

State News for NSPE Members

Hawaii to Receive \$2.8 Billion for Infrastructure

Hawaii is set to receive an estimated \$2.8 billion in federal funding for infrastructural improvements, as well as job creation, as reported by [Pacific Business News](#).

The funds are to come from a federal \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure deal that was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, and includes funding to repair roads and bridges, improve local public transportation options, and strengthen high-speed internet access, among other uses. In addition to the billions of dollars in federal funding for Hawaii, the bill also includes legislation to improve road safety standards and make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

UH-Hilo, Hawaii County Partner to Map Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion

The University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii County are partnering on a project to catalog the coastline of Hawaii Island and analyze sea level encroachment to inform future infrastructure decisions, according to a [Pacific Inno](#) report.

The community project to map 428 kilometers of often-rugged coastline, led by UH-Hilo geography professor Ryan Perroy and Hawaii County Planner Bethany Morrison, was [featured in a video](#) by the US Geological Survey at the COP26 global summit on climate change in Glasgow, Scotland, on November 8. The video's theme was, "Communities on the front line and local leaders that support them."

Along with UH-Hilo student Aloha Kapono, Perroy and Morrison are using a helicopter and a custom imaging system to map the coastline and create three-dimensional models of those beaches, sea cliffs, and lava fields. The goal is to provide a projection for coastal changes in the future based on what's already been observed.

National Academies Advocate for Funding of Large Telescope on Mauna Kea

A new report on priorities in astronomy for the next decade has identified the Thirty Meter Telescope on Hawaii's Mauna Kea as being deserving of funding from the National Science Foundation, the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) reports. This endorsement of the \$2 billion TMT that is slated to be built was crucial for securing additional government funding.

The report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine is produced every 10 years and influences on the following decade of work in astronomy. The TMT was cited as being crucial due to its unique ability to detect life beyond our planet and to help scientists better understand our world.

The researchers said that funding should be contingent on better engagement with Native Hawaiians on Mauna Kea, a volcano that is considered to be sacred, and on other conditions.

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

Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE

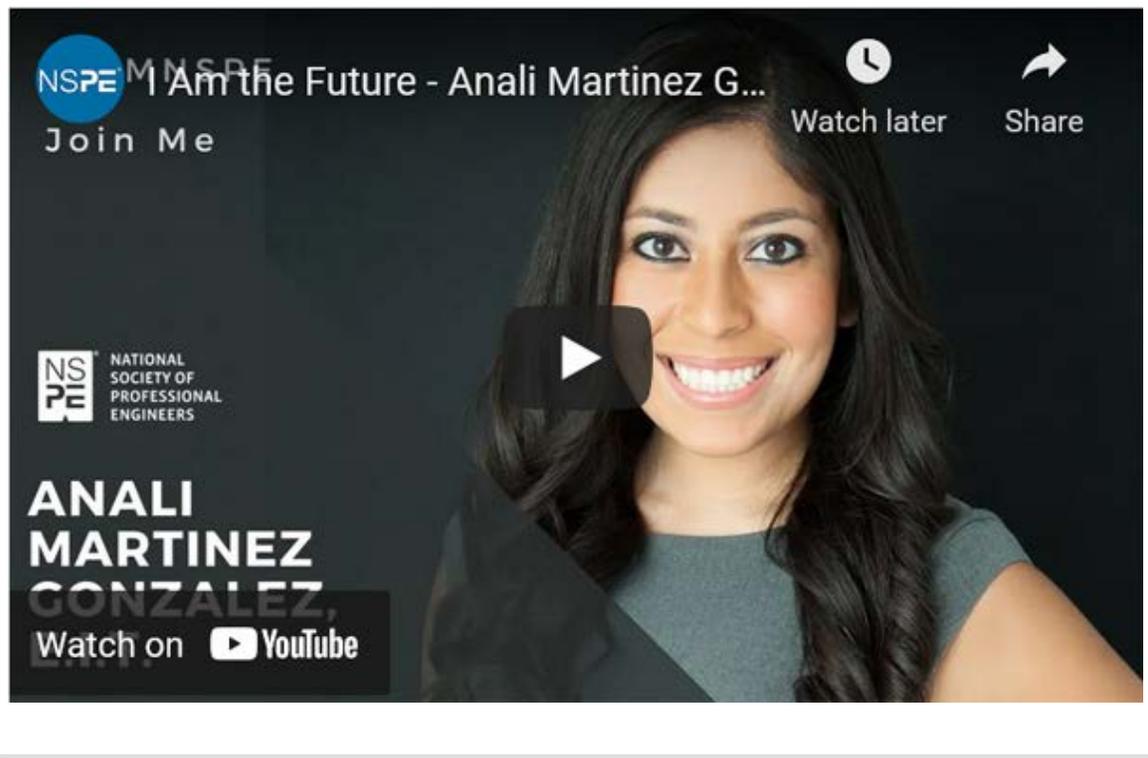


NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

“I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day.”



PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals

The banner features the PE 22 CONFERENCE logo on the left with the tagline "Harnessing the Power of PEs to Create a Better World". A green box in the center contains the text "Call for presentations is now open!" and "Deadline to submit is November 30, 2021." The center image shows a woman presenting to an audience. On the right, the dates "August 1-3 2022" and location "Philadelphia, PA" are listed, along with "Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown".

NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**

