

# 2023 Pacific Water Conference

*By Carly Kaneko  
At-Large Trustee, Annual Conference*

**T**his year's Pacific Water Conference marked the return of the annual conference as an in-person event. It was so nice to reconnect with colleagues and friends at the Hawaii Convention Center on February 7th-9th, 2023. Everyone showed up in full-force with this year's conference garnering over 790 attendees for the 2-day portion of conference and 137 exhibitor booths. In total, there were more than 1,000 individuals participating in this year's conference.

We would like to extend a huge mahalo to the conference planning committee! The committee spent countless hours and over eight-months planning every detail of this year's conference ranging from the technical program to the food and refreshments to the golf tournament, as well as many other components related to the conference itself. In addition to our committee, we also have many volunteers that provide the day-of manpower helping with registration, moderating sessions, lei pickups, and the golf tournament check-in and games. Thank you to all our volunteers and the entire committee for their role in making this year's conference a success!

There were nearly 300 people in attendance at this year's Tuesday Pre-Conference workshops that were held on February 7, 2023. The Pre-conference workshops featured five tracks this year: 1) Climate Change, 2) Wastewater Operations and Technology, 3) Wastewater Operators, 4) Water Operators, and 5) Young Professionals.



*AWWA Hawaii Section Executive Board and Trustees with visiting officer, Chi Ho Sham*

The AWWA Hawaii Section welcomed AWWA Past President **Chi Ho Sham** and his wife **Joan** who traveled quite a distance, all the way from Boston, to be with us for this year's conference. **Chi Ho** attended as the "visiting" officer for the 2021 and 2022 conferences so we were elated to have him finally join us in-person this year. AWWA-HI held the visiting officer reception on Tuesday evening, thank you to **Ken Kawahara** for planning the event.

The main 2-day Conference was held on

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## Drinking Water Week 2023

May 7-13, 2023

Did you know it's Drinking Water Week? Here are some ways to celebrate and get involved! <https://news.awwa.org/3xICldO>

### *Renew & Win* **YETI**

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FROM 1/2023 TO END OF 6/2023 AND BE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED TO WIN THIS YETI! A WINNER WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED DURING THE MONTH OF 7/2023.



 American Water Works Association  
Hawaii Section

### **DONT FORGET TO RENEW!**



**YOU NOW HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**

**WHILE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES THROUGH THE MAIL, THE RENEWAL WITH DETAILS ABOUT PAYMENT OPTIONS WILL BE EMAILED TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE**

Wednesday and Thursday, February 8-9 and featured a total of 6 tracks with over 102 presentations. This year's conference theme was *Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua* which translates to *Life Thrives Where There is Water*. The theme was intended to highlight the importance of water and the critical role it plays in sustaining and supporting our communities. Our keynote speaker was **Mami Hara**, CEO of the U.S. Water Alliance. She emphasized the importance providing sustainable and equitable infrastructure and how it is our responsibility to work together as a community to tackle the challenges we face in the water industry together. The keynote served as a great reminder of the key role that water and wastewater industry professionals serve and helped bring everyone together as we kicked off the conference.



*Eddy, the AWWA waterdrop and Niles, the WEF crocodile*

The AWWA Hawaii Section had two scholarship recipients this year, **Miki Kawahara** and **Kelly Mukai**. AWWA-HI Vice Chair **Lorna Heller** and Immediate Past-Chair **Ken Kawahara** were recognized for their service to the organization as recipients of the Outstanding Section Member Award. **Darnelle Chung** was the recipient of this year's Special Recognition Award. Congratulations to the scholarship winners and thank you to **Lorna, Ken, and Darnelle** for all your contributions to AWWA-HI!

The conference concluded on Thursday evening with the Installation Banquet which included more food, raffle prizes, awards presentations, and installation of the AWWA and HWEA officers. The officers were installed by **Chi Ho Sham**, AWWA Past President. The George Fuller Award recipient was also announced at

this year's banquet. This recognition is presented to the member that has demonstrated distinguished service to the water supply field. This year the George Warren Fuller Award recipient was **Dean Nakano**, AWWA-HI Pacific Rim Committee Chair and Client Services Manager at Brown and Caldwell. **Dean's** impressive experience along with his influence within the Hawaii community and with clients made him a very deserving recipient of this prestigious award. Congratulations **Dean!**

The golf tournament was held on the Friday following the conference, February 10th. There were over 180 golfers this year that enjoyed even more food, drinks and fellowship at the Hawaii Prince Golf Course. The conference week concluded with the AWWA and HWEA Community Service event on Saturday, February 11th at the Loko l'a Pa'aiiau fishpond. At this event, volunteers learned the history of the local watersheds dating back to the Hawaiian royalty and of the restoration efforts of the community group that brought the fishpond back to life.

It was great seeing everyone in-person again this year. Mahalo to everyone for their support in making this year's conference possible and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year. ([See more PWC highlights on page 19](#)) §



# Chair's Message

*By Rich Hopkins  
Hawaii Section Chair*

**A**loha members, We are in the winter months, and we are going full speed. After a 2-year hiatus the 10th Annual Pacific Water conference comes back with a

vengeance. Largest exhibit hall ever. Attendee registration close to the largest registration ever. We received nothing but rave reviews about the conference. It was fantastic to have the conference in-person again. It was a terrific opportunity to re-establish live connections with our friends, customers and vendors. Congratulations to ALL the volunteers of the 2023 Pacific Water Conference, job well done.

On February 6th, the AWWA-HI Section, HWEA Section and Pacific Water Conference committee met with Governor **Dr. Josh Green**, where he signed a proclamation that February 6th is Water Professional Week. It's not national coverage, but at least our beloved State acknowledged the work our Water Professionals performed during the pandemic. Again, thank you for providing the State of Hawaii clean water every day.

Next step, Workshops. Our volunteer committee is diligently working on establishing getting our workshop active again. Stay tuned.

Please renew your AWWA-Hi Section membership. This is a valuable tool to expand your knowledge and grow your career in the water industry. Vendors, please add Hawaii as an additional section to your registration. All of this makes our section stronger.

The AWWA-Hawaii Section is a volunteer organization. Volunteering for the Hawaii Section is critical to our success. If you are interested in the success of the Hawaii Section, please do not hesitate to contact me or the section. Participating in the Hawaii Section is rewarding both professionally and personally. Mahalo for what you do in the water industry, see you at the next workshop. §

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## **Hawaii Section Vision Statement**

**"AWWA Hawaii Section will be the leading force in the State dedicated to safe drinking water."**

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# Director's Message

*By Juanita Reyher-Colon*  
*Hawaii Section Director*



Aloha Kakou!!

Happy New Year! I started the new year by attending the AWWA Winter Board meeting. This year's meeting was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from January 12th through the 14th. Incoming Section Director **Ken Kawahara** joined me at the Board meeting. Congratulations, **Ken**, on your new assignment you'll represent Hawaii well. The importance of the Winter Board meeting is to introduce the incoming Section Directors and elect our incoming President and Vice Presidents. I proudly announce that the AWWA Board of Directors selected **Cheryl Porter** from Detroit, Michigan, as the Association's next President-Elect. The Vice Presidents elected were **Marcus Firman**, Ontario Section; **Mary Gugliuzza**, Texas Section; **Christine Spitzley**, Michigan Section and **Brent Tippy**, Kentucky/Tennessee Section.

The start of 2023 saw the return of in-person conferences with the Pacific Water Conference. Many of you took the opportunity to reconnect or make new connections at the PWC. Congratulations and a big Mahalo to the conference committee for all the hard work and dedication in organizing this great event. This year we celebrated our 10th annual joint conference with the Hawaii Water Environment Association with proclamations from all of our County Mayors and the State Governors' office proclaiming February 6-11, 2023, Water Professionals Week. I want to congratulate **Dean Nakano** for receiving this year's Fuller Award. Congratulations to all of this year's winners as well.

I'm sure many of you have heard about AWWA's Water 2050 initiative; at

[continued on page 6](#)

## Hawaii Section Mission Statement

"The AWWA Hawaii Section is dedicated to the promotion of public health and welfare in the provision of drinking water of unquestionable quality and sufficient quantity. AWWA Hawaii Section must be proactive and effective in advancing the technology, science, management, and government policies relative to the stewardship of water."

our upcoming strategic planning meeting on March 30th, the Section board will discuss this initiative to help provide input from the Section level. What is Water 2050? It is a collaborative initiative led by AWWA to envision the future of water and chart a course for success and sustainability. To bring together diverse voices to explore the water community's long-term challenges and opportunities, AWWA has been hosting a series of think tanks with influential thinkers from within and outside the water sector to examine water's future through the prism of five core divers: sustainability, technology, economics, governance and social/demographics. To receive a copy of AWWA's Think Tank reports, click [here](#). If you would like to provide input to the following questions, please send your comments to me at [juanita@hawaiiirwa.org](mailto:juanita@hawaiiirwa.org).

### **Sustainability**

- How do we ensure there's enough water in 2050?
- What is the most important thing utilities can do between now and 2050?

### **Technology**

- What technologies will we have in 2050 that we can't imagine now?

### **Economics**

- Where will funding for water come from in 2050?

### **Governance**

- How are utilities managed in 2050?
- What will regulations look like in 2050?

### **Social/Demographic**

- How does the water community continue to strengthen public trust and build awareness of the value of water?

### **Upcoming events from AWWA**

- AWWA/WEF YP Conference – Sacramento, CA – March 26-28
- The Utility Management Conference – Sacramento, CA – March 28-31
- Sustainable Water Management Conference – Minneapolis, MN – April 16-19
- ACE23 – Toronto, Ontario, Canada – June 11-14
- Potable Reuse & Biological Treatment Symposium – Salt Lake City, UT – July 24-26
- Water Infrastructure Conference – Philadelphia, PA – September 10-13
- Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) IV – Vancouver, BC, Canada – October 2-3
- WaterSmart Innovations – Las Vegas, NV – October 3-5
- Water Quality Technology Conference – Dallas, TX – November 5-9
- Water Loss Conference – Denver, CO – December 5-7

As always, thank you for your continued support of AWWA-HI and AWWA. Without your membership and participation, we can not fulfill our mission. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay positive, and see each other soon. Until then, Malama Pono! §

# AWWA Immediate Past President—2023 PWC Recap

By *Chi Ho Sham*

*AWWA Immediate Past President*

After two years of virtual meeting, I am so glad, as are the members of the Hawaii Section of AWWA, that we were able to return to the normal in-person gathering this year in Honolulu. For me, being the virtual AWWA visiting officer, first as the President-elect in 2021 and then as the President in 2022, I cannot express my gratitude to the organizers of the 2023 Pacific Water Conference and the members of the Hawaii Section for letting me attend and participate in the Pacific Water Conference for the third time. Hopefully, this will go on the record as the only time that a Presidential Officer attended the Pacific Water Conference three times as an AWWA official representative because I truly hope that we will not encounter another pandemic in the future.



Opening Session Speakers (left to right): **Alicia Nakano** (HWEA President), **Ifetayo Venner** (WEF President), **Mami Hara** (CEO of the U.S. Water Alliance), **Chi Ho Sham** (AWWA Immediate Past President), **Troy Ching** (PWC Co-Chair), and **Carly Kaneko** (PWC Co-Chair)

Right of the start, I can tell you all that I have enjoyed being a part of the gathering. Thank you to the sponsors and exhibitors, the conference planning committee, and the board of directors in their support and demanding work to make this year's conference an immense success. Over a thousand attendees have come together during the week of February 5th to collaborate on workshops and technical sessions, stretch their creativity to tackle challenging problems and envision innovative solutions, and celebrate the opportunity to be able to gather in person and the successes and contributions of many members of the section.

Being a big fan of our younger professionals, I attended the Young Professionals Pre-Conference Workshop on Tuesday, February 7. What a great line-up of technical and professional development sessions. Although I was not officially on the agenda of the workshop, I was fortunate enough to participate in the Diversity and Inclusion Panel with **Sarang Agarwal** (Stantec) and **Ifetayo Venner** (WEF President) to share our thoughts and journeys related to diversity and inclusion with our younger professionals. I am incredibly pleased to be able to share my experience as an Asian in the water community, following other Asian trail blazers such as our 1986 AWWA President, **Robert T. Chuck** of the Hawaii Section and 2007 AWWA President, **Nilaksh J. Kothari** of the Wisconsin Section.

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On Wednesday, February 8, I joined **Ifetayo** at the Opening General Session to welcome Hawaii Section of AWWA and HWEA members to the conference. We were truly fortunate to have **Mami Hara**, CEO of the U.S. Water Alliance as the keynote speaker to share her wisdom and insights on the water community with us. Under Mami's leadership, the U.S. Water Alliance has been working on programs on a sustainable water future for all.

After the Opening General Session, I was able to visit the Exhibit Hall and attend a couple of technical talks. I am impressed by the number of exhibitors and their enthusiasm and interaction with the conference attendees. Thank you to **Aiko Fajardo** and **Rich Hopkins** for their efforts in putting together a wonderful exhibition. As for technical session, I want to recognize the effort by **Susan Mukai**, **Daniel Koge**, **Lee Schultz**, and **Nicole Nakaoka** for putting together an outstanding program that is informative and impactful.

On Thursday, February 9, got an early start in the morning so I can be at the Hawaii Section Board Meeting at 7 AM. Being from Boston, which was noon already, so that was not too hard for me. I was able to learn about all the excellent work at the Hawaii Section. The Section is financially healthy and actively recruiting new members and volunteers. As we all know, AWWA is an organization of volunteers. Currently, of the about 50,000 AWWA members, there are about 5,000 volunteers who are working on manuals of practices, standards, conferences, workshops, diversity & inclusion initiatives, community service, Water Equation, Partnership for Safe Water and Clean Water, Transformative Water Leadership Academy, and many other projects. I carried the volunteering message to the Hawaii Section Member Meeting that followed the Board Meeting. At the Member Meeting, I was given the opportunity to report on some AWWA updates and the AWWA Water 2050 project. Water 2050 started as a conversation among the current AWWA President, **Joe Jacangelo**, AWWA CEO, **David LaFrance**, and me at a workshop on the management of non-profit organizations. It has evolved over time and is progressing nicely. Through Water 2050, AWWA would like to learn about the drivers that would shape the future of water community and how we can collectively work together to chart our own paths to the future. Through a number of Think Tanks on topics such as Sustainability, Technology, Economics, Governance, and Social/Demographics, we would like to gain insights into what and how the water community can better prepare for the future in a proactive fashion. Sections are invited to participate in providing their inputs to Water 2050 because water issues are generally local and geographically variable. I look forward to getting insightful inputs from the Hawaii Section because of the unique challenges in Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.



*Rich Hopkins (AWWA-HI President) and Chi Ho Sham (AWWA Immediate Past President)*

Thursday was a busy day for me. Apart from the Board and Member Meetings, I also presented at a technical session on the new AWWA Stormwater Management Standard, the latest addition in the Utility Management

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# Young Professionals Update

*By Camille Gozum*  
*Young Professionals Committee Chair*

The 2023 Pacific Water Pre-Conference Young Professionals (YP) track featured speakers from various industries with different backgrounds and presented engaging topics to the YP audience. The morning part of the program included topics such as East Honolulu Watershed Management Plan, Emerging Contaminants, Managing Your Boss, and Consent Decree. The afternoon part of the program included topics such as Networking, Engineer to Project Manager, and a Diversity and Inclusion panel with WEF and AWWA delegates. Special thanks to **Sean Shigenaga** taking the lead and putting together an interesting program for the YPs!



*YP Preconference*



*YP Social Event at Masil Pocha*

The YP committee hosted the annual PWC YP Social that typically follows the pre-conference YP track. Current members and potential new members gathered at Masil Pocha over free appetizers and discussed lessons learned from the pre-conference presentations. Thanks to our YP social chair, **Calvin Ing**, for setting up this successful event! §

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## Special Feature: Michael Miyahira, An Inspector's Journey

### *Pacific Water Conference, February 8, 2023*



*(left to right) Gaudencio Lopez,  
Michael Miyahira, Joan Corrigan, and  
Melvin Tokuda*

In this video, we will be enjoying a scenic journey of the Safe Drinking Water Branch's **Michael Miyahira P.E.** (Engineering Section Supervisor) through his inspecting adventures. Here, he shares his experiences in providing surveys for various remote locations in storytelling format; a challenge for any hiking buff to identify locations presented, and an opportunity to learn about a fulfilling career in this field illustrated by a seasoned expert. The Safe Drinking Water Branch is tasked with providing oversight for regulated water systems in Hawaii. For those that have an interest in this much-needed and important environmental role, we invite you, "come, we go!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwOQwwr-bHM> §

Standard Series or G-Series under AWWA’s Standard Council. Like other technical sessions I had attended, our session was well attended and there were many great questions.

To wrap up my participation in the Pacific Water Conference, I attended the banquet in the evening on Thursday. I had the honor to present this year’s George Warren Fuller Award to **Dean Nakano**. Dean’s contributions to the water community are unparalleled. It is also very clear that he is very well loved by his colleagues and mentees. I have never seen so many leis presented to him upon the announcement of his award. What a great celebration for recognizing a fantastic water professional! During the banquet, I was able to recognize other awardees – **Darnelle Chung** for Special Recognition, **Lorna Heller** and **Ken Kawahara** for Outstanding Section Members. Finally, I was able to perform in-person the installation of the 2023-2024 Officers and Board Members. Congratulations and thank you for serving the members of the Hawaii Section. You folks are truly awesome.

To add a personal touch to this article, I want to share my journey from Boston to Honolulu on February 4. My wife and I ran into **Juanita Reyher-Colon**, Hawaii’s AWWA Section Director on her way to Washington, DC to meet with Congressional Representatives and staff. It was -10 degree F that morning and Juanita was in heavy coat even in the airport. My wife and I boarded our flight and left Boston about 30 minutes late. About 3 hours into our flight, the pilot came on the announcement system and told us that we were running out of potable water. Apparently, the water truck in Boston broke down in the cold and the hose froze – leading to the water shortage program on the plane, given we still have another 8.5 hours of flying time, we were diverted to San Francisco to pick up water before resuming our journey to Honolulu. So, as water professionals, this is another story we can tell to show the importance of potable water. “No Water, No Flight.”§

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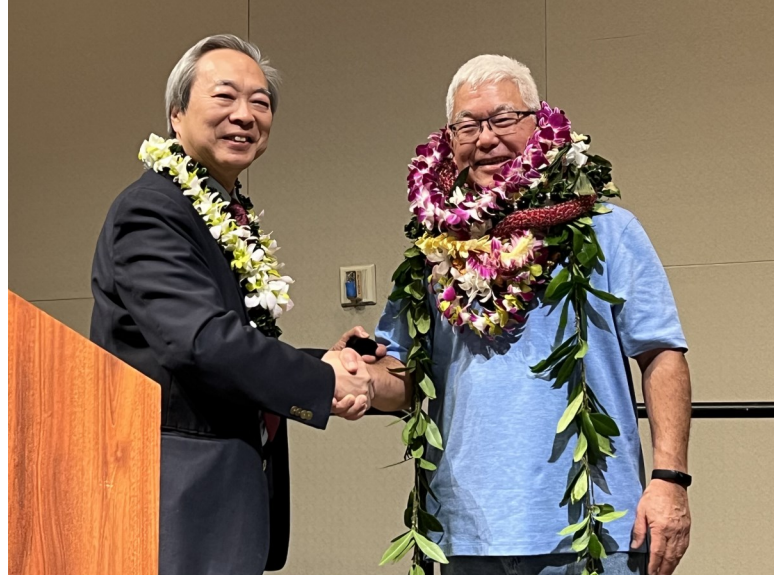
# 2023 Hawaii Section Fuller Award

By Ken Ota

Fuller Award Committee Chair

**D**ean Nakano is this year's recipient of prestigious Fuller Award. He has been an active member of AWWA for many years and is currently serving as the Pacific Rim Committee Chair.

The prestigious George Warren Fuller Award is presented annually to a member who has demonstrated distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of George Warren Fuller. Sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent and constructive leadership are a few of the characteristics used to describe Mr. Fuller and are sought out when searching for the recipient of this distinguished award.



*Chi Ho Sham presents the Fuller Award to Dean Nakano*

With an extensive list of experience, it is clear that **Dean** has demonstrated the skill, talent and leadership required for this award. Previous work experience includes service as the Acting Manager/Deputy Manager for the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Hydrologic Planning Program Manager and Deputy Director for the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources - Commission on Water Resource Management, and Geothermal Project Manager for the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.



*Dean Nakano with past Fuller Award Recipients, Joanna Seto and Susan Uyesugi*

**Dean** is currently employed at Brown and Caldwell, an environmental engineering firm, that focuses on water, wastewater and environmental planning/design across North America and the Pacific. **Dean's** integrity, care, competence, and passion for water and the environment is very evident. He understands what it means to provide exemplary service and goes the extra mile to make it a personal experience for those they interact with.

Congratulations to **Dean Nakano**, the recipient of the AWWA 2023 Fuller Award. §

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## AWWA Membership Summit

*By Sean Shigenaga*  
*Membership Committee Co-Chair*

The AWWA membership summit was back in-person this year on Wednesday, February 1st to Friday, February 3rd with the option of attending the session on February 2nd through Microsoft Teams. Sections from around the country, Canada and Mexico were represented at this year's AWWA Membership Summit. Unfortunately, there was no one available from the Hawaii Section to attend in person this year, but the Section was represented virtually. To start off the summit there were some quick ice breakers and intros which led into a special session on ways how to manage work and helping out with the local AWWA Section. There some thoughtful insights that could be helpful to those who are thinking of being a committee chair for the local AWWA Section, but are worried about how to deal with the extra responsibilities.

Another topic that was discussed was marketing tools to help improve recruitment of new members and ways to retain them. Methods ranged from sending emails, with the new template, to having recruiting events. In lieu of having events specifically for recruiting, an option that was brought up was to use local AWWA conferences. The main thing that was mentioned was to maintain engagement with new members. In order for the Hawaii AWWA Section to grow, current members are encouraged to reach out to new and prospective members. If any new or current members would like to get involved, please contact any of the current chairs. They can be found at <https://hiawwa.org/committee-chairs>. §

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# Water Reuse Conference

*By Adrienne Fung & Lorna Heller*  
*Water Reuse Committee Chairs*

**T**he 13th Biennial Water Reuse Conference was successfully convened on December 7th, 2022 at Ala Moana Hotel on Oahu with 150 registered attendees. Participants included local government leaders, reuse policy makers, reuse community advocates, agriculturalists, water treatment plant operators, researchers, engineers, and consultants. Ten presentations were given by a variety of fantastic speakers, ranging in topic from community-based water reuse implementation to evaluation of on-site and decentralized wastewater treatment systems in Australia. We were fortunate to hear from Water Reuse experts not only from Oahu, but also from California, Arizona, Nevada, and Australia.



*Attendees at the 2022 Water Reuse Conference*

Highlights from the conference included a presentation on small scale demonstration projects for public buy-in on water reuse by **Andy Salvesson** of the Carollo Engineers California office. Through the use of small demonstration scale systems, appropriate data was collected to demonstrate the safety and reliability of recycled water as a new water supply. The presentation highlighted water use demonstration systems implemented across the United States and the important role of local leaders in encouraging the public to be comfortable with recycled water.

**Sina Pruder** of the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), Wastewater Branch gave a presentation providing a status update on the DOH-regulated water reuse facilities in Hawaii, and the latest quantities of water reuse that occur on an annual basis. She also reviewed present trends in water reuse in Hawaii, as well as how water reuse regulations may change in the future.

**Ben Kele** from Arris Water in Australia shared his experiences with robust and reliable decentralized wastewater treatment and reuse for tropical locations. Because reliable power is an issue in remote locations of Australia, especially on nearby islands, their research has shown that low input and passive systems can provide a more reliable water quality, especially for sites that have dramatic changes to inflow volumes over time. Their research has involved examining solutions from around the world and applying relevant best practice techniques to low input systems.

Moving onto the University level were two speakers, **Dr. Tao Yan** from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and

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# Newsletter Advertising

The Hawaii Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is currently seeking advertisers for its quarterly newsletter. Advertising provides a direct message to a population of over 600 members state-wide who are in need of the products or services being advertised. Although we have switched to electronic distribution of the newsletter, we feel that there is still equal benefit to advertising in the electronic newsletter as with the printed newsletter. In addition, advertising in the electronic newsletter can be in full color.

Please be aware that advertising in the newsletter is available only to businesses related to the drinking water field. Please also note that all advertisements will be submitted for review and approval by the AWWA Hawaii Section Board of Trustees for ad content.

Item Number	Ad Size	Ad Size (wxh)	Cost Per Issue
(1)	1/8 Page	3 ½" x 2 ¼"	\$35 (business card)
(2)	1/4 Page	3 ½" x 4 ¾"	\$55
(3)	1/2 Page (H)	7 ½" x 4 ¾"	\$80
(4)	1/2 Page (V)	3 ½" x 9 ¾"	\$80
(5)	Full Page	7 ½" x 9 ¾"	\$110

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Phone: (808) 722-8423  
Email: [Jessica@tlcghawaii.com](mailto:Jessica@tlcghawaii.com)

**Dr. Erica Marti** from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **Dr. Yan** spoke about microbial risks of viral pathogens in water reuse – the presence, detection, and mitigation, while **Dr. Marti** shared highlights from research projects that focus on chemical uptake in plants irrigated with reclaimed wastewater. Following **Dr. Marti** was an educational presentation regarding the technical analysis for potable and non-potable reuse and methods with or without reverse osmosis for reuse applications from **Kevin Daniels** from Stantec’s Phoenix office. The audience learned about different treatment schemes for producing recycled water in terms of contaminant removal, cost, and operation and maintenance.



*Roundtable Discussion on Hawaii’s Fresh Water Initiative*

Informative presentations continued after lunch, as there was a roundtable discussion about Hawaii’s Fresh Water Initiative to more than double the amount of water currently being reused to provide an additional 30 mgd by 2030. The panel was moderated by **Christin Reynolds** of One World, One Water and speakers were comprised of **Dr. Roger Babcock, Jr.** and **Dawn Szewczyk** (City and County of Honolulu), **Barry Usagawa** (Board of Water Supply), and **Dana Okano** (Hawaii Community Foundation).

The roundtable was followed by **Fred Layi** of Veolia who presented on the Honouliuli Water

Reclamation Facility expansion project, which produces 14 million gallons of recycled water to customers throughout Kapolei, Ewa, and other areas of West Oahu. The recycled water must be deemed to be suitable for industrial processing, irrigation, and other non-drinking uses.

**Stevie Whalen**, the President of the Kunia Water Association, shared the challenges and opportunities of agricultural use of R-1 effluent on several acres in the Kunia area. The water is produced by Schofield Wastewater Treatment Plant and the farmers collaborate daily on how to distribute the water.

The last presentation of the day was given by **Garrett Leong** of Brown and Caldwell where he presented on the State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu goals of One Water and agricultural sustainability for the island of Oahu. These programs are finally coming together, as shown in their support of using the treated effluent from Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment Plant for agricultural irrigation on State lands, after 30 years of discussion, planning, and interagency efforts.

To finish off the day, attendees enjoyed a pau hana where they had the opportunity to develop existing relationships or add new connections to their network. Mahalo nui loa to our generous sponsors, speakers, conference committee volunteers, and staff at Ala Moana Hotel, without whom this event would not have been possible. §

# Membership Awards

## *Awards Chair*



*Darnelle Chung*

### **2023 Special Recognition Award recipient – Darnelle Chung**

**Darnelle** is an Operations Analyst at Akinaka & Associates, Ltd. She has co-chaired the Pacific Water Conference golf tournament for over eight years which has raised thousands of dollars to benefit the AWWA Hawaii Section and HWEA. She also volunteered on the publications committee for this year's conference.

### **2023 Outstanding Section Member Award recipient – Lorna Heller**

**Lorna** oversees the Water Conservation Branch at the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Water Resources Division. She has co-chaired the food booth at the annual Halawa Xeriscape Open House Plant Sale for the past 12 years. The funds raised are donated to the AWWA Water for People program. From 2015-2019, she has co-chaired the social committee for the Pacific Water Conference. **Lorna** has co-chaired the biennial Water Reuse Conference from 2016-2022 and moved from the AWWA Hawaii Section BWS Trustee role (since 2018) to the Vice-Chair role this past year.



*Lorna Heller*



*Ken Kawahara*

### **2023 Outstanding Section Member Award recipient – Ken Kawahara**

**Ken** is the President of Akinaka & Associates, Ltd. and is currently the Past President of the AWWA Hawaii Section. §



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# AWWA Scholarship Recipients

*By Ken Ota and Shaun Yoshizawa*  
*Scholarship Committee Chairs*

**T**he 2023 AWWA Hawaii Section Scholarship Awards are presented to **Miki Kawahara** and **Kelly Mukai**.

## Kelly Mukai

**Kelly** is the daughter of **Derek** and **Karen Mukai**. She is a sophomore at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. **Kelly** is an Environmental Engineering Major and pursuing a certificate in Entrepreneurship.

During the summer of 2022, **Kelly** interned at Brown and Caldwell as an environmental engineering intern. Here she gained hands on experience in their Honolulu office and through field work opportunities. She spends her free time as a food delivery driver for Door Dash where she builds her customer service skills. Her love for entrepreneurship and concerts has led her to discover a new hobby reselling concert tickets. **Kelly** hopes to one day become an active member of AWWA.

## Miki Kawahara

**Miki** is the daughter of **Ken** and **Wendy** Kawahara. She is a first-year graduate student at Butler University, in Indianapolis, Indiana, pursuing a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies.

In May of 2022, she received her bachelor's degree cum laude in Health Sciences with minors in chemistry and psychology. With a variety of rigorous classes, **Miki** also practices her clinical skills on standardized patients. From being actively involved in Alpha Phi Fraternity Epsilon Beta Chapter to cheering on the Butler Bulldogs, to advocating for Riley Children's Hospital, **Miki's** undergraduate years were spent gaining leadership skills. Now with the rigors of PA, she still finds time to work at Ann Pearl Rehabilitation and Healthcare as a Certified Nurse Assistant. **Miki** also volunteered at the National Kidney Foundation during Winter Break of 2020.

*Please join me in congratulating **Kelly Mukai** and **Miki Kawahara** and their parents for earning the AWWA Hawaii Section Scholarship award for 2023.*

This year we received no applications for the One Water Operator Scholarship.§

# 2023 Fresh Ideas Poster Competition

By Kathryn Yoshimura Muse

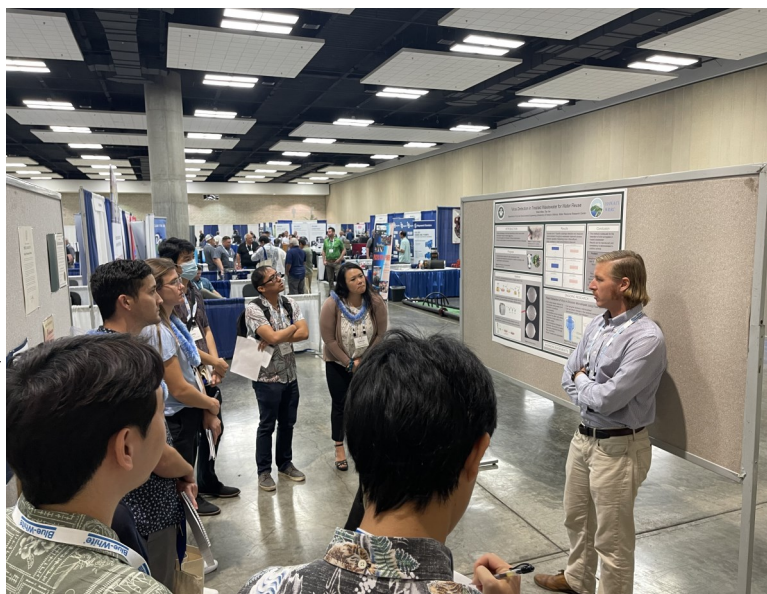
Youth Education Committee Chair

We had a good turnout at the 2023 Fresh Ideas Poster Competition during the Pacific Water Conference. There were two new students with one returning from last year for a total of three posters entered in the contest. The posters are judged on originality, scientific principles, benefit to the Drinking Water industry, and visual appeal.

**Mandy-Tanita Brinkmann** took first place overall for her project: *Potential of Disinfection Byproducts formation during Chlorination of Petroleum Hydrocarbon-contaminated Groundwater* and was awarded \$360 cash prize.

**Min Ki Jeon** was a returning student presenting his project: *Cross-correlation Analysis after Data Prewhitening Reveals Early Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from Wastewater Ahead of COVID-19 Clinical Cases* coming in second place and was awarded \$240 cash prize.

**Brian Allen** presented his project: *Importance of Escherichia coli cell age and cell number in the formation of coliphage lysis rings* that is still in progress and took third place winning \$120 cash prize.



*Brian Allen presents his project to judges*

Thank you to the judges and the students for participating this year! §

# More 2023 PWC Highlights:



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# AWWA Library

The library is maintained by the AWWA Hawaii Section for use by its members. If you are interested in viewing any of the following literature, please contact [hiawwa@gmail.com](mailto:hiawwa@gmail.com).

- 2011 Annual Conference - Opening Genl Session videos
- A Century of Safe Drinking Water
- Air Valves: Air Release, Air/Vacuum, and Combination, 2nd Edition (M51)
- Activated Carbon: Solutions for Improving Water Quality
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (M63)\*
- Avoiding Rate Shock: Making the Case for Water Rates
- AWWA 2002 Annual Conference Videos
- AWWA and the Consumer Confidence Report
- AWWA M/DBP LT2 Stage 2 Training Toolkit
- Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection
- Basic Microbiology for Drinking Water Personnel, 2nd Edition
- Basic Chemistry for Water & Wastewater Operators
- Careers in Drinking Water
- Case Studies in Source Water Protection
- Computer Modeling of Water Distribution System (M32)
- Condition Assessment of Water Mains (M77)\*
- Desalination of Seawater (M61)\*
- Design and Construction of Small Water Systems
- Developing Rates for Small Water Systems
- Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products: Understanding the Proposed D/DBP Rule (2 tapes) with accompanying handbook
- Disinfection of Pipelines and Storage Facilities Field Guide
- Distribution System Requirements for Fire Protection, 4th Edition (M31)
- Distribution Valves: Selection, Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance, 3rd Edition
- Drought Preparedness and Response, 2nd Edition (M60)\*
- Ductile-Iron Pipe and Fittings, 3rd Edition
- Field Guide to SDWA Regulations
- Flexible Membrane Covers and Linings for Potable Water Reservoirs, 3rd Edition (M25)
- Forecasting Urban Water Demand, 2nd Edition
- Guide to the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule
- Handbook of Public Water Systems, 2nd Edition
- How Water Works - a Typical Water System Poster
- How Water Works - an interactive Tour CD
- How Water Works - Conventional Water Treatment Processes Poster
- How Water Works - Residential Use
- HWEA presents Water Recycling in Hawaii
- Hydraulic Modeling and GIS
- Inside the Weather
- Installation, Field Testing and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants (M17)
- Introduction to QualServe
- Lead and Copper Rule Compliance: How to Conduct a Corrosion Control Study (2 tapes) with accompanying handbook
- Let's Talk Safety Talks
- Math for Distribution System Operators
- Math for Water Treatment Operators: Practice Problems to Prepare for Water Treatment Operator Certification Exams
- Maintaining Water Quality in the Distribution System
- Membrane Applications for Water Reuse (M62)
- Modeling Water Quality in Distribution Systems, 2nd Edition
- Natural and Engineered Solutions for Drinking Water Supplies
- Operator Certification Guide - 5th Edition
- Operator Math Made Easy
- Our Water Cycle DVD
- Overview of Environmental Laws and Regulations
- Plain Talk about Drinking Water - 5th Edition
- Planning for the Distribution of Reclaimed Water, 4th Edition (M24)
- Practical Manual of Groundwater Microbiology, 2nd Edition
- Public Affairs for Water Utilities
- Pump Selection and Troubleshooting Field guide
- PVC Pipe – Design and Installation, 3rd Edition (M24)
- Rehabilitation of Water Mains, 3rd Edition (M28)
- Risk and Resilience Management of Water and Wastewater Systems
- Safety First: Night Work
- Safety First: Water Main Repair DVD
- Safety First: Work Area Traffic Control
- Safety Practices for Water Utilities
- Secrets to Success: How to Prepare for Operator Certification
- Seizing the Initiative: Section and Member Utility Involvement in the SDWA
- The Business of Water: A Concise Overview of Challenges and opportunities
- The Evolving Water Utility

# AWWA Library

The library is maintained by the AWWA Hawaii Section for use by its members. If you are interested in viewing any of the following literature, please contact [hiawwa@gmail.com](mailto:hiawwa@gmail.com).

The Importance of Utility Membership  
Water Audits and Loss Control Programs, 4th Edition  
(M36)  
Water Conservation Communications Guide  
Water Conservation for Small and Medium-Sized  
Utilities  
Water Conservation-Oriented Rates: Strategies to  
Extend Supply, Promote Equity, and Meet Minimum  
Flow Levels  
Water Conservation Programs -A Planning Manual, 2nd  
Edition  
Water Distribution Operator Training Handbook  
Water Infrastructure at a Turning Point: The Road to  
Sustainable Asset Management  
Water Main Disinfection and Dechlorination  
Water Operator Certification Exam Prep  
WSO: Water Transmission and Distribution  
Water Resource Alternatives: The Future of Sustainable  
Utility Practices (2 tapes)  
Water Reuse for a Sustainable Future  
Water Quality in Distribution Systems (M68)  
Water Treatment Made Simple for Operators  
We are AWWA

WSO: Distribution System

*Follow us on*

**INSTAGRAM**



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# Committee Chairs 2022 - 2023

## Awards

**Ken Kawahara**

Akinaka & Associates, Ltd

## Bylaws/Standard Practice Manual

**Paul Scott**

Engineered Systems, Inc

## Conference

**Carly Kaneko**

Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates, Inc

## Diversity/Young Professionals

**Camille Gozum**

GHD

## Exhibits

**Ken Malone**

Mueller Water Products, Inc

## Finance

**Aiko Fajardo**

Aura Hawaii LLC

## Fuller Award

**Ken Ota**

Core & Main, Inc

## Legislation/Regulation

**Kawika Uyehara**

County of Hawaii, Department of Water Supply

## Membership

**Jordan Oue**

Aqua Engineers, Inc.

## Membership

**Sean Shigenaga**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply

## Newsletter

**Jessica Agsalda**

The Limtiaco Consulting Group

## Nominating/Scholarship

**Cliff Lum**

Aqua Engineers, Inc

## Operators' Training

*(Vacant)*

## Pacific Rim

**Dean A. Nakano**

Brown and Caldwell

## Public Outreach

**Daniel Koge**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply

## Research/Technology

*(Vacant)*

## Scholarship

**Ken Ota**

Core & Main, Inc

## Scholarship

**Shaun Yoshizawa**

Core & Main, Inc

## Small Water Systems

**Joy Gannon**

Pulama Lanai

## Strategic Planning

**Lorna Heller**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Water Conservation Section

## UH Manoa Student Chapter Subcommittee

*(Vacant)*

## Water for People

**Adrienne Fung**

AECOM

## Water Reuse

**Lorna Heller**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Water Conservation Section

## Website

**Joanna Seto**

Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Management Division

## Western Pacific Subsection

**Vangie Lujan**

Guam Waterworks Authority

## Workshops/Safety

**Jeremy Kimura**

Commission on Water Resource Management, DLNR

## Workshops/Safety

**Barry Pollock**

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 Water Division

## Youth Education

**Kathryn Yoshimura Muse**

Honolulu Board of Water Supply



## Upcoming Calendar of Events

**April 15, 2023**

Mauka to Makai Expo  
at Waikiki Aquarium (in-person event)

**May 7-13, 2023**

Drinking Water Week

**June 11-14, 2023**

ACE 23  
in Toronto, Canada

**October 25-27, 2023**

59th Annual Hawai'i Water Works Association (HWWA)  
Conference and Golf Tournament  
Hawai'i Island

\*More details to be announced in an upcoming issue

## Membership Rates

**Individual Active:** \$216

**YP:** \$99 (for the first year)

**Operations/Admin:** \$75

**Student:** \$20

[Sign up here](#)

## Hawaii Section Website and Email Address

The Hawaii Section website is [www.hiawwa.org](http://www.hiawwa.org)  
Please visit the website for the latest information  
about the Section.

The Hawaii Section email address is  
[hiawwa@gmail.com](mailto:hiawwa@gmail.com)  
Please include "Attention: [insert person's name  
or position/committee]" in the subject line.

## Editor of this Issue:

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## Newsletter Articles

AWWA members are welcome to submit articles  
for the Newsletter. Please contact the editor for  
information.

Submissions for the Spring Newsletter are  
due by  
**Friday, May 19, 2023**

## Production Information Newsletter

The American Water Works Association Hawaii  
Section newsletter is published to inform its  
members of Section and International AWWA  
activities, meetings, educational opportunities and  
other matters of interest to the water community.  
The mention of trade names for commercial  
products does not represent or imply an  
endorsement by AWWA Hawaii Section.