

State News for NSPE Members

And the Winner Is.....

The Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers is proud to announce that **Steve Baldrige** and **Kapiolani M. Street, P.E.**, have been selected as the 2021 Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year.

2021 Engineer of the Year

Steve Baldrige is the founder and president of Baldrige & Associates Structural Engineering Inc. (BASE), and leads the firm's pursuit of innovation and practical approaches to making buildings stronger, safer, and more cost-efficient.



[Standing on the right: Steve Baldrige]

Baldrige is a champion of efficient and sustainable structural design through optimizing structural systems to reduce material requirements on a project. Projects designed by BASE have changed the Honolulu skyline, such as Koula, Aeo, Aalii, Pacifica, The Ritz-Carlton Waikiki, Keauhou Place, and 801 South Street. Under his leadership BASE has expanded to Guam, Chicago, Florida, and India with signature projects across all offices.

Baldrige has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas–Austin.

2021 Young Engineer of the Year

Kapiolani M. Street, P.E., has more than seven years of experience on civil and sanitary engineering projects. She currently works as a project engineer at the Limtiaco Consulting Group in Honolulu. Her projects include stormwater erosion control design, wastewater system design, site development and utility design.



In 2013, Street earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In 2020, she obtained an MBA from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Shidler College of Business.

Street currently serves as the past president and website co-chair for the American Society of Civil Engineers Younger Member Forum. She is also active in the American Water Works Association and the annual Pacific Water Conference Committee.

Get Ready for Engineers Week!



Engineers Week is [a time to celebrate](#) the important work of engineers and engage the next generation of innovators. Even with social distancing, you can make a difference. Here are a few activities that will be of interest to NSPE-HI members.

Hawaii Engineers Week Events

The Kick-Off Event

A virtual event will be held on **Tuesday, February 23** (12 p.m.-1p.m.) The event is sponsored by the Society of Military Engineers and the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies.

Featured speakers are Capt. Gordie Meyer, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, NAVFAC Hawaii, and Brennan Morioka, Ph.D., Dean of the University of Hawaii at

Manoa College of Engineering, who will discuss the Red Hill Fuel: Fueling our National Security, Levering Technology. [Register here.](#)

Virtual Engineering Career Day

University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Engineering Spring Career Day will be held on **Wednesday, February 24** (9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.). [Register here.](#)

Awards Event

The annual engineers' awards event will be held via Zoom on **Friday, February 26** (12 p.m.-1p.m.). The event is sponsored by the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies and will feature Bill Chapman, Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture as the event speaker. [Register here.](#)

NSPE Events

Future of Engineering

Join NSPE leaders Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE and Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, as they discuss the future of engineering and how our changing world will impact the profession during a free webinar on **Monday, February 22** (1 p.m.-2p.m. ET). Webinar participants can earn one professional development hour. The webinar will be recorded for later viewing.

2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Award Webcast

NSPE celebrates the 2021 federal agency winners, the Top 10 Finalists, and announces the 2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year via pre-recorded webcast on **Wednesday, February 24 at 12 p.m. ET** on the NSPE [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Hawaii DOT to Host Meetings on Transportation Plan

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) will hold virtual public meetings on the update of the [Hawaii Statewide Transportation Plan](#) (HSTP) on **February 17, 18, & 20**. The meetings will be held using Microsoft Teams.

The HSTP looks at the future of transportation for the next 25 years and will update the state's long-term transportation goals and policies for air, water, and land. During the meetings, the HDOT will share an overview of the plan and gather public feedback on goals, objectives, and emerging trends for the plan.

[Learn more.](#)

Kauai is Moving Forward on One of the Nation's Most Advanced Energy Projects

The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, the island's community-owned electricity company, has signed final agreements with AES Corp., a developer of a wide variety of generating plants, to build Hawaii's first power plant relying on "pumped storage" technology.

Together, KIUC and AES will redevelop two existing reservoirs—one a couple thousand feet higher than the other. It will be on the west side of Kauai, near the US Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility, according to a *Honolulu Civil Beat* article.

[Read more.](#)

Licensing Board Meeting

The Hawaii Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors & Landscape Architects will host its next meeting via Zoom on **Thursday, March 11** (9a.m.-11:30 a.m.).

A Zoom link and agenda will be provided prior to the meeting. Access the [licensing board website](#) for more information.

NCEES April 2021 Test Registration

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is accepting registrations for the pencil-and-paper April 2021 PE exams until March 4 (3 p.m. ET).

The exam administration will take place over two days—**Thursday, April 22** and **Friday, April 23**. Registration for the computer-based FE and PE exams will remain open year-round.

According to NCEES, every effort will be made to accommodate all registered examinees in a manner that protects the health and safety of everyone involved. All sites for the April 2021 exam administration must operate in compliance with capacity and social distancing requirements. In most cases, this will reduce the number of examinees that can be accommodated at an exam site.

[Access information for registering.](#)

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

New Report: Valuing Professional Licensing

For years, professional associations and regulatory boards lacked hard data that

demonstrated the value of licensing. In 2020, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) sought to fill that information gap by commissioning Oxford Economics to help better understand the nuanced impacts of licensing on professions and trade and vocational occupations. NSPE is a founding member of ARPL.

The report [Valuing Professional Licensing in the United States](#), includes several key findings:

- Across all professions and occupations, **licensing is associated with a 6.5% average increase in hourly earnings**, even after accounting for the job holder's educational attainment, gender, and racial demographics.
- Among professionals in technical fields requiring significant education and training, **a license narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about one third and the race-driven wage gap by about half.**
- Those in trade and vocational occupations can expect a **7.1% hourly wage increase** after becoming licensed, while those in a profession requiring advanced education and training can expect a **3.6% wage increase** after becoming licensed.

ARPL will host a **live webinar on February 24, 2021 (3:00 p.m. eastern standard time)** to review findings and conclusions of the report and share new strategies for lawmaker outreach. [Register now](#).

Licensing Reform Must Prioritize Public Safety, Says NSPE President

NSPE President Tricia Hatley has once again made the case for keeping public health, welfare, and safety at the forefront of efforts to reform occupational licensure and increase mobility.

In a recent column directed to state and local government leaders, Hatley warns of the risks of implementing one-size-fits-all universal licensure proposals that do not maintain necessary education and experience standards.

Most people agree professionals should be allowed to move across state lines and earn a living with the least cost and hassle possible. Likewise, most people want to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ensuring they are being served by qualified professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experience for the job. This is especially true in highly technical, high-impact professions that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing represents like certified public accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects.

Here comes the rub: many of the universal licensing proposals being pitched to state lawmakers, including those put forth by the American Legislative Exchange Council and in Arizona, tend to focus exclusively on the first point—improving mobility—while disregarding the second—ensuring standards necessary to protect the public.

In other words, universal licensing mandates don't consider the critical importance of substantially equivalent requirements between states. Instead, they dictate that states must accept a license issued by any state without regard for, understanding of, or any input in, the underlying minimum competency requirements behind the license.

[Read the full op-ed column.](#)

PEs Can Strengthen Autonomous Vehicle Safety

NSPE is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to rely on the expertise of professional engineers and follow recommendations in the Society's [Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide](#) as part of the federal safety frame work for automated driving systems.



In [recent public comments](#) , NSPE President Tricia Hatley informed the agency that NSPE is committed to creating a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. NSPE [Position Statement No. 03-1772](#) states that the testing and deployment of AVs must include a professional engineer. The rationale for the position is rooted in a professional engineer's ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Society also recommends that the NHTSA implement a third-party verification process. A third-party verification process should establish that the ADS technology under review meets a minimal level of safety, as determined by an assessment of risk. This can be done through the submittal of risk assessments audited by a professional engineer who is in responsible charge of the third-party verification process.

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