Nominations Open: HI Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year

The Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers is accepting nominations for Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. These awards are intended to give recognition to the outstanding accomplishments, contributions, and achievements of individuals in the engineering field. The winners will be honored at the Engineers Week Banquet in February 2023.

Nomination forms can be accessed on the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies website or by contacting Kurt Kunimune, P.E., at kkunimune@bowersandkubota.com. Please submit nominations by Wednesday, December 28.

Molokai Plans for Energy Resilience

Molokai has put forth a preparedness plan that focuses on using renewable energy to increase resilience for critical services in the community, according to the Molokai Dispatch. The plan first prioritized Molokai’s water pumps – the island's water tanks only hold enough supply for seven days. Using renewable energy to keep the pumps going in the event of a power outage is crucial to keeping residents supplied with water.

The plan also includes backup power generation for critical services that have traditionally relied on diesel in an emergency, including first responders at the hospital, fire and police stations, and services like wastewater treatment. Read more.

Waipio Valley Road Closure Lawsuit Settlement

A settlement has been reached for the vast majority of parties involved in the
A lawsuit against the mayor of the Big Island, the former public works director, and the county regarding the Waipio Valley Road closure, *West Hawaii Today* reports.

Last spring, the road was closed by a mayoral emergency declaration closing Waipio Valley Road to all but residents, landowners, and farmers in the valley, stating that "upon scientific information and expertise available, Waipio Valley Road is in imminent threat of slope and roadway failure threatening the health, safety, and welfare of the people." It is the steepest road in the US.

The measure was taken based on a study of the road conducted by an engineer.

The rule essentially shut down tourism in the area, leaving some residents without an important source of income. A new amended proclamation will allow for four-wheel drive access for residents and tourism operators, and requests for individual exemptions. Residents are calling this an interim solution. Read more.

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**State Licensing Board Meeting**

The Hawaii Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects will host its next meeting on *Thursday, October 13*, at 10 a.m.

A Zoom link and agenda will be provided prior to the meeting. Access the board website for more information.

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NSPE’s *Job Board* is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

**Featured Job**

Professional Engineer/Design Technical Support Engineer  
Honolulu, HI

*Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.*
Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision
By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023

What does NSPE mean to you? I’d like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I’ve had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.

Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give.

Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn’t help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.

Read more.

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year
Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award. Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. Apply or nominate a worthy engineer.

The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year
Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE’s 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a virtual awards event in February.

Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy’s Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a PE article.

Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional webinar are excellent. “Applicable to all engineering disciplines,” says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE’s PE Institute. All webinars in the spring series are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!