



# CONNECTIONS

Maui's Facility Engineering Leaders Newsletter

**BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**  
AUGUST 2023

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**August 24th – Meeting the Inaugural 2023 VoTech Class & Get to Know Your Potential Future Employees!**  
**Seating is Limited - Sign-up Today! RSVP to [mauifelc@gmail.com](mailto:mauifelc@gmail.com)**

## WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

MFELC accepts Mayor Bissen's challenge to create an internship & mentorship program for facilities engineering.

CONTINUE READING ON PG. 2



## MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MFELC is grateful for all the support we received so far this year! Big mahalo to everyone who came to our April 14th Member Meeting; with special thanks to Chelsea Davis & Akaku TV for covering the event and to our important guest speakers including Kihei Charter School Director Michael Stubbs, Senator Glenn Wakai, Jordan Molina from Public Works, our round table guests; Michelle Tavaras, Ryan Dacayanan, Tamzen Lovejoy, Elena Kaneali'i, and Mikey Burke plus Peter Villatora for attending our Golf Fundraiser on April 15th. We look forward to making more progress on our five core initiatives and hope to see you all again soon at our next event on August 24th!

- Rich Sato,  
Executive Director

## RESILIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSITY

Support from Senator Glenn Wakai, Jordan Molina & round table guests at our April Member Meeting discussing resilient sustainability, managed retreat, and diversity in the facilities engineering workforce.

CONTINUE READING ON PG. 3



## GARY BULSON DELIVERS MFELC'S POSITION STATEMENT ON CARP

Gary Bulson, MFELC's President addressed our attendees and proudly endorsed the CARP Initiative by supporting actions that will help address climate mitigation measures. Please refer to the Draft CARPAC Report issued to Maui Council Members on November 22, 2022.



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# 2022 - 2023 UPDATES

## WORKFORCE SHORTAGE AND DIVERSITY IN FACILITIES ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP



**MIKEY BURKE**  
MAUI ELECTRIC

**RYAN DACAYANAN**  
EMPLOYERS OPTIONS

**TAMZEN LOVEJOY**  
DORVIN LEIS

**MICHELLE TAVARAS**  
1 HOTEL HANAIEI BAY

**ELENA KANEALI'I**  
DORVIN LEIS

At our 2022 Holiday Gathering, Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen challenged MFELC to create additional opportunities for internships & mentorships within our member's facility engineering operations. This kickstarted our internship initiative to help solve urgent problems within facilities engineering & coastal management. Since then, we have partnered with South Maui Learning Ohana to develop a VoTech training program, launching in Summer/Fall 2023. Applications are now being accepted for enrollment. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion & be first in line for filling job positions within our member facilities.

We will announce the Kihei Charter School graduates who will attend our first internship program on August, 24th from 7:30AM til 1:00PM at the Kihei Charter School Community Center (lunch will be provided). Please join us for this exciting event! Seating is limited, to RSVP please contact [mauifelc@gmail.com](mailto:mauifelc@gmail.com) or Rich Sato at 808-359-8810. On April 14, 2023, we held a member meeting at Kihei Charter School to announce our program which is intended to help solve the workforce shortage within facilities engineering in Maui County. We are grateful for our roundtable speakers Michelle Tavaras from 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Mikey Burke from Maui Electric, Ryan Dacayanan from Employers Options, plus Tamzen Lovejoy and Elena Kaneali'i from Dorvin Leis for inspiring Kihei Charter students to see the importance and rewards of becoming an engineer. The panel also encouraged our member facilities to invest in training prospects to fill urgent job positions rather than hiring based on their current qualifications. This provides security for projects that need immediate attention and also protects our kama'aina so that they can stay on Maui.



*Michael Stubbs, Head of School, Kihei Charter School, with MFELC members and students*



# RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

At our April 14th meeting, Senator Glenn Wakai presented to our members the importance of resilient sustainability to combat pollution & obtain energy security for Maui Nui. Various alternatives were suggested such as off-shore wind, bio-fuel, & most promising: geothermal energy. We're grateful for his time & support!



**GLENN WAKAI**  
HAWAII STATE SENATOR



**JORDAN MOLINA**  
MAUI COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
*Photo by Alan Fukuyama*

We're also glad that Jordan Molina from the Maui Department of Public Works joined the meeting to raise awareness about the critical importance of investing in local talent to fill positions. He also brought attention to the staffing challenges facing the Department of Public Works that impact the department's ability to take prompt action on critical issues such as managed retreat for our coastlines. MFELC is proud to have adopted the CARP Initiative by supporting actions that will help address climate mitigation measures. Please refer to the Draft CARPAC Report issued to Maui Council Members on November 22, 2022.



*Shoreline Erosion*



*Hydrogen Power*

MFELC is also committed to diversifying the facilities engineering field across Maui Nui. We are excited about our new subcommittee for diversity to strengthen our ability to encourage people of all kinds to join the ranks, helping to keep our island safe and resilient! We appreciate Michelle Tavaras from 1 Hotel Hanalei Bay, Kauai for joining the committee and coming to the April 14th meeting to speak with our members and prospective students about the need for diversity & job training to expand the workforce. More exciting progress is unfolding and we are grateful for each one of our members and supporters! We hope to see you again soon at our next event on August 24th! For more information or to RSVP please contact [mauifelc@gmail.com](mailto:mauifelc@gmail.com)



Mahalo,  
MFELC Team

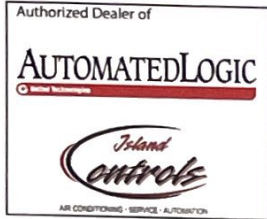
**A Big Mahalo to Maui Tradewinds Lead Instructor, Brian Hazlet  
and our team of experienced Visiting Instructors:**

Remi Sabado, *Ka'anapali Beach Villas*  
 Brian Haruguchi, *Hotel Wailea*  
 Richard Nezelek, *Maui Ocean Center*  
 Rob Hoonan, *Wailea Marriott*

Richard Thome, *Ritz Carlton Kapalua*  
 Steve Green, *Maui Ocean Center*  
 Shawn Racoma, *The Whaler*  
 Bob Novello, *Dorvin Leis (Retired)*



**MAHALO TO OUR LOCAL SPONSORS**



**MFELC LEADERSHIP TEAM**

- Remi Sabado *President*
- Brian Haruguchi *Vice President*
- Jay Corpuz *MFELC's Treasurer*
- Gary Bulson *Secretary*
- Gary Bulson *Chairperson of MFELC's newly formed Resilient Sustainable Energy Solutions Committee*
- Mickey Burke *Director*
- Ken Beal *Director*
- Tamzen Lovejoy *Director*
- Cesar Gaxiola *Director*
- Rich Sato *Executive Director*