a Waikīkī Beach expert to see first-hand the coastal conditions and engineering that comprise the dynamic and changing conditions of the Waikīkī coastline. Participants will leave the workshop with a better understanding of the complex and multi-disciplinary nature of resilience planning that requires partnerships across sectors and government jurisdictions to achieve desired outcomes for coastal communities. Highlighting process, challenges, and lessons learned, participants will be able to apply a broad perspective to their own local projects.

Speakers:

- Alex Yee, Coastal and Water Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Dolan Eversole, Waikīkī Beach Management Coordinator, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

thursday, aug 28 | opening remarks & keynote

7:30-8:30am	Continental Breakfast Palace Lounge
8:35-8:55am	Opening Remarks: Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9-9:45am	Keynote Address: Sue Schwartz, FAICP, APA President Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9:45-9:55am	Break
9:55-10:55am	Breakout A
10:55-11:05am	Break
11:05am-12:05pm	Breakout B
12:05-1:35pm	Lunch + APA Awards Ceremony Tapa Ballroom 2-3
1:35-2:35pm	Breakout C
2:35-2:45pm	Break
2:45-3:45pm	Breakout D
3:45-3:55pm	Break
3:55-4:55pm	Breakout E
5-7pm	Pau Hana Reception Palace Lounge



opening remarks by Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke

Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke is the 16th Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the third woman to hold the office, and the highest-ranking Korean American official in the U.S.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, she immigrated to Honolulu at the age of nine with her family. She attended Queen Ka'ahumanu Elementary School, where she learned English with the

help of her 5th-grade teacher. She later graduated from Roosevelt High School and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she served as one of the few female presidents of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i, marking her introduction to public service. Following her undergraduate degree, she continued her education at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Sylvia was first elected to the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1998, where she served until 2022. During her twenty-four-year tenure in the State House, she had many roles, most notably as Chair of the Finance Committee, where she developed a reputation for bringing transparency and accountability to the State budget for over a decade.

Sylvia has long supported gender equity, civil rights, and assistance for seniors and immigrants. As Finance Chair, she played a crucial role in securing essential funding for criminal justice reform for female inmates, tax equity for working families, domestic violence survivor services, and care for the aging population.

thursday, aug 28 | opening remarks & keynote

Throughout her career in public service, Sylvia has been recognized for her advocacy and leadership by many organizations, including Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Technology Trade Association, Korean American Coalition, AARP Hawai'i, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Friends of the Library of Hawai'i, and Humane Society of the United States.

Lieutenant Governor Luke is leading Ready Keiki, the state's plan to provide universal access to preschool, ensuring all Hawai'i children are ready for kindergarten and their futures while creating economic stability for local families. She is also spearheading Connect Kākou, the State's initiative to expand access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet.

Sylvia is a wife, mother, dog mom, and former practicing attorney in Honolulu.



keynote address

resilient planning: what about the planners?

In this engaging and personal keynote, **APA President Sue Schwartz, FAICP**, shares life lessons from a 40+ year planning career on navigating changes, disruptions, and just "life stuff."

Schwartz currently serves as APA President and is Planning Director for the City of Greensboro, North Carolina. Her 40+ years in the planning profession includes a focus on neighborhood revitalization and corridor reinvestment. Several of her projects have earned state and national awards. Since 2006, she has been a faculty/consultant for NeighborWorks America and is an adjunct faculty in the Public Administration Program at UNC Greensboro. She is also an accomplished TED Talk speaker, including her November 2022 talk, *"What if...we had enough places to call home?"* When not working on planning initiatives, Schwartz enjoys her passion for baseball, particularly rooting for the Philadelphia Phillies, and serves on her local youth baseball league board of directors.

PRESENTED BY:



COFFEE BREAKS SPONSORED BY:



thursday, aug 28 | pau hana reception

entertainment by kahikolu

Kahikolu is a Hawaiian music trio formed in June of 2025 comprised of lead/rhythm guitarist and vocalist Rickey Kamai, lead/rhythm guitarist and vocalist Kapena Mokiao, and bass/vocalist CJ Fischer.

To connect with Kahikolu, email penastylee@hotmail.com



Kapena Mokiao is a musician, singer and songwriter. He first learned to play the 'ukulele in Alex Takemura's class at Pearl City Highlands Intermediate School. As he transitioned to high school, he formed his first reggae band, Crucial Meditation, in 2004. Since then, he has written and performed a number of his own original songs, as well as releasing an EP album in 2025. When Mokiao met CJ Fischer and Rickey Kamai in early 2025, they discovered a shared passion for Hawaiian music, which led to the formation of their trio, Kahikolu. Today, as he explores nā mele Hawai'i, he learns the deep connection with music and 'āina, as well as the mo'olelo and storytelling of his home, Hawai'i.

Rickey Kamai is an up-and-coming solo artist with a music lineage that spans back three generations. His musical style blends Hawaiian, island, and country genres bringing a unique and vibrant style. With several original songs already released and a Kani Ka Pila Talent Search title under his belt, he is excited to share his talent and aloha with everyone.

CJ Fischer is a true music enthusiast who has played bass with countless bands of all types of music genres. From Hawaiian to rock and gospel music, it is obvious that CJ was born into music. Learning how to play from his father at a young age has taught him not only chords on an instrument, but the love for Hawaiian music and culture.

PAU HANA SPONSORED BY:



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program tracks

THEMED TRACKS	Addressing Climate Readiness	Wayfinding to Housing and Communities for All	Aligning Resilience with Natural and Built Environments
DESCRIPTION	These sessions invite attendees to assess whether current strategies are adequately ambitious, inclusive, and future-ready in addressing the accelerating impacts of climate uncertainty.	These sessions challenge attendees to examine whether financial, regulatory, and land use innovations are transforming the trajectory of housing availability and attainability for all of Hawai'i's residents—and if not, what more needs to be done.	These sessions highlight approaches that aim to strengthen both our natural resources and the built environment as interconnected systems that sustain life, manage risk, and support community well-being.
CRITICAL QUESTION	Is Hawai'i's approach to climate adaptation keeping pace with the scale and urgency of the crises we face?	How can we create a housing system and built environment that serves the present and future needs of all Hawai'i residents?	How can we enable natural and built systems working together toward a more resilient future?
BREAKOUT A <i>Thursday</i> 9:55-10:55am	Navigating Rising Tides: Tools and Innovations to Address Sea Level Rise (<i>'Iolani 1-4</i>)	Public-Private Partnerships in Hawai'i (<i>'Iolani 5-7</i>)	The Hawai'i Water Plan Framework Update: Supporting the Integration of Water and Land Use Planning (<i>Honolulu 2-3</i>)
BREAKOUT B <i>Thursday</i> 11:05am-12:05pm	Pathways to Resilience: Navigating the Future of Climate Adaptation in Hawai'i (<i>Tapa Ballroom 1</i>)	Hawai'i's Housing Market and the Effects of New Supply (<i>Honolulu 2-3</i>)	Beyond Recreation: Greenways as Emergency and Climate Resilience Tools (<i>'Iolani 1-4</i>)
BREAKOUT C <i>Thursday</i> 1:35-2:35pm	Building Resilience through One Water Honolulu (<i>'Iolani 5-7</i>)	Creating a Local Hawai'i Housing Market: Fact or Fiction (<i>Tapa Ballroom 1</i>)	Resilient by Nature: Revitalizing Our Urban and Community Forests (<i>'Iolani 1-4</i>)
BREAKOUT D <i>Thursday</i> 2:45-3:45pm	Climate Planning for a Rapidly Changing World (<i>Honolulu 2-3</i>)	Unlocking Growth: Land-Secured and Tax Increment Financing Strategies for Hawai'i's Economic Development (<i>'Iolani 5-7</i>)	Community Investment by Design: A Future Ala Wai Watershed SID as a Model for Civic-Driven Resilience (<i>Honolulu 1</i>)
BREAKOUT E <i>Thursday</i> 3:55-4:55pm	Beyond Design Guidelines: What We Learned Trying to Get People to Use Them (<i>'Iolani 1-4</i>)	Learning from Iwilei: Toward a Collaborative Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Framework (<i>Honolulu 2-3</i>)	Pili Nā Moku: Aligning Holistic Environmental Stewardship, Community Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (<i>'Iolani 5-7</i>)
BREAKOUT F <i>Friday</i> 9:40-10:40am			
BREAKOUT G <i>Friday</i> 10:50-11:50am			

Improving Governance and Civic Infrastructure	Redesigning Systems for a Changing Hawai'i	AICP Corner
These sessions explore how public institutions, design practices, and community engagement strategies can either reinforce the status quo—or create the conditions for inclusive, future-forward change.	These sessions highlight how local leadership and cross-sector innovation are reshaping our social, environmental, and economic frameworks to adapt to changing times.	These sessions fulfill mandatory certification maintenance (CM) credits required by APA for AICP membership.
What planning tools and governance practices can help deliver just and resilient outcomes?	How can we innovate our systems to be more just, resilient, and responsive to Hawai'i's evolving needs?	
Education as Transportation Infrastructure: Onramps for Sustained Youth Participation in Planning (Tapa Ballroom 1)	HRS Chapter 343 Exemptions Forum (Honolulu 1)	
Speculative Futures and Situated Design: New Pathways for Public Engagement in Transit-Oriented Development (Honolulu 1)	Wildfire and the Built Environment: A Regulatory and Programmatic Approach to Resiliency ('Iolani 5-7)	
Meaningful Community Engagement (Honolulu 1)	How Planners Can Advance the Navahine Settlement and HDOT's New Energy Security Plan (Honolulu 2-3)	
Lessons in "Plan-gineering": Bringing Together Planning and Engineering for Successful Project Implementation (Tapa Ballroom 1)	Designing a Diversified Economy: Aligning Infrastructure, Innovation, and Workforce for Hawai'i's Resilience ('Iolani 1-4)	
	Uplifting Wai'anae: Community Strengthening through Technology, Training, and Cultural Connection (Honolulu 1)	
The Psychology of Choice (Tapa Ballroom 2-3)	Data-Driven Resilience: Transforming Hawai'i's Travel and Transportation ('Iolani 5-7)	Planning Ethics ('Iolani 1-4)
	Hawai'i's Updated Energy Strategy: Planning for Hawai'i's Energy Future ('Iolani 5-7)	What Planners and Their Clients Need to Know Now: 2025 Law Update (Tapa Ballroom 2-3)

thursday, aug 28 | breakout sessions

BREAKOUT A | 9:55-10:55am

● climate readiness

Navigating Rising Tides: Tools and Innovations to Address Sea Level Rise

'Iolani 1-4

As Hawai'i confronts the challenges of sea level rise, planners must integrate science, technology, and cross-sector collaboration into climate resilience strategies. This session equips attendees with tools and insights to support informed decision making, featuring experts from academia, consulting, and State government. Attendees will learn about sea level rise projections, vulnerability assessments, and digital twin modeling for harbor infrastructure. Designed for planners at all levels, the panel addresses AICP Core Competencies in climate adaptation, data-driven planning, and interagency coordination.

Speakers:

- Alec Bernstein, Senior Managing Consultant, Climate Resilience, ICF
- Dr. Charles Fletcher, Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Dre Kalili, Deputy Director of Transportation for Harbors, Hawai'i Department of Transportation
- Jonathan Levy, GISP, GIS Analyst, State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Harbors Division
- Steven Dale, GIS Manager and Systems Resource Manager, State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Harbors Division

Moderator: Sarah Chang, Senior Project Analyst, State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management Program

● housing & community development

Public-Private Partnerships in Hawai'i

'Iolani 5-7

This interactive, multi-panelist discussion will

focus on the Public-Private Partnerships (P3) in Hawai'i. The panelists from UH, DAGS, and SFA, will share their professional experiences and lessons learned in the execution of P3 projects through the planning, development, and construction process. The session will provide attendees information on what is considered a P3, the importance of the role of a project champion, and the collaborative efforts of a multi-disciplinary team working together to deliver a project. The session will also discuss stakeholder engagement related to project visioning, as well as the establishment of criteria and goals that allow projects to remain iterative and organic.

Speakers:

- Douglas Cullison, Program Manager, Hawai'i School Facilities Authority
- Gordon Wood, Public Works Administrator, Hawai'i Department of Accounting and General Services
- Kalbert Young, Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, University of Hawai'i

Moderator: Bridey Best, Senior Vice President, WT Partnership

● natural & built environment

The Hawai'i Water Plan Framework Update: Supporting the Integration of Water and Land Use Planning

Honolulu 2-3

This panel discussion will provide a brief overview of the Hawai'i Water Plan Framework, its update process, and how it aims to foster a more adaptive and integrated approach to water and land use planning. Following the overview, a facilitated discussion will engage water and land use professionals, including representatives from CWRM, county water departments, and county planning departments in meaningful dialogue aiming to improve inter-agency collaboration and reflect on the utility of the Hawai'i Water Plan and strategies to close the gap between water and land use planning.

Speakers:

- Daniel Orodenker, Executive Director, State Land Use Commission
- Eva K. Blumenstein, Planning Program Administrator, County of Maui Department of Water Supply
- Jeff Darrow, Planning Director, County of Hawai'i Planning Department
- Kate Blystone, Planning Director, County of Maui Department of Planning
- Katie Roth, Hydrologic Planning Program Manager, Commission on Water Resource Management

● civic infrastructure

Education as Transportation Infrastructure: Onramps for Sustained Youth Participation in Planning

Tapa Ballroom 1

Youth voices are often absent in transportation planning processes—even though today's decisions shape the infrastructure they will inherit. This session highlights an innovative partnership between the O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (O'ahuMPO) and the University of Hawai'i Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education (UHUA), which dramatically increased youth participation in the regional transportation planning process. Presenters will share a case study showing how this multi-year collaboration increased youth participation in the ORTP 2045 update process from less than 1% to 25%. This initiative revitalizes an aspiration that grew out of progressive era planning practice by offering a model for integrating education into the long-term civic infrastructure of planning. When fully constructed, the resulting onramps will offer persistent two-way access points connecting youth to diverse planning processes across the state.

Speakers:

- Samantha Lara, Senior Community Planner, O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

- Scott "Cloudwatcher" Allen, Program Officer, University of Hawai'i Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education

● redesigning systems

HRS Chapter 343 Exemptions Forum

Honolulu 1

The focus of this session is exemptions in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343 process. In this session, our panel of speakers will discuss the how to and legal basis for exemptions, as well as the importance that exemptions serve for agency decision making on environmental disclosure. The session will discuss how agencies prepare exemption lists, the decision-making process for exemptions, and how individual exemptions are prepared and published. Agency responsibility, OPSD-ERP and EAC involvement, and public input in the exemption process will also be discussed.

Speakers:

- Christi Keller, Planner VI, City and County of Honolulu
- Onaona Thoene, Partner, Carlsmith Ball LLP
- Ron Terry, Principal, Geometrician Associates LLC
- Tom Eisen, Planner, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Environmental Review Program

Moderators: Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, Owner, Ke Kai Planning LLC; Michele Lefebvre, Environmental Scientist, Stantec GS, Inc.

BREAKOUT B | 11:05am-12:05pm

● climate readiness

Pathways to Resilience: Navigating the Future of Climate Adaptation in Hawai'i

Tapa Ballroom 1

Adaptation pathways are a phased approach to developing strategies to cope with the impacts of climate change that allow decision makers to identify a sequence of actions to be implemented progressively over time.

thursday, aug 28 | breakout sessions

Adaptation pathways have gained relevance over the past decade and are now considered best practice in the field. However, despite efforts to use this approach more consistently locally, there are still barriers regarding political will and funding.

This session will define the adaptation pathways approach and give examples of its application in infrastructure, areas with private development, and public spaces. Panelists will discuss efforts to incorporate adaptation pathways into agency processes, plans, and legislation. The discussion will include opportunities and challenges to implementation. Panelists will discuss the future of adaptation planning in Hawai'i, including alternatives to legislative action to gain widespread acceptance and use.

Speakers:

- Cole Roberts, Principal, ARUP
- Erika Hughston, Capital Improvements Coordinator, County of Maui, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development Division
- Ollie Lau, AICP, Planner, SSFM International
- Sarah Chang, Senior Project Analyst, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Coastal Zone Management Program

Moderator: Melissa May, AICP, Principal Resilience Lead, Haley & Aldrich

● housing & community development

Hawai'i's Housing Market and the Effects of New Supply

Honolulu 2-3

Justin Tyndall, Associate Professor of Economics at UHERO, will present findings from ongoing research on Hawai'i's housing market. UHERO publishes the annual Hawai'i Housing Factbook, which provides data and analysis on home prices, rental trends, housing production, and recent policy developments across the state. UHERO's research has identified key regulatory and policy barriers that hinder housing development in Hawai'i. Empirical evidence indicates that the limited

supply of new housing is a significant factor contributing to the State's current housing affordability crisis. The presentation will also highlight new research examining the potential impacts of increasing housing supply in Hawai'i.

Speaker: Justin Tyndall, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

● natural & built environment

Beyond Recreation: Greenways as Emergency and Climate Resilience Tools

'Iolani 1-4

Greenways (linear shared-use paths), traditionally valued for recreation and multimodal access, have gained renewed importance in Hawai'i following the devastating August 2023 Lahaina wildfires, which left residents and visitors trapped in traffic as they tried to escape along the remaining open roads out of town. Beyond offering resilient infrastructure without the cost, impact, and induced demand of new roadway construction, well designed greenways can serve as secondary evacuation routes and emergency response corridors, allowing first responders to bypass congestion during times of need. They also can function as fuel breaks, shielding communities from wildfire spread. Further, greenways can serve as utility corridors, enabling the installation of underground high-voltage lines along the undeveloped alignments, minimizing conflicts and enhancing infrastructure resilience.

Speakers:

- Jennifer Maydan, Executive Assistant II, County of Maui Office of Recovery
- Michael Packard, PE, PTOE, Senior Traffic Engineer, SSFM International
- Peter Koonce, PE, Engineer, Peter Koonce Consulting

● **civic infrastructure**

Speculative Futures and Situated Design: New Pathways for Public Engagement in Transit-Oriented Development

Honolulu 1

This session presents two innovations in using visual media to expand what's possible in transportation planning and transit-oriented development (TOD). The first introduces Imagine This, an engagement strategy that uses digitally altered images to promote dialogue around alternative futures for mobility and public space. It shows how storytelling can invite communities to explore new possibilities for familiar places. Next, we present a set of user-based design guidelines for moderate-density TOD, developed through an online questionnaire that gathered input on housing, amenities, and neighborhood preferences. The findings highlight ways to align TOD more closely with what people value. Both show how planning processes can become more responsive, creative, and grounded in community experience. Attendees will gain practical tools for using visuals and survey-based insights to deepen community engagement and spark planning conversations.

Speakers:

- Lily Zheng, Transportation Planner, O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Peter Flachsbart, Retired Associate Professor, DURP, UH Mānoa
- Samantha Lara, Senior Community Planner, O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Scott "Cloudwatcher" Allen, Planning Research and Education Specialist, O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

● **redesigning systems**

Wildfire and the Built Environment: A Regulatory and Programmatic Approach to Resiliency

'Iolani 5-7

Across the globe, we are seeing how wildfire as a climate hazard can and increasingly continues to have devastating impacts on the

built environment. This session will introduce and assess the science and studies around wildfires and their interaction with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Through wildfire case studies and laboratory analyses, a body of science has emerged with prescriptive measures that this session will survey.

In line with wildfire science, the Kaua'i Planning Department recently introduced the State's first Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) ordinance aimed at Kaua'i's historic plantation camps. This session will review wildfire science and the built environment, and it will go over Kaua'i's draft ordinance's specific measures concerning wildfire home hardening, defensible space, and resilient vegetation. The session will also go over the mechanics of incorporating the draft WUI into zoning code as well as into the Form Based Codes (FBCs) for the respective camps.

Speakers:

- Elizabeth Pickett, Co-Executive Director, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization
- Ka'aina Hull, Director, County of Kaua'i Department of Planning

BREAKOUT C | 1:35-2:35pm

● **climate readiness**

Building Resilience through One Water Honolulu

'Iolani 5-7

This presentation and panel discussion will explore how One Water Honolulu is building climate resilience through the activities of the One Water Panel. It traces the initiative from its formation through its development, highlighting how it is being used to better integrate projects across departments and jurisdictions.

This session will be touching upon the development of Honolulu's first One Water Plan which will be a roadmap for resilient infrastructure projects. In addition, a brief presentation will be made on the Department

thursday, aug 28 | breakout sessions

of Planning and Permitting's Adapt Waikīkī 2050 project that is working closely with the One Water Panel on identifying near and mid-term actions for adapting infrastructure and the surrounding built environment.

Speakers:

- Alex Yee, Coastal and Water Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Barry Usagawa, Water Resources Division, Honolulu Board of Water Supply
- Ben Sullivan, Executive Director, City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Noelle Cole, AICP, Policy Planning Branch Chief, City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting

Moderator: Christin Reynolds, Director, One World One Water, LLC

● housing & community development

Creating a Local Hawai'i Housing Market: Fact or Fiction

Tapa Ballroom 1

This session will focus on actions that State and County government can take to create a housing market in Hawai'i that is affordable to local households. The session will review impediments to developing affordable housing, current affordable housing policies, challenges to keeping housing units affordable, and potential policies to create a dedicated affordable housing market.

Affordable housing should be viewed as infrastructure that is necessary for a thriving economy, healthy society, and perpetuation of our unique culture. By fostering a housing market that is affordable for local households, Hawai'i can cultivate a more resilient economy—retaining its local workforce and reducing susceptibility to economic downturns and fluctuations in financial markets.

Speakers:

- Alana Kobayashi Pakkala, CEO and Partner, Kobayashi Group
- Arjuna Heim, Research Director and Director of Housing Policy, Hawai'i Appleseed
- Josh Wisch, President and Executive Director, Holomua Collective

Moderator: Dean Minakami, Executive Director, Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

● natural & built environment

Resilient by Nature: Revitalizing Our Urban and Community Forests

'Iolani 1-4

Governor Josh Green declared 2025 to be the Year of Our Community Forests, recognizing the critical role of urban forests in enhancing our quality of life and resilience to climate change. This session will tap into the vast experience of local planners, arborists, urban foresters, and advocates to articulate the challenges facing our urban forests and the innovative ways communities are turning the tide. This session is of interest to all who love urban trees. For planners, the topic is particularly relevant given the central role of urban forests in vibrant and resilient communities.

Speakers:

- Daniel Dinell, President, Trees for Honolulu's Future
- Kim Thayer, Partner, SR Partners LLC
- Roxanne Adams, Administrator, City and County of Honolulu Division of Urban Forestry
- Elaine Malina, President, Maui Green and Beautiful

Moderator: John Hagihara, Principal, HHF Planners

● **civic infrastructure**

Meaningful Community Engagement

Honolulu 1

This session brings together voices from government, consulting, and nonprofit advocacy to explore how meaningful community engagement can shape more just and resilient outcomes—particularly in projects aimed at improving conditions for vulnerable road users. Through the lens of Complete Streets planning, panelists will discuss what makes engagement meaningful, what gets in the way, and how power dynamics, equity, and cultural competency shape the planning process. We'll share lessons from successful (and unsuccessful) projects, highlight tools and strategies that elevate community voice, and explore how cross-sector partnerships can challenge the status quo and build trust. This interactive session invites planners, engineers, and decision-makers to rethink their role in co-creating safer, more inclusive streets.

Speakers:

- Michael Packard, PE, PTOE, Senior Traffic Engineer, SSFM International
- Peter Konce, PE, Engineer, Peter Konce Consulting
- Renee Spath-Espiau, AICP, Complete Streets Administrator, City and County of Honolulu

Moderator: Travis Counsell, Executive Director, Hawai'i Bicycling League

● **redesigning systems**

How Planners Can Advance the *Navahine* Settlement and HDOT's New Energy Security Plan

Honolulu 2-3

Transportation connects all Hawai'i communities, making it central to all planning efforts. The *Navahine v. HDOT* settlement and HDOT's new Energy Security & Waste Reduction Plan are reshaping how the Department sets priorities and collaborates with communities and environmental groups. This workshop will highlight how planners can help implement the Plan and advance the

State's emissions reduction goals. It will focus on youth engagement, inclusive governance, diverse partnerships, change management, and the role of policy and planning in building long-term resilience. With HDOT currently accepting public comments on the draft Plan, the workshop offers planners a key opportunity to shape the Plan and leverage its strategies to support their own resilience planning efforts in public and private sectors.

Speakers:

- Genevieve Hilliard Sullivan, Resilience Coordinator and Project Manager, Hawai'i Department of Transportation
- Laura Ka'akua, Energy Security and Community Outreach Manager, Hawai'i Department of Transportation
- Natasha Soriano, Multimodal Transportation Coordinator, State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation

Moderator: Isaac Moriwake, Managing Attorney, Mid-Pacific Office, Earthjustice

BREAKOUT D | 2:45-3:45pm

● **climate readiness**

Climate Planning for a Rapidly Changing World

Honolulu 2-3

Hawai'i is already experiencing the effects of a changing climate. Both gradual climate change and climate hazard events expose people, infrastructure, neighborhoods, and ecosystems to a wide range of detrimental and hazardous situations. The County of Kaua'i has responded with the Kaua'i Climate Adaptation and Action Plan (CAAP), which fosters resilience by both preparing the County for climate change impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that contribute to climate change.

This session will focus on several ways in which the CAAP innovates, offers new insights, and serves as an example of high-impact, action-oriented planning.

thursday, aug 28 | breakout sessions

Speakers:

- Alisha Summers, Long Range Planner, County of Kaua'i
- Ron Whitmore, Principal, Raimi + Associates

● housing & community development

Unlocking Growth: Land-Secured and Tax Increment Financing Strategies for Hawai'i's Economic Development

'Iolani 5-7

This panel will explore the evolving landscape of land-secured financing and tax increment financing (TIF) as applied to large-scale redevelopment projects across the islands. Panelists will provide a deep dive into Community Facilities Districts and Tax Increment Districts, examining how these mechanisms can be structured to fund early-stage infrastructure and catalyze private investment. Drawing on real-world case studies from Hawai'i and the mainland, experts will discuss how special taxes, leasehold-secured bonds, and project-specific tax revenues can be aligned with phased development timelines. The panel will engage attendees in an interactive session to explore scenarios to leverage land-secured and TIF strategies in high-priority growth areas in Hawai'i, such as the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District, the Iwilei-Kapalama TOD Corridor, the Keohokalole Highway Corridor, the Līhu'e Town Core, and Ka'ahumanu Community Corridor.

Speakers:

- Jake Campos, Managing Director, Stifel Public Finance
- Sara Oberlies Brown, Managing Director, Stifel Public Finance

Moderator: Scott Glenn, Senior Advisor for Climate, Federal Affairs, and Housing, Office of Governor Josh Green, M.D.

● natural & built environment

Community Investment by Design: A Future Ala Wai Watershed SID as a Model for Civic-Driven Resilience

Honolulu 1

This session explores the creation and implementation of the Ala Wai Watershed Special Improvement District (SID)—a pioneering approach to watershed-scale resilience that integrates cultural values, nature-based solutions, and diverse stakeholder governance. Developed through the Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration, a public-private partnership hui, the SID uses a nonprofit "Community Investment Vehicle" (CIVic) to coordinate green infrastructure, stormwater management, ecosystem restoration, and long-term financing strategies rooted in community priorities.

Speakers:

- Senator Carol Fukunaga, Senate District 11, Hawai'i State Legislature
- Cyrus Howe, Operations Manager, Hawai'i Green Growth
- Rick Egged, President, Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association
- Sidney Lynch, President, Protect our Ala Wai Watershed

Moderator: Kalani Ka'anā'anā, CEO, Hawai'i Green Growth

● civic infrastructure

Lessons in "Plan-gineering": Bringing Together Planning and Engineering for Successful Project Implementation

Tapa Ballroom 1

Learn to lead with innovation, promote collaboration, and drive resilient community-centered outcomes in a dynamic 2-hour session. Planners and engineers sometimes struggle to collaborate across planning processes, which can result in challenges for successful project development and implementation.

This session offers an engaging experience

with a panel discussion and interactive workshop with real-world project insights to help bridge the gap between planning and engineering. Hear lessons learned from interdisciplinary projects tackling stormwater, climate resilience, and One Water planning on O'ahu. Learn how collaborative approaches can drive meaningful outcomes and how stakeholder engagement can be the key to unlocking project success. The breakout session is an opportunity to share your experiences, uncover what works and what doesn't, and crowdsource solutions with fellow practitioners. You'll leave with actionable techniques to apply to your own projects and programs.

Speakers:

- Barry Usagawa, Program Administrator, Water Resources Division of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply
- Randall Wakumoto, Program Administrator, City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Division
- Sarah Harris, Hazard Mitigation and Long-term Disaster Recovery Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

Moderators: Lauren Armstrong, Senior Project Manager, Brown and Caldwell; Teresa Sprague, Principal, National Climate and Resilience Lead, Brown and Caldwell

redesigning systems

Designing a Diversified Economy: Aligning Infrastructure, Innovation, and Workforce for Hawai'i's Resilience

'Iolani 1-4

This session will explore Hawai'i's strategic blueprint to strengthen economic resilience by aligning infrastructure, innovation, and workforce development—key pillars identified in the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's Economic Landscape framework. Attendees will gain insight into how Hawai'i is "moving the needle" through sector-specific strategies in food

production, creative industries, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare. The session is especially relevant for planners, policymakers, educators, and economic development professionals seeking models for integrated, place-based planning that anticipates social, economic, and environmental change.

Speaker: Dane Wicker, Deputy Director, State of Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

BREAKOUT E | 3:55-4:55pm

climate readiness

Beyond Design Guidelines: What We Learned Trying to Get People to Use Them

'Iolani 1-4

This session explores the process of developing and early implementation of climate change design guidelines (CCDG) for City and County of Honolulu (City)'s capital projects, highlighting lessons learned, challenges identified, and opportunities to address related needs. Attendees will gain insight into how the City's CCDG were developed from concept to early implementation, what's in the CCDG, and how they work. Key discussion points will also include reflections on what we've learned so far about getting people to use this new resource, building buy-in, and embedding climate considerations into existing systems.

Speakers:

- Alex Yee, Coastal and Water Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
- Terry Chan, City and County of Honolulu Department of Design and Construction

housing & community development

Learning from Iwilei: Toward a Collaborative Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Framework

Honolulu 2-3

This session will discuss planning theory,

thursday, aug 28 | breakout sessions

land use strategies, and building form through the lens of government-led efforts to guide future growth in the Iwilei Transit-Oriented Development area.

Speakers:

- Craig Nakamoto, Director, Hawai'i Community Development Authority
- Dean Minakami, Director, Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation
- Hilaire Alomar, Planning and Development Director, Kamehameha Schools
- Tim Streitz, TOD Administrator, City and County of Honolulu

Moderator: Mary Alice Evans, Director, State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

● natural & built environment

Pili Nā Moku: Aligning Holistic Environmental Stewardship, Community Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction

'Iolani 5-7

Funded through NOAA's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, the five-year project called Pili Nā Moku was initiated in October 2024 and is investing \$68.5 million dollars in 'āina restoration and community networks to advance climate resilience in the Hawaiian Islands. The project activities are led by an initial collaborative of twelve partners spanning federal, state, and county government; academia; national and local non-profit organizations; and collectives of local stewards.

The session will provide an overview of the project goals and planned activities featuring representatives from the Hawai'i Sea Grant project coordination team, select project partners, and NOAA. Discussion with the panel and audience will focus on the intersection of holistic environmental stewardship and community resilience, including for disaster risk reduction, and addressing barriers to community-centered restoration and resource stewardship.

Speakers:

- Cuong Tran, Resilience Specialist, Tellus Civic Service (in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management)
- Kate Blystone, Planning Director, County of Maui Department of Planning
- Niegel Rozet, Planner, Kua'āina ulu 'Auamo

Moderator: Brad Romine, Coastal Hazards Extension Specialist, Pili Nā Moku Project Coordinator, Hawai'i Sea Grant

● redesigning systems

Uplifting Wai'anae: Community Strengthening through Technology, Training, and Cultural Connection

Honolulu 1

This session will feature the Uplifting the Wai'anae Community for Resilience and Vibrance project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change grant program. The Uplifting Wai'anae project will support new resilience initiatives to provide off-grid power, economic development through agricultural technologies, workforce development opportunities, pollution mitigation and stormwater abatement measures, and native and food plant reforestation in strategic alignments to provide environmental resilience. The project will combine traditional low technology solutions with high technology to diversify opportunities in the hot, dry, and drought-stricken community, and to mitigate climate change impacts.

Speakers:

- James Pakele, President, Dynamic Community Solutions
- Pauline Sato, Executive Director, Malama Learning Center

Moderator: Dr. Keith Matsumoto, Programs Director, Pacific International Center for High Technology Research

friday, aug 29 | directors' panel & breakout sessions

7:30-8:30am	Continental Breakfast Palace Lounge
8:30-9:30am	Directors' Panel Tapa Ballroom 2-3
9:30-9:40am	<i>Break</i>
9:40-10:40am	Breakout F
10:40-10:50am	<i>Break</i>
10:50-11:50am	Breakout G
11:50am-12pm	Mahalo + Closing Tapa Ballroom 2-3
<i>Pau / Lunch on Own</i>	
POST-CONFERENCE TRAINING	
1-3pm	AICP Exam Preparation <i>'Iolani 1-4</i> Hawai'i Cultural Resource Information Systems (HICRIS) Workshop <i>Honolulu 1</i>
1-3:30pm	Spatial Fictions: Crafting Community Futures with StoryMaps <i>Honolulu 2</i>
1-4pm	Foundation of Facilitation <i>Honolulu 3</i>
1-5pm	ArcGIS Urban: Streamlining Urban Planning Workflows <i>'Iolani 5-7</i>

Directors' Panel

This annual panel brings together the County and State planning directors to share their perspectives on the most pressing planning issues of today and tomorrow. Panelists will highlight major projects currently underway, provide insights into complex land use and development issues, and explore how emerging technologies are reshaping planning practices and department operations.

BREAKOUT F | 9:40-10:40pm

● civic infrastructure

The Psychology of Choice

Tapa Ballroom 2-3

Great civilizations succeed by making the right decisions—but how are those decisions made? Tackling complex sustainability and resilience challenges often requires moving beyond default choices to decision making. To make better decisions, the psychology of choice matters.

This interactive session explores how complexity, scale, loss, and gain influence planning choices. It examines motivation

through principles of persuasion and modern psychology. The cost of precision and accuracy will be weighed against risk, value, and effort. The session also explores choices made through Traditional Ecological Knowledge, relational framing, and island perspectives, emphasizing "outcomes rather than accounting."

This conversation—not lecture—challenges continental and island planning norms while promoting meaningful discussion between attendees about decision-making frameworks that could contribute to better choices and win-win solutions for resilient communities.

Speakers:

- Cole Roberts, Principal, Arup
- Ramsay Taum, Cultural Sustainability Planner, PBR HAWAII and Associates, Inc.

Moderator: Grant Murakami, Executive Vice President, PBR HAWAII and Associates, Inc.

● redesigning systems

Data-Driven Resilience: Transforming Hawai'i's Travel and Transportation

'Iolani 5-7

This session will focus on exploring big data collection in Hawai'i and the use of innovative,

friday, aug 29 | breakout sessions

data-driven solutions to address local travel and transportation challenges. It will explore how diverse and emerging mobility data can inform travel and transportation management, infrastructure planning, and enhance the overall travel experience. The session will highlight practical applications, all aimed at improving the resilience and sustainability of Hawai‘i's transportation systems.

These presentation topics will be of interest to transportation planners, policymakers, data scientists, tourism managers, and urban developers seeking to leverage data for more efficient, adaptive, and sustainable transportation solutions for both residents and visitors.

Speakers:

- Jennifer Chun, Director of Tourism Research, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism
- Kiana Otsuka, Senior Transportation Planner, O‘ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Xiaofeng Li, Assistant Professor of Transportation Management, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

aicp corner

Planning Ethics

‘Iolani 1-4

This session is designed to meet the mandatory AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) topic credit for Ethics.

Speaker: Jared Chang, Associate, Bowers and Kubota Consulting, Inc.

BREAKOUT G | 10:50-11:50am

aicp corner

What Planners and Their Clients Need to Know Now: 2025 Law Update

Tapa Ballroom 2-3

This session is designed to meet the mandatory AICP Certification Maintenance

(CM) topic credit for Law.

Recent decisions from courts and administrative law settings are reshaping planning practice. This 60-minute update covers: (1) accessory uses under local zoning; (2) “NEPA Back to Basics” after the U.S. Supreme Court’s Seven County decision; and (3) impact fees and other exactions after Sheetz, plus the Maui Lani case—“How many bites at the apple can you take?”—on finality and repetitive challenges. Participants will learn to spot accessory-use issues, scope NEPA review, and evaluate exactions and fee programs consistent with current law. This session is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

Speakers:

- Brad Saito, Deputy Corporation Counsel, City and County of Honolulu
- Cal Chipchase, Partner, Cades Schutte LLP
- David L. Callies, Professor Emeritus, Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law (emeritus), University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law

Moderator: Jesse Souki, Office of General Counsel, University of Hawai‘i

redesigning systems

Hawai‘i's Updated Energy Strategy: Planning for Hawai‘i's Energy Future

‘Iolani 5-7

This session will provide an overview of Hawai‘i's updated energy strategy and the current work of the Hawai‘i State Energy Office as well as the resources needed to make it to the State's clean energy goals.

Speakers:

- Eric Sippert, Energy Partnerships Program Manager, Hawai‘i State Energy Office
- Monique Zanfes, Managing Director, Hawai‘i State Energy Office, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Branch
- Munashe Silverberg, Energy Analyst, Hawai‘i State Energy Office

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aicp corner

AICP Exam Preparation | 1-3pm

'Iolani 1-4

This session describes how to become a member of AICP, including why you may want to become a member, and tips on how to verify your educational background and employment history when preparing an application to join AICP. It will also describe the structure of the AICP exam, potential topics and types of questions, preparation strategies, and tips to increase your chances of passing the exam.

Led By: Peter Flachsbart, Retired Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Hawai'i Cultural Resource Information System (HICRIS) Workshop | 1-3pm

*laptop strongly encouraged

Honolulu 1

HICRIS is an advanced Geographic Information System program that provides access to Hawai'i's vast historic and cultural resource database as well as digitized paper records. HICRIS serves as an interactive portal for agencies, municipalities and others who use historic preservation programs, such as the State and Federal Income Tax Credits for Historic Properties, the State and National Registers of Historic Places Programs, the Sections 6E and 106 (NHPA) review processes and building and archaeological survey programs. HICRIS was developed by Department of Land and Natural Resource's

State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). SHPD oversees and maintains a broad range of data and information about Hawai'i's architectural, historic, cultural and archaeological properties.

Led By: Michael Wahl, GIS Specialist, State Historic Preservation Division, State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Spatial Fictions: Crafting Community Futures with StoryMaps | 1-3:30pm

*laptop required

Honolulu 2

Spatial stories are a powerful medium for communicating the need for change—or the desire to resist it. StoryMaps have increasingly been used by professionals and engaged citizens to weave together maps, 3D scenes, and other digital, interactive media to create awareness, influence opinion, and affect change. Building on the Thursday breakout session, *Speculative Futures and Situated Design: New Pathways for Public Engagement in Transit-Oriented Development*, this session walks participants through the design and development of their own StoryMap meant to communicate an imagined future for a community they know well. The training will touch on data ethics and provide tools for bringing a compelling spatial narrative to life. Instructional resources are transferable to other use cases and double as a means to empower community members to communicate their

friday, aug 29 | post-conference training

own desired futures. *Note: Participants are not required to attend the Thursday breakout session.*

Led By: Scott "Cloudwatcher" Allen, MURP, GISP, Planning Research and Design Specialist, State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

Foundations of Facilitation | 1-4pm

Honolulu 3

Join trainers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management to learn foundational facilitation skills, tools, and tips to help make your meetings more productive and engaging. Trainers will also touch on dealing with disruptive behaviors in meetings.

Provided By: Cuong Tran, Resilience Specialist, Tellus Civic Service (in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management); Lauren Long, Pacific Learning Services Coordinator and Environmental Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management

ArcGIS Urban: Streamlining Urban Planning

Workflows* | 1-5pm

**laptop strongly encouraged*

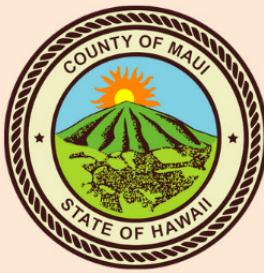
'Iolani 5-7

This workshop session is an introduction to ArcGIS Urban. ArcGIS Urban is a web-based solution that applies GIS technology to urban planning to streamline plan creation, analyze the impact of plans, visualize current projects, and facilitate public engagement. In addition to helping design, manage, and measure urban developments, ArcGIS Urban allows to visualize citywide plans and projects in one place for collaboration among stakeholders.

Provided By: Aziz Bakkoury, Senior Technical Consultant, Esri

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Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project

Re-envisioning Flood Mitigation



Project Overview

Purpose

Primary objectives of this project sought to mitigate flood risks caused by historic stream way alterations in Punalu'u, while providing sustainable farm lands, invasive species control, and a reinvigorated estuary system. This work would include excavating historic floodplain fill and creating a floodplain corridor, necessary for improving drainage within the valley.

Design

In promoting goals such as: Floodplain/Stream Restoration, Flood Mitigation, Cultural & Natural Resource Protection, Increasing Community Engagement, and 'Aina-Based Education, the project design needed to be dynamic, reflecting the multitude of functions the project would serve.

Project Specifications

- 189,000 cubic yards of excavation over 76 acres
- 6,500 feet of berm removal from Punalu'u Stream
- Construction of a new 5.2 acre estuary
- Construction of a 6.7 acre wetland in Kahana
- 10 new culverts installed
- 4.8 million gallons added to water storage capacity



Monitor & Evaluation

As the Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project continues to progress, its lessons also continue to teach us all. While prioritizing community needs, the project has been able to mitigate flood risks, reestablish healthy ecosystems, and promote sustainable land use. The project serves as an example for other restoration projects throughout Hawai'i on the importance of integrated solutions and design to restoration work.

Community partners, essential to the continued monitoring and stewardship of Punalu'u Stream, include:



WAIHAPAKAI

<https://www.instagram.com/waihapakai/>



HO'OUULU PUNALU'u

<https://www.instagram.com/hoouulupunaluu/>



KA PAPA LOI'O PUNALU'u

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/hsh/ka-papa-loi-o-kanewai/the-punalu'u%ca%bbu-site/>



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