

HAWAI'I STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTUES (HSAC) 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL – HOST

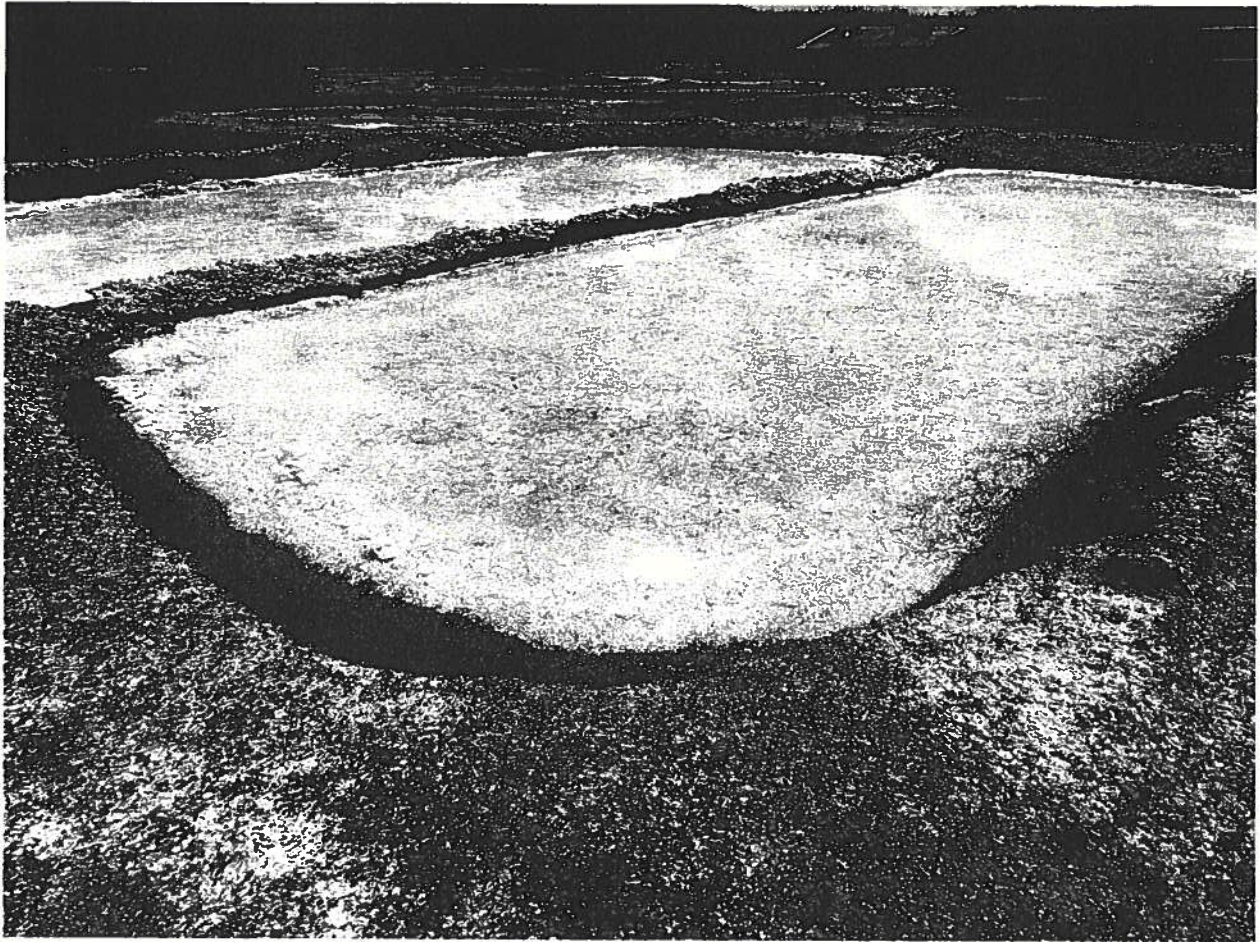
KOLOA LANDING SEPTEMBER 21-23

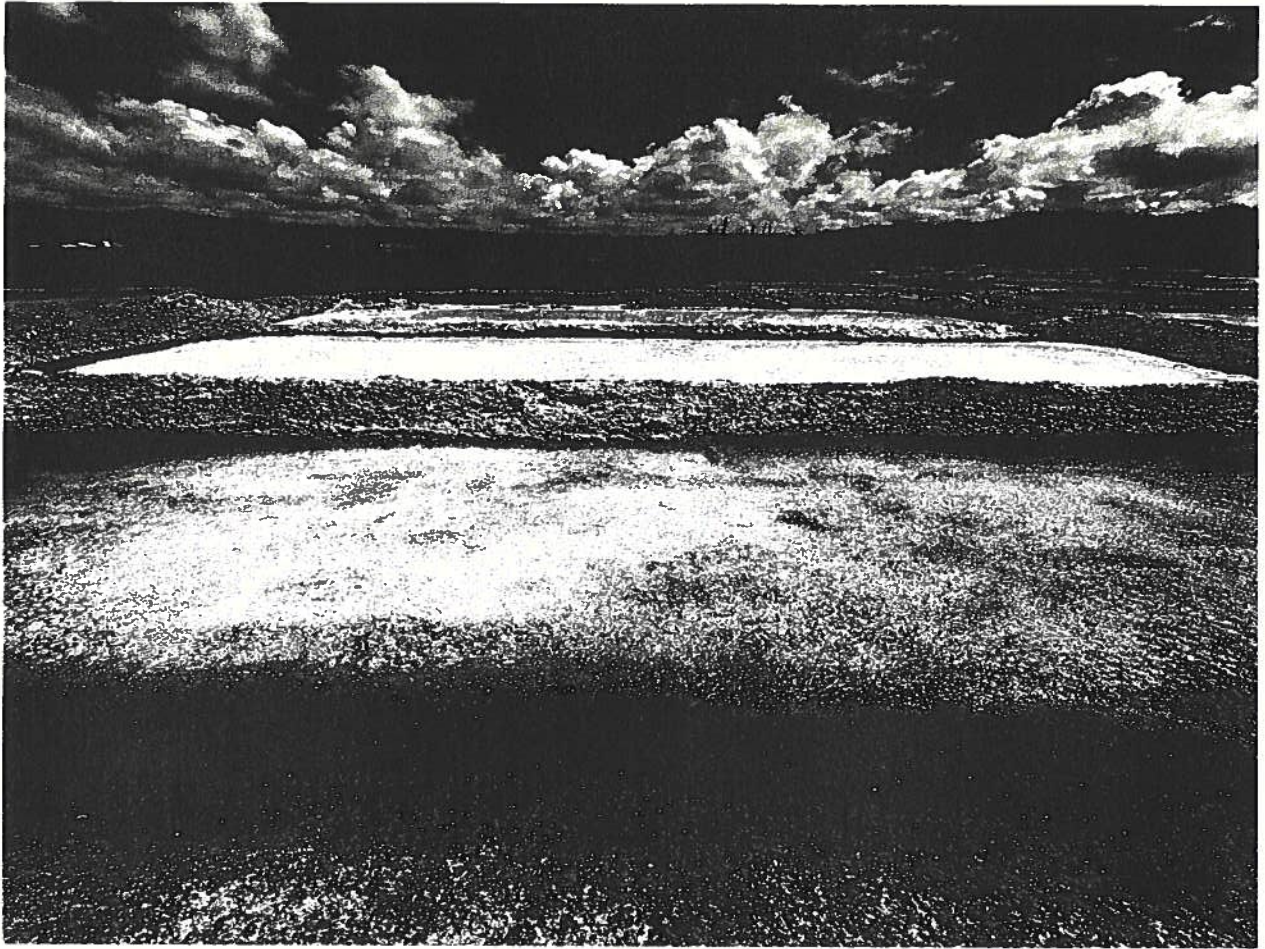
THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

HANAPEPE SALT PANS SITE VISIT AND TALK STORY SESSION SPOTLIGHTING NIIHAU
AT SALT POND BEACH PARK

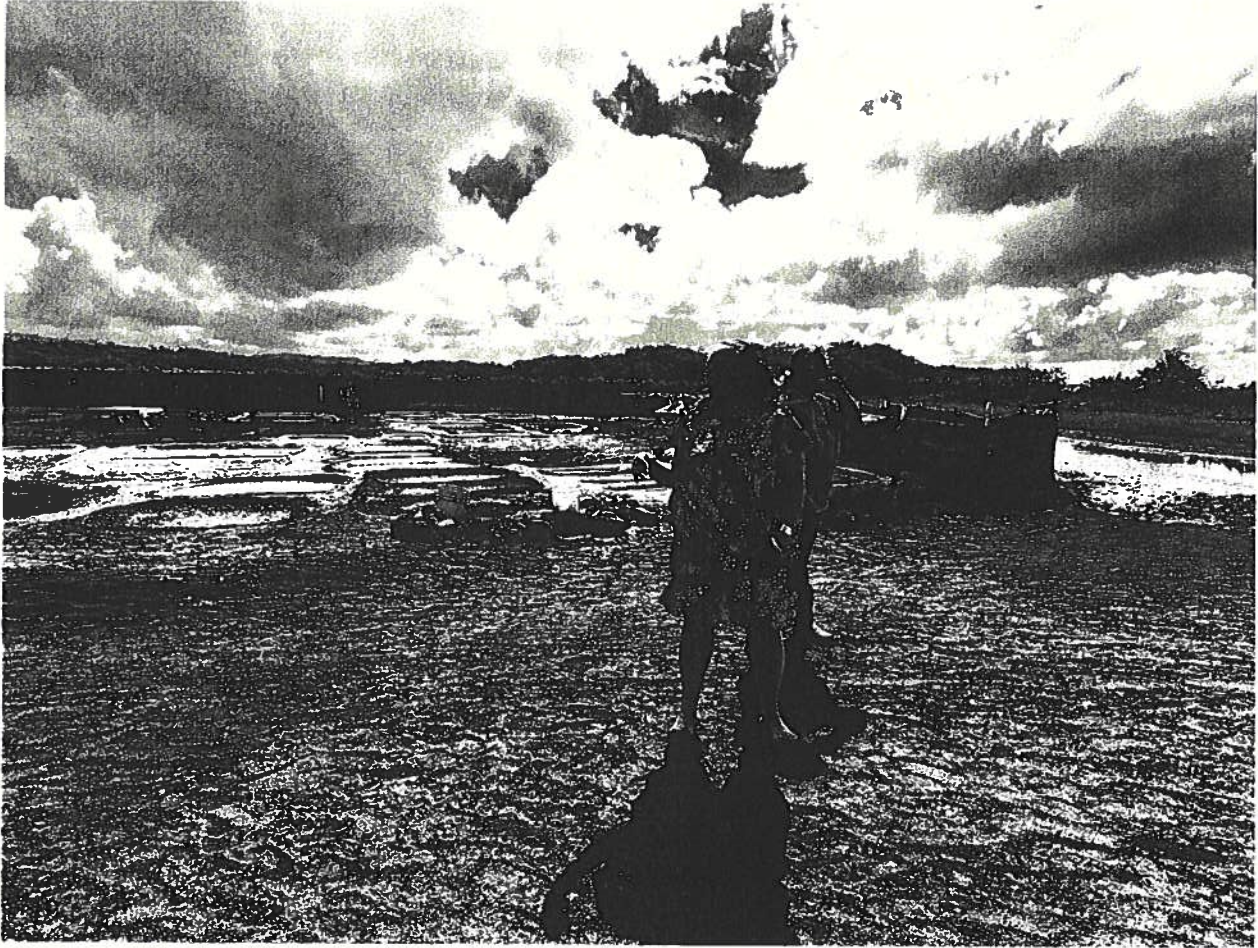
Participants who selected this site visit were brought to the Hanapepe Salt Pans where we met with Kuulei Santos, a lifelong resident of Kauai, and multi-generational steward of the salt bed. Ms. Santos provided us with a historical and cultural background on the Salt Pans, their importance to the Native Hawaiian culture, as well as shared the difficulties she and her 'ohana have experienced over the years/decades in being able to preserve the beds. We were able to hear how oftentimes the decisions made by local (county) and state leaders have negatively impacted the preservation and futures of these salt pans. This site visit was eye opening. Even though I was born and raised on the Garden Isle, I was not aware of the deeply rooted cultural history of these beds. Nor was I aware of how they have struggled, facing much adversity over the years, in order to remain alive. Ms. Santos shared with us her passion to keep her family's salt pans operating (which she gains no profit from, as she was raised and follows till today, to not charge anyone for the paakai, or sea salt), and asked for an understanding in order to help this industry.

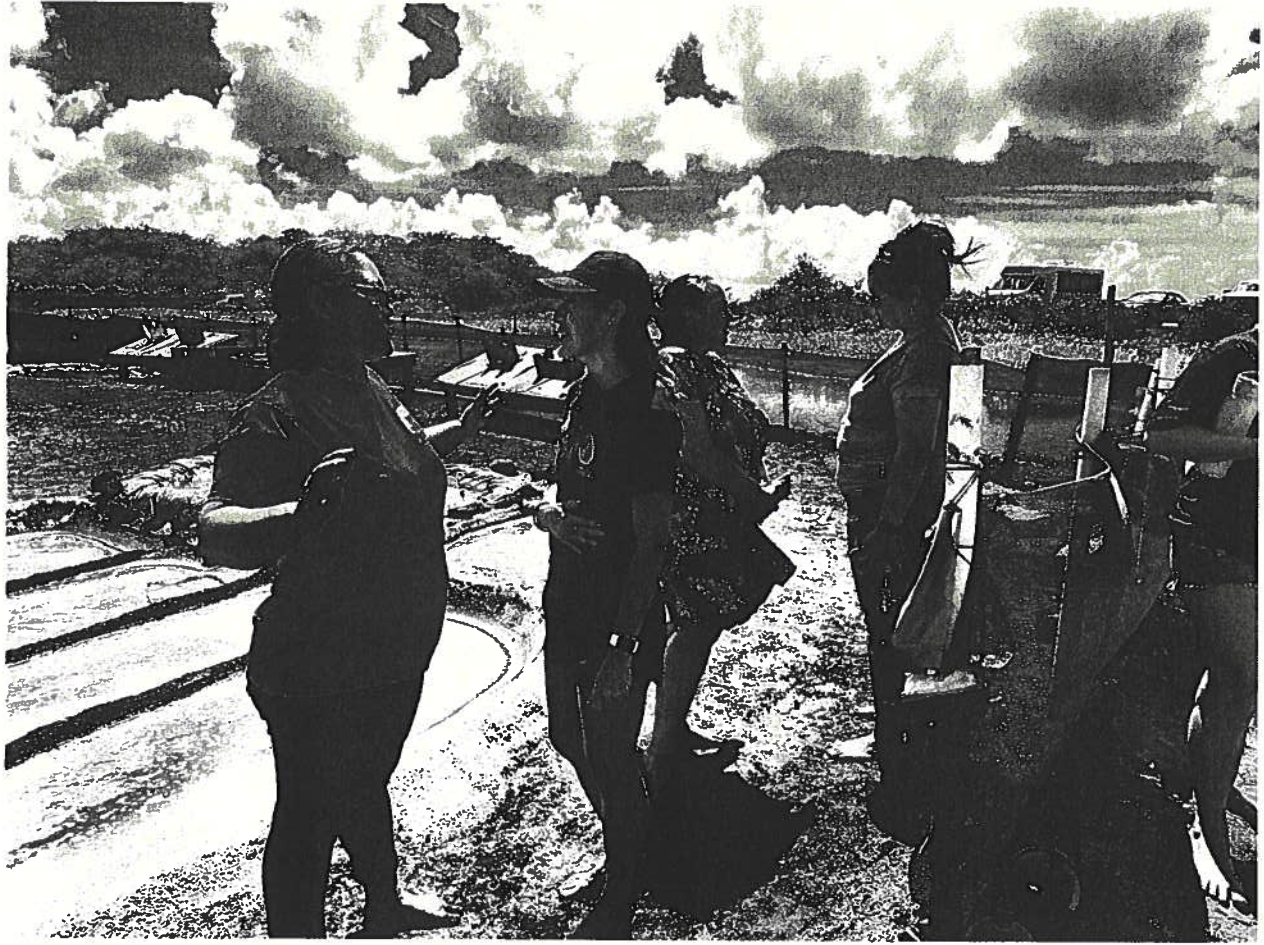














Following the Salt Pans visit, we then returned to the Salt Ponds Beach Park where we met with residents from Ni'ihau, "The Forbidden Island". Ni'ihau, which is the only island where visitors are not able to freely enter or reside on without being permitted by the owners of the island, The Robinson Family. It is also the only island with all inhabitants of native Hawaiian descent. Participants were able to learn of how residents live there speak native Hawaiian as their first language, and live simple lives, without the everyday comforts of electricity, indoor plumbing/running water, etc., that the majority of us consider necessities and enjoy. Through the discussion led by island leader, Leana Robinson, we were able to hear of how the residents maintain the preservation of their culture, while also evolving as the rest of the world does. The family and residents there are humble, yet proud of the lives they are able to live on the island, passing traditions down from generation to generation. Residents have become industrious in diversifying their economy by offering helicopter and island visit tours, harvesting and jewelry making with Niihau shells, as well as using their agricultural and wildlife resources to raise, process, and sell deer meat on neighbor islands throughout the state. It was fascinating and extremely educational to hear of their judicial system and how they deal with crime and conflict resolution in their tight knit community. The residents shared a mele with us, which was an extra special treat.

WELCOME RECEPTION:

Met and networked with council members from Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii Counties, as well as with representatives from various organizations. Welcome reception hosted



by the Kauai County Council. Kauai County Mayor, Derek Kawakami, was also in attendance. It was a nice evening in which I was able to reconnect with many individuals, meet and make connections with others, and enjoy the cultural display provided by the entertainment that evening. Along with my fellow colleagues, Chair Tommy Waters, Vice-Chair Esther Kia'aina, Councilmembers Radiant Cordero, Tyler Dos-Santos Tam, and Matt Weyer, we were able to represent the Honolulu City Council.



FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

PANEL DISCUSSIONS - Held on the second day of the Conference, in the Grand Ballroom of the Koloa Landing Resort. Discussions were provided by various panel members who shared their expert opinions and provided comprehensive insight in their respective areas. Members who attended each forum were able to ask questions and add to the discussion as seen fit. Participants were provided fifteen minute breaks in between each panel discussion.

REAL PROPERTY TAX REFORM

MODERATED BY:

STEVEN A. HUNT - Executive Assistant to the Mayor, County of Kauai

SCOTT K. TERUYA - Finance Director, County of Maui

SPEAKERS: Mike Hubbard, Steven A. Hunt, Keita Jo, Marcy Martin, Steven Takara, Scott K. Teruya

Despite having one of the highest property values in the nation, Hawaii has the lowest real property tax rates. Given this, counties have been proposing various changes to their respective tax rates and classifications. This panel discussed recent legislation, the anticipated outcomes, tax-relief initiatives, and drawbacks of proposals.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COUNTY FUNCTIONS WITH INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY

SPEAKER: Garrett Macdonald

Presented by a National Association of Counties affiliate, the purpose of this session was to equip participants with the latest knowledge and trends in liquidity management. The speaker, Garrett Macdonald, designed the presentation to help optimize cash management operations and generate new revenue streams.

Topics covered/discussed: cash-flow forecasting, stress testing, and how to evaluate your banking relationships in a rising rate environment, enabling you to produce new earnings with your cash on deposit.

With Hawaii's cost of living being so high, residents here are faced with inflation, high housing costs, utilities, gas, etc. At this critical time recognizing the power of cash is vital in offsetting the stressors caused by inflation, closing budget gaps, supporting frontline workers, and funding important community initiatives. This presentation offered innovative financial technological advice on how residents can leverage their cash to support these important and necessary priorities.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

MODERATED BY:

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR. - Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

Members from the Hawaii State Legislature participated in this forum, held during our working lunch. Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki, Representative Luke A. Evslin, and Representative Danette "Dee" Morikawa provided updates prior to the commencement of the 2023 Legislative Session as well as potential legislation for the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session. Each legislator shared insight from their respective committees and/or areas of focus. It was great to see the representation from the host island of Kauai being properly represented at the State level as well.

INTRODUCTION TO READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION (REPI) PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: Carlos Castillo, Lena Fowler, Kirstin Thomasgard, Susan Veazey

This panel provided discussion on the priorities of the REPI Program. The Department of Defense (DOD)'s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program facilitates long- term, collaborative partnerships that improve resilience, preserve important habitats and natural resources, and support sustainable and productive land uses and water resources for their surrounding communities. For the Pacific Islands, these partnerships are critical to the Department serving as both a trusted neighbor, and steadfast steward of native cultures and irreplaceable ecosystems. As the Pacific region grows in strategic significance for both national defense and biosecurity, REPI projects become increasingly necessary to ensure greater conservation and protection of cultural and natural resources for communities that neighbor DOD facilities. With the increasing awareness and necessity, the program has seen increased funding in order to operate. For the Fiscal Year 2023, nearly \$27 million have been appropriated to the REPI Program in order to support the Program's projects and REPI Challenge projects throughout the state.

These important projects leverage significant partner contributions and investments from other federal agency conservation and resilience programs.

HAWAI'I'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS: SHARING AND INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

SPEAKER: Kali Watson

This panel discussion took on the housing crisis we face here in our State, impacting us at the County level as well. The term "affordable housing" is one that is highly debated. Housing is considered "affordable" when a household spends less than 30 percent of its income on shelter and utilities. However, the rising cost of housing has made it nearly impossible for the majority of our residents to be able to be homeowners, and even renters. Residents are often faced with having to make difficult financial decisions, many times requiring them to forgo or neglect their basic necessities. This has impacted residents for generations, and made it difficult to provide basic needs for their families, establish or build generational wealth, hinders residents' abilities to remain in their homes, or have the ability to contribute to local communities. The result of this has led to the influx of residents being forced to leave our islands and seek home and employment out of state.

Affordable housing is a complex topic requiring all levels of government, nonprofit and private organizations, and the community to engage in dialogue and work collaboratively. The purpose of this session was to allow participants to hear and discuss ideas and possible solutions to address affordable housing for our residents as well as explore projects that each County has undertaken to address the affordable housing crisis.

Please see the attached presentations shared by various Counties.

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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN HAWAI'I UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND TAILORED SOLUTIONS

SPEAKERS: Stuart Coleman, Allison Fraley, Mike O'Keefe

The purpose of this panel/presentation was to discuss the issues that the state faces regarding the management and disposal of solid waste. Hawai'i faces a distinct set of challenges when it comes to solid waste management ranging from its isolated geographic location to limited scales of economy on neighboring islands. This panel discussed and explored municipal solid waste challenges across the State of Hawaii with an emphasis on addressing core problems unique to the islands. Panelists shared their mana'o on prior experience with pollution and past legislation regarding solid waste efforts. In doing so they offered historical contexts that opened up discussion to allow insights into how we can move in a positive direction as we look towards the future of solid waste in our state, and Honolulu County.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

2023 NOV 20 P 2:00

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: 10/10/2023

Traveler: VAL AQUINO OKIMOTO

Event: 2023 HSAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Location: KAUAI

Dates: From SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 To SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	475.00	
2. Airfare	136.79	
3. Hotel	1512.28	
4. Meals		
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2124.07	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



Signature of Traveler

10/10/2023

Date