

State News for NSPE Members

Meet Your NSPE-HI 2025-2026 State Society Officers

Mike Silva, P.E., F.NSPE, L.S. – President

Hannah Hermanson – Secretary and Maui Chapter Director

Mike Lum, P.E. – Vice President

Pac Chung – Treasurer

Ikaika Rodenhurst – NSPE House of Delegates Representative (FY26-FY27)

[Access contact information.](#)

State Licensing Board Meeting

The [Hawaii Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects](#) will hold a meeting on **Thursday, October 9**. Access meeting information [here](#).

Honolulu Mayor Defends Bumpy Rollout of New Building Permit System

Honolulu's launch of new building permit software last month to speed up construction approvals has not gone smoothly, with permits being issued much more slowly than they were a year ago, [according to the Honolulu Civil Beat](#).

Since the introduction of HNL Build in early August, the city has issued fewer than 500 building permits, according to city data. The Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting did not provide a precise number despite repeated requests. Last year, the city issued 1,247 — more than twice as many — in August alone, a city report shows.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi defended the troubled rollout and, in a heated speech at the Honolulu City Council, he lambasted critics.

Speeding up building permits was a top campaign promise during Blangiardi's 2020 run for mayor and again when he was reelected last year. However, average permitting times have worsened throughout his tenure.

With a raised voice and pointed finger, Blangiardi chastised Councilman Tyler Dos Santos-Tam for talking to Hawaii News Now about the new system's shortcomings and for calling city permitting officials to a public meeting.

"We've had a couple of bumps in the road," Blangiardi said. "We expected that. We are about the business of fixing that. Nobody is denying anything. But we need that kind of understanding that this is a transition period right now." [Read more.](#)

KIUC Plans to Spend Up to \$52M to Reduce Wildfire Hazards on Kauai

The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is planning to spend up to \$52 million to reduce wildfire hazards between now and 2027. That estimate is part of KIUC's official wildfire mitigation plan, which is under review by the Public Utilities Commission, [Hawaii Public Radio reports](#).

The utility has yet to share if and how customers' bills may increase to pay for the costs of the utility's plan, but KIUC Chief of Operations Brad Rockwell told the commission at a recent public meeting that the utility was keeping possible impacts to ratepayers in mind.

"As a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative, we're always... trying to strike the right balance between how much are we going to spend versus what kind of benefit we're getting," he said.

Although the commission has yet to formally approve the KIUC's plan, the utility has already begun to implement certain elements of it. Rockwell shared that the utility has doubled its yearly budget for vegetation management, and crews are clearing a larger area around power lines and other utility infrastructure.

KIUC has set up several weather stations around Kauai to get more real-time data on potentially hazardous conditions. It's also in the process of inspecting thousands of utility poles and replacing ones that show signs of damage or rot.

"A good thing about all these efforts and this money that we're spending to help improve and mitigate our potential of causing wildfire is that there's huge reliability benefits as well," Rockwell said. [Read more.](#)

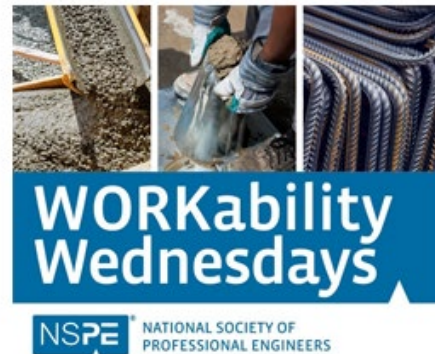
New Board of Ethical Review Cases Available

One of NSPE's key resources includes the Board of Ethical Review case studies. The five new cases (24-01 – 24-05) address the topics of balancing client directives and the public welfare, use of artificial intelligence in engineering practice, public contracting practices, community engagement for infrastructure projects, and sustainable development and resilient infrastructure. [Access the BER cases](#).

Enhance your understanding of the new BER cases by attending the upcoming WORKability Wednesdays webinar [Board of Ethical Review: Fall 2025 Case Review and Discussion](#) on October 22.

Level Up Your Career: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through NSPE's PE Institute. The new season of webinars launched on September 10 with [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#) and on September 24 with [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#) (Recordings are available). Registration is open for these upcoming webinars.



- October 8: [Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms](#)
- October 22: [Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases](#)
- November 5: **TBD**
- November 12: [Ethical Dimensions of Engineering in the 21st Century](#)

Missed the 2025 Spring WORKability Series? [Register for the package to get all 6 webinars](#) – free to members!

**Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.*

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year Award

Federal engineers are at the forefront of our nation's most vital priorities from infrastructure and innovation to defense, public health, and safety. Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the 2026 award are open until October 31, 2025. [Visit the online portal for full guidelines and submission details](#).



Why Does FEYA Matter?

Lt. Col. Brigham Moore, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, was named the 2025 Federal Engineer of the Year. Here's what Lt. Col. Moore had to say about the impact this award has had on his career: *"Being selected as Top Ten Finalist and ultimately as the Federal Engineer of the Year this past year has been an incredible highlight of my career. Within the Air Force, it has provided me opportunities to mentor and give back to the engineering community that I love. Professionally, it has reconnected me with previous advisors and engineering faculty, opening up doors and networking me with some people that I did not previously know. Finally, and personally, it served as a huge bolster to my confidence and commitment to continue making meaningful change with each project and major decision as I move forward."*

[Learn about Moore's government service and contributions to the profession.](#)



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