

State News for NSPE Members

University of Hawaii Engineers Design System for Sharing Ventilators

Working together with doctors from Hawaii Pacific Health, engineers at the University of Hawaii have adapted a ventilator to allow it to be used by four patients at once—quadrupling the capacity of the life-saving technology. Ventilators have been critical in the most severe cases of COVID-19.

The system uses valves to regulate oxygen flow, volume, and pressures for the four patients sharing the ventilator. Zachary Trimble, associate professor in the University of Hawaii Manoa's Department of Mechanical Engineering, put together a team of graduate and undergraduate engineering students to work with doctors from Hawaii Pacific Health.

[Read more.](#)

Army Corps Exploring Alternate Care Facilities

In April, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District conducted initial planning and site assessments for potential alternate care facilities. These facilities could relieve pressure on hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team evaluated locations in Hilo and Kailua-Kona chosen by the state.

“During site evaluations we are evaluating structural soundness, square footage, potential bed capacity and isolation space, electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, as well as the feasibility of creating a negative-pressure environment,” said Jeff Herzog, assessment team leader. “The data collected provides the state with information on facility capabilities.”

[Read more.](#)

Pandemic May Slow Renewable Energy Projects

By 2045, almost all of the electricity sold in Hawaii must be from renewable sources. Utilities on Maui, the Big Island, and Oahu are slated to buy energy from third-party developers. These developers have been submitting bids for big solar and wind farms.

COVID-19 has created uncertainties and potential challenges—such as with community outreach. But the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission wants projects to push ahead.

[Read more.](#)

Welcome New Members!

- Kevin Fitzgerald, P.E., J.S. Held
- Tony Lau, P.E., Naval Facilities Engineering Command
- LTC Lisa Mann, P.E., US Army
- Mikki Klee, P.E., Hart Crowser
- Paul Baron, P.E., GHD Inc.
- Jayanth Kumar Rayapeddi Kumar, P.E., Jas. W. Glover Ltd.

Welcome New Student Members!

- Christian Manansala, Rider Levett Bucknall
 - Mickie Hirata, Washington University in St. Louis
 - Devon Hirata
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Get Ready for *Virtual* PE Conference 2020 (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by

accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon 2020**;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

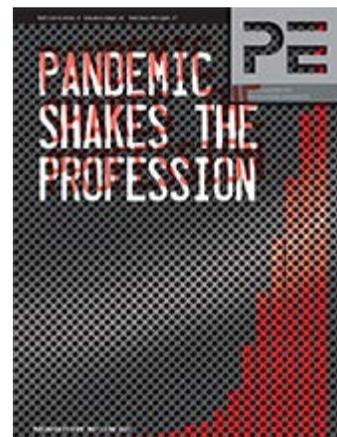
Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division **NICET**, as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.

No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)



Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#) .

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace - May 27](#)
- [Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - June 3](#)
- [Ethics in our Changing World - June 10](#)
- [Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - June 24](#)

[Visit NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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