

State News for NSPE Members

HDOT Energy Security & Waste Reduction Plan

The Hawaii Department of Transportation is currently developing an Energy Security & Waste Reduction Plan to identify immediate actions to reduce transportation emissions, a roadmap for transportation in Hawaii to meet the State's net-negative emissions target by 2045, and an ultimate plan to reach zero emissions in the transportation sector.

The HDOT will be [accepting public comment on the plan draft](#) until August 31. Access information [here](#).

Hawaii Red Hill Water Contamination Lawsuit Expands

Federal court filings in Honolulu showed that attorneys representing people who said they were sickened by the November 2021 Red Hill jet fuel spill had added more than 6,000 additional plaintiffs to a consolidated lawsuit against the United States, the amended complaint stated, [MSN reports](#).

The expansion came after years of litigation and research into health effects tied to the US Navy fuel release that contaminated drinking water systems serving homes on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam. The amended complaint cited recent studies and sought to press the government toward settlement for thousands of additional claimants.

Why It Matters

The Red Hill facility sits above an aquifer that supplies water to large parts of the Hawaiian island of Oahu. The November 20, 2021, release of jet fuel into the Navy water system affected residents in military housing and raised broader concerns about the island's drinking water security.

Hawaiian Council Sets Its Sights on Energy Independence

The Hawaiian Council (formerly Council on Native Hawaiian Affairs) has appointed Josh Stanbro as chief administrator of Kalāhiki for a new statewide effort focused on energy sovereignty, climate resilience and economic security.

Kalāhiki is designed to give Hawaii families practical help at a time when federal energy and climate programs are shrinking and households are losing millions in benefits. The initiative will offer support on energy costs, home resilience and long-term security for communities across the islands.

“Josh brings the passion, experience, and strategy we need to ensure Kalāhiki leads the charge toward a self-sufficient future for our lāhui, and all of Hawaii,” said Kūhiō Lewis, CEO of Hawaiian Council. “Through this work, we will help deliver real solutions in people’s homes – lower energy costs, stronger houses, and more resilient communities.”

Stanbro said his new role is about helping local families keep their homes secure and their energy affordable. “We are really laser focused on developing economic opportunities for the Hawaiian community here in the islands. And energy is a huge space for that,” he said. [Read more on khon2.com.](#)

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](#).

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#) .

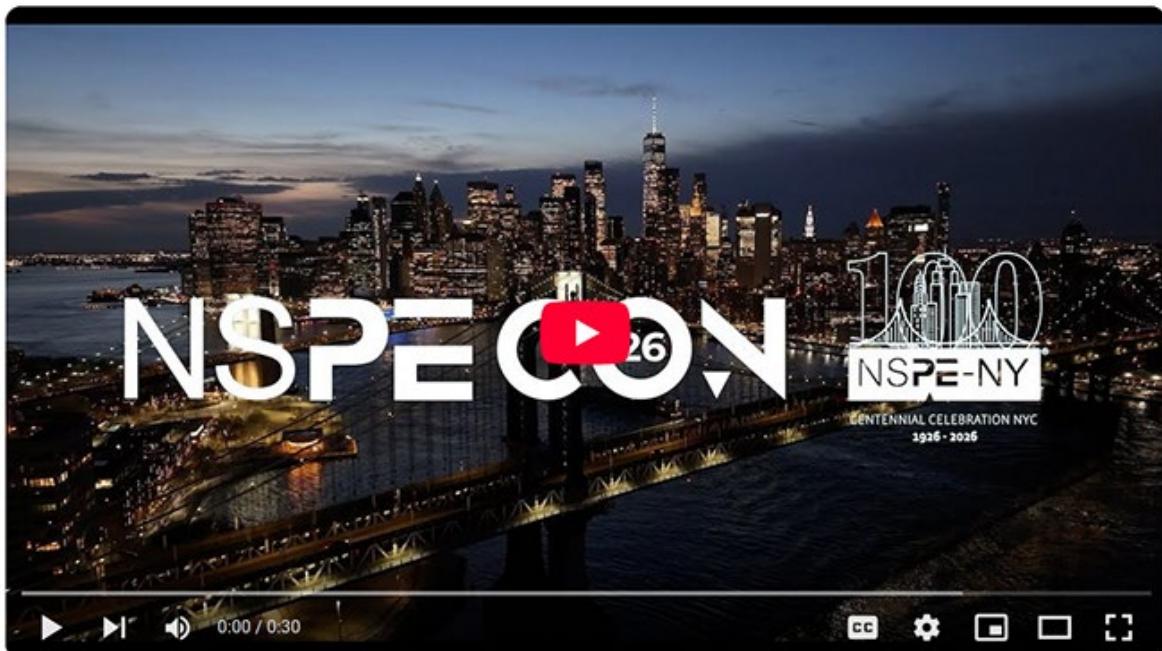


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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Registration Open: 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 first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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