

## State News for NSPE Members

### Hawaii MATHCOUNTS Team Gets Ready for National Competition

Congratulations to the Hawaii mathletes who will represent the state during the upcoming **2023 Raytheon Technologies MATHCOUNTS Competition** finals that will take place May 14–15 in Orlando, Florida. Access more national competition information [here](#).

The Hawaii team includes the following student members and coach:

- **Evan Ho** (7th grade) Washington Middle School-Honolulu, HI
- **Keene Koide** (8th grade) Washington Middle School-Honolulu, HI
- **Sola Murakami** (8th grade) Iolani School-Honolulu, HI
- **Ethan Zee** (8th grade) Iolani School-Honolulu, HI
- **Joe Guillou** (Coach) Iolani School

NSPE-HI supports the next generation of PEs through engagement in the MATHCOUNTS program. These students are some of the most capable and hardworking young mathematicians in our state, and the top scoring students earn the prestigious honor of representing Hawaii at the national level.

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### State Licensing Board Meeting

The [Hawaii Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects](#) will hold its next meeting on **Monday, April 24**. Access meeting information [here](#).

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### Hawaii DOT Must Face Climate Lawsuit, Judge Rules

A judge in Hawaii has rejected a bid by the state's transportation department to dismiss a lawsuit filed on behalf of 14 young people who claim it is violating the state constitution by failing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, [Reuters reports](#).

Judge Jeffrey Crabtree in Honolulu [ruled](#) that the youth plaintiffs could pursue their claims that the Hawaii Department of Transportation is shirking its duty to protect the environment by promoting and funding highway projects that lead to more fuel consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Crabtree rejected the state's argument the plaintiffs had no tangible injuries on which to base their case since they claimed climate change effects are "already baked in."

"Transportation emissions are increasing and will increase at the rate we are going," Crabtree said. "In other words, the alleged harms are not hypothetical or only in the future."

Hawaii Deputy Attorney General Lauren Chun said Thursday the state "stands behind its record as a national leader in addressing climate change" and will continue to work towards meeting its climate goals. [Read more.](#)

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## Public Utilities Commission Launches New Integrated Grid Planning Webpage

The Public Utilities Commission added a [new webpage](#) with key information describing Hawaiian Electric's Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, which is a collaborative planning effort led by Hawaiian Electric to determine the grid's needs and how to meet them as the State transitions to 100% renewable energy.

Hawaiian Electric filed a Draft IGP Report on March 31, 2023, documenting the results of the five-year planning process and soliciting input from the community. Hawaiian Electric plans to incorporate responses to community input into its Final IGP Report.

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).*

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## Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

*By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023*

Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy



for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

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## New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



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## QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector

(includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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