

# PE MATTERS

STATE  
NEWS

**NSPE-HI**™ HAWAII SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> JULY 2019

## **PE Action Ensures License Requirement for Hawaii Public Works Position**

An effort to remove the PE requirement for the director of public works for Hawaii County was recently thwarted by the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers' Big Island Chapter.

In June, the Hawaii County Charter Commission held hearings about 28 proposed charter amendments for the 2020 ballot, including a proposal to remove the PE requirement. The proposal (CA-26) placed only one significant requirement on the position: five years of administrative experience. The current department director David Yamamoto and deputy director Allen Simeon are both PEs.

Commission Chairman Doug Adams, sponsor of the proposal, believes that a lack of a professional license in a technical field doesn't necessarily mean the director can't manage those who have one, according a Hawaii Tribune Herald article. "I think that it helps with identifying, increasing, expanding the potential for directors, good people, solid people that will have had experience in [a] public works department whether it is here or in other locations, and not necessarily create this small niche of those with a PE degree," he was quoted as saying in a June 9 article.

Under the leadership of Big Island Chapter Director Curtis Beck, P.E., F.NSPE, chapter members spoke against the commissions' proposed amendment. Ten chapter members, which included former directors of public works, provided testimony to the commission. The commission was also presented a letter addressing the critical need to have a licensed engineer in responsible charge of decisions that directly affect the health, safety, and welfare of county citizens. Nearly 60 PEs and architects who opposed the amendment signed onto the letter.

The commission responded to this outreach and testimonies by voting down the amendment, 7-2. "It felt good to make a difference," Beck stated on an NSPE Communities post.

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## **2019 Officer Installation**

Past NSPE President, Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE recently visited HISPE to address members before the official installation for both the Maui Chapter and State Society officers. The installation took place on June 22 at the Kahili Restaurant in Waikapu.



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## Celebrating the Profession



NSPE is celebrating licensed professional engineers with the fourth annual Professional Engineers Day on **August 7**. PE Day participants will raise awareness about what it means to be a PE, recognize licensed PEs, and show appreciation for the work PEs do every day.

- [Learn more about how to participate and access resources.](#)
- [Read the July/August PE magazine cover feature](#) and learn about the myriad ways individuals and companies are celebrating.

- [Show off your PE pride](#) with PE Day tshirts, mugs, totebags, and more on NSPE's new store.



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## PE Day: Let's Take It Outside

This year, for our fourth annual PE Day on **August 7**, let's take it outside. Outside the office and outside the profession. [Sign up to be a PE Day Advocate](#) and we'll schedule in-district meetings for you with your members of Congress and/or their staff. Take advantage of the opportunity to promote the value of professional licensing, build relationships with your members of Congress and their staff, and advocate for the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act (H.R. 2139/S. 1097).

PE Day is right around the corner and this is one of the many ways you can participate.

Never conducted a meeting with your representative's office before? No worries! The government relations staff is here to help you every step of the way. We'll provide all of the necessary materials, conduct a training webinar, and walk you through best practices for holding a successful meeting.

[Register now.](#)

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## New and Improved Access to BER Cases

The Board of Ethical Review's decades-long role as an ethical guide for the profession is like no other. As the BER's case catalog hits the 60-year mark, NSPE has released a major upgrade to its publicly available database of over 600 cases. The entirely unique reference gives full access to practicing engineers, students, educators, researchers, and anyone else who wants to learn more about the dilemmas engineers sometimes face in their work.

The database enables users to search the case catalog based on the topic—such as conflicts of interest or approval of engineering documents—by year, or by key words. The database also makes it easy for users to connect the cases to the relevant sections of NSPE's Code of Ethics for Engineers.

[Access the Board of Ethical Review Cases.](#)

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## Call for Volunteers

*A message from 2019–2020 NSPE President David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE:*

Dear NSPE Colleagues,

Volunteers are at the heart of NSPE's work—providing exceptional experiences and essential tools to our community.

I am excited to invite you to respond to this year's Call for Volunteers. We need your skills, passion, and perspectives to build a vibrant, inclusive, and multicultural corps of volunteer leaders throughout our committees, interest groups, and task forces.

Volunteer opportunities within NSPE exist through many different areas of interest and on varying levels of engagement, from participation in short-term projects to our highest level of engagement as an active volunteer of a chair-appointed committee.

Please review the online [2019–2020 NSPE Call for Volunteers Form](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities. **If you are interested in serving, please fill out the form by August 1.** You are limited to one selection within each engagement group. Appointments will be confirmed by the end of September.

Please note that depending on the number of responses received and the finite number of volunteer positions to fill, there may not be a role for everyone this year. While every effort will be made to place you in your primary area of interest in your desired engagement level, we may be unable to make a match due to limited vacancies.

We welcome your expertise and enthusiasm in becoming a part of this active and talented group of volunteers. Thank you for your consideration.

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