

*the*

# PIPELINE

Powered by the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park

**NELHA Unveils 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Logo**

Winter 2023 / 2024  
Volume 5, Issue 2

## **HOST Park's Economic Engine Surges: Annual Impact Tops Over \$145M**

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# Tenant Satisfaction Up From Last Year

**Mahalo** for your participation in our recent tenant survey. Your voice matters, and we deeply appreciate the time you took to share your thoughts and experiences.



This year, we saw a record-breaking response rate, with 50% of tenants participating.

We are thrilled to share that the survey revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback, with tenant satisfaction on the rise.

48% of tenants were satisfied with services received by NELHA.

An impressive 39% expressed strong satisfaction, indicating they are very pleased with what NELHA offers.

Even the "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied" group remained small at 9%, showcasing a generally positive sentiment towards NELHA's services.

However, we understand that there's always room for improvement. We acknowledge the 4% of tenants who indicated dissatisfaction and will be diligently working to address their specific concerns.

Your feedback is crucial in helping us refine and enhance our services to ensure everyone at HOST Park enjoys a successful and fulfilling experience.

We are committed to open communication and will share our progress with you through various channels, including our newsletter, social media and the HOST Park website.

We look forward to continuing to serve you and cultivate a thriving community at HOST Park.

- Greg



## 2023 - 2024 NELHA Board of Directors

Cyd Miyashiro, Gov. Appointee/Chair  
Noelani Kalipi, Gov. Appointee/Vice-Chair  
Dr. Phil Bossert, RAC Secretary | Gordon Bruce, Gov. Appointee  
Douglass Adams, County of Hawaii | Gregory Kim, HTDC  
Alan Hilton, RAC Chair | Dick Jones, Tenant Rep.  
Neil Sims, Tenant Rep. | Dr. Vassilis Syrmos, University of Hawaii  
James Tokioka, DBEDT | Russell Tsuji, DLNR

## the PIPELINE

**HOST Park - Powered by the  
Natural Energy Laboratory of  
Hawaii Authority**

### About NELHA

The mission of the Natural Energy of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is to develop and diversify the Hawaii economy by providing resources and facilities for energy and ocean-related research, education, and commercial activities in an environmentally sound and culturally sensitive manner.

### NELHA TEAM

Bryan Babbitt, Eng. Projects Coord.  
Greg Barbour, Executive Director  
Brian Berg, Utility Electrician  
Chad Debina, Gen. Labor  
Faustine Edge, Administrative Asst.  
Alex Leonard, Chief Projects Mgr.  
Pam Madden, Water Quality Lab Mgr.  
Bryce Matsuoka, Groundskeeper & Maint.  
Steve Midgley, Electrician  
Rae Nguyen, Mktg. & Leasing Spc.  
Keith Olson, Chief Ops & Science Ofc.  
Jennifer Rasmussen, Acting Business Mgr.  
Laurence Sombardier, Deputy Dir.  
Kevin Tapley, Ind. Maint. Mechanic

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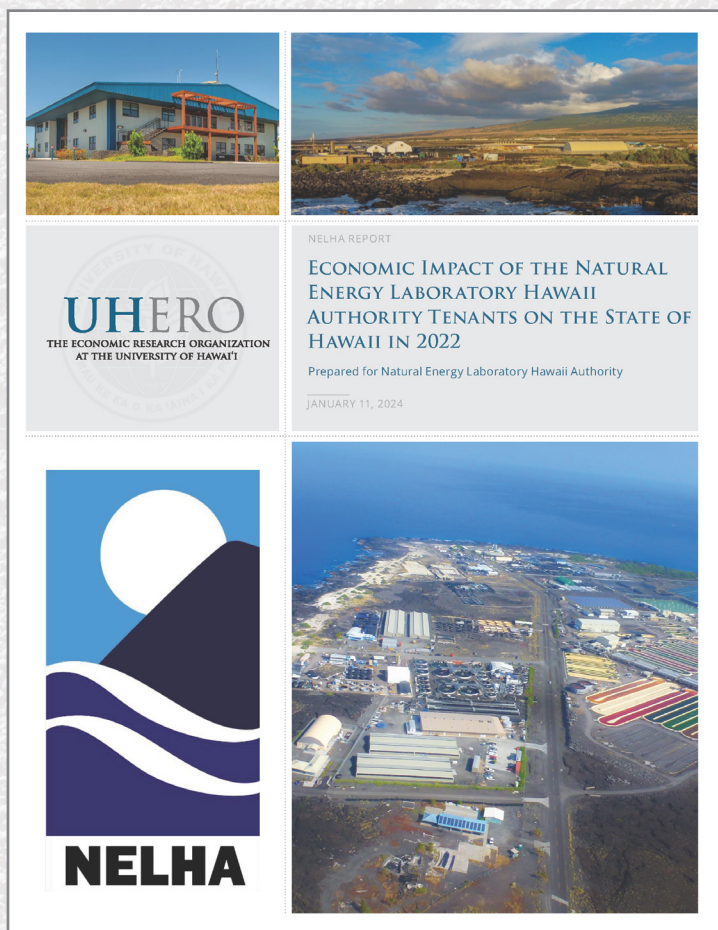
### Follow Us On SOCIAL MEDIA!





# HOST Park's Economic Engine Surges:

## Annual 2022 Impact Tops Over \$145M



An independent analysis reveals that HOST Park has become a major economic engine for the state, generating a total impact of \$145.4 million in 2022.

The University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) conducted the comprehensive analysis, highlighting the park's financial strength and positive ripple effects.

Total expenditures from HOST Park businesses reached \$148.4 million, with nearly \$90.3 million (61%) directly benefiting Hawai'i entities.

The 2022 data represents an increase of 36% and 18% respectively, from 2018 (all measured in real dollars adjusted for inflation).

NELHA's economic impact on Hawai'i's economy expanded significantly from 2018 to 2022, with total output rising from \$120 million in 2018 to \$145 million in 2022 (in real dollars).

Earnings, tax revenues, and job growth increased by 28%, 25%, and 20%, respectively, during this period.

This underscores the park's commitment to supporting local businesses and fostering economic prosperity within the state.

By nurturing innovation and promoting sustainable development, the park is not only generating significant financial benefits but also positioning the state as a global leader in ocean science and technology.

To read the UHERO report, visit [nelha.hawaii.gov](https://nelha.hawaii.gov).



# NEW NELHA Website HOSTPark.io Is Now Live

## EXPLORE HOST PARK'S RICH TAPESTRY



### DISCOVER KEĀHOLE'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Uncover the wonders of Keahole Point, where nature's beauty meets cutting-edge research. Learn about the unique environment that makes HOST Park a haven for innovation and ecological harmony.

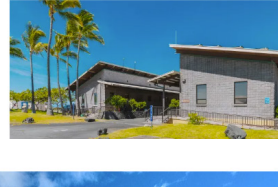
[Explore Keāhole Point](#)



### JOURNEY THROUGH

Dive into the story of its early beginnings. Discover the milestones that have shaped HOST Park and our vision for the future.

[Uncover Our Story](#)



Explore HOST Park from Anywhere

## VIRTUAL EXPLORATION OF HOST PARK'S WONDERS

Step into the world of HOST Park with just a click. Our virtual tour brings to life the vibrant ecosystem of innovation and sustainability through stunning images and immersive 360 panoramas. Experience the cutting-edge developments and serene natural beauty of HOST Park as if you were there. Dive into the heart of technology and eco-innovation without leaving your home. Start your virtual adventure today and see where the future is being shaped.

[Embark on the Virtual Tour](#)

Embracing Challenges, Crafting Solutions

## INNOVATION AT HOST PARK IS BEYOND BOUNDARIES

In the evolving landscape of human progress, HOST Park stands distinct. Drawing parallels to the ambitious moonshot projects of yore, this enclave is a hub of audacious innovation.

Here, vast challenges—like sustainable energy, reducing greenhouse emissions, and ensuring food security—are met head-on. At HOST Park, it isn't just about identifying problems; it's a dedicated pursuit of groundbreaking solutions.

[View Success Stories](#)



## Take a Sneak Peek of HOST Park's New Website

**A NEW DIMENSION:** HOST Park is excited to announce the launch of its brand-new website this spring.

This innovative platform transcends the bounds of traditional websites, offering an immersive experience that transports visitors right into the heart of ocean innovation.

With just a click, visitors can embark on a captivating 360-degree journey through HOST Park's vibrant landscape, visit the many blue and green sustainable companies anchored at HOST

Park and learn about the park's unique assets and available resources.

The website's impact extends beyond captivating visuals.

-Visitors will also encounter the compelling narratives of pioneering companies thriving at HOST Park.

Mahalo Tetrachrome for working on creating this masterpiece!



# Keeping the Momentum Going on Workforce Development



**NEW CLASSES:** Since May 2023 when over 20 representatives from 11 HOST clients shared their needs in regard to workforce development, UH Windward Community College, Palamanui Community College and Good Jobs Hawaii have been exploring classes that might benefit Hawaii Island. Good Jobs Hawaii is a \$35 million workforce development initiative aiming to fill education gaps and provide support for programs in select sectors including food security and ocean tech.

A poster for the 'AQUA 198 Lab' titled 'A FREE WORKFORCE TRAINING FOR DIVERS IN WEST HAWAII?'. It features a diver underwater and a 'Good Jobs Hawaii' logo. The text includes: 'Let Good Jobs Hawaii know!', 'Does your company have a need for scientific divers? Good Jobs Hawaii is willing to fund a scientific training program in West Hawaii if there is enough interest.', 'The program can provide training to existing employees who need additional skills or potential employees that need training.', 'Good Jobs Hawaii will cover all costs, including tuition, materials, and certification fees for qualifying candidates if they determine there's enough interest.', 'Candidates must be: • A Hawaii resident, • A US citizen or a U.S. permanent resident alien with a green card, • Must be at least 16 and meet the prerequisites for specific training, • Must submit an application to Good Jobs Hawaii.', 'We need to hear from you if this is something that's needed.', 'Please contact Laurence Sombardier at laurence.sombardier@hawaii.gov or Rae Nguyen at tuyenrae.nguyen@hawaii.gov by Monday, July 24.'

UH Windward Community College has offered a tuition free course on algae which anyone can register for. An associated lab is in the works for Hawaii Island residents. For more details, please contact Jolie Dollar at [jolied@hawaii.edu](mailto:jolied@hawaii.edu).

Good Jobs Hawaii has partnered with Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, a non-profit, that will oversee a scientific training course in Maui with an emphasis on coral reef restoration. NELHA staff assisted Good Jobs with determining whether a similar course in West Hawaii would be helpful. Over 25 West Hawaii residents have expressed interest in the course which would also be tuition-free including materials and certification fees.

For more information on available courses and free training, visit [Good Jobs Hawaii](http://GoodJobsHawaii.com).

## NELHA Takes Action on Seawater Concerns

**FINDING THE ROOT CAUSE:** In response to concerns from some aquaculture tenants about declining larval survival rates, NELHA has taken decisive action by hiring renowned aqua and agricultural tech expert Dr. Jim Wyban to investigate the seawater quality issues.

Dr. Wyban, known for his innovative solutions, will lead the four-month project, aiming to identify the possible root causes of the issues and develop effective solutions based on his findings.

He will employ a comprehensive approach to understand the seawater quality concerns by gathering tenant input, meet with Keahole Point Larval Group (KPLG), compile and analyze historical data to identify patterns and trends and meet with external experts to review data and gain additional insights into potential

contributing factors. Dr. Wyban will provide a preliminary report that will include his initial assessment, potential causes and Best Management Practices with recommendations for specific actions and procedures to mitigate and reduce future impacts on larval survival.

Tenants are encouraged to share any relevant information or experience to Dr. Wyban. Updates will be provided to keep tenants apprised of the project's findings.

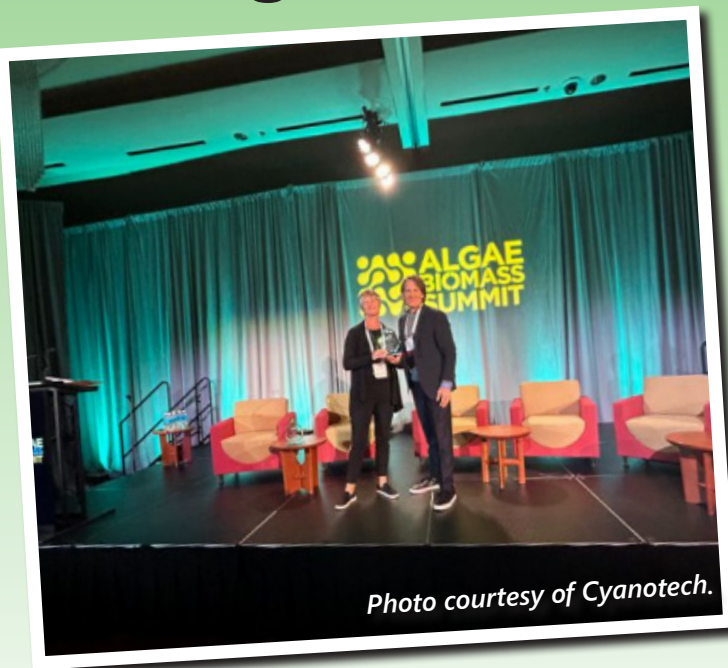
NELHA is dedicated to ensuring optimal seawater quality for the success of its aquaculture tenants and will support its tenants to foster a sustainable and successful future.





# HOST

## Cyanotech's Jen Johansen Awarded with Unsung Hero at 2023 Algae Biomass Summit



*Photo courtesy of Cyanotech.*

**WAY TO GO!** Cyanotech's Jen Johansen was honored at the Algae Biomass Organization's Unsung Hero Award for her unheralded dedication and career contributions to the growth of the algae industry.

"Thank you ABO for the Unsung Hero Award! I'm honored and have enjoyed working with the ABO team," said Johansen in her LinkedIn post.

The Unsung Hero Award is one of four awards given by the Algae Biomass Summit, a non-profit trade association and unified voice of the algae industry.

Prior Cyanotech award winners included Gerry Cysewski, Warren Pai and Darin Debina.

## It's a Merry Christmas at HATCH's Winter Pau Hana

### OPIHI ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE:

The spirit of innovation was flowing freely at HATCH Ocean Foundry's recent winter pau hana!

It was a night of ono grinds, endless drinks and endless good vibes, all amidst a merry crowd.

In celebrating businesses and innovation, attendees were able to network and catch up on the latest industry and community news.

There's sure to be another pau hana in the future. Stay tuned!





# PARK

## *Happenings*

### Forever Oceans Featured on NYSE TV Floor Talk

**RINGING THE BELL:** Forever Oceans' CEO Bill Bien appears on NYSE TV Floor Talk to discuss their mission to restore the ocean's health and end food insecurity.

Bien says Forever Oceans is different from their competitors "using artificial intelligence, machine-learning advanced technology and software to solve" limited food access to adequate food.

Go to YouTube and search for Forever Oceans' channel.



### Kona Sea Salt's Mel Kelekolio & Ipolani Morgan Win the Hawaii State Paddling Championship

**GOING FOR GOLD:** Last August, Mel Kelekolio and Ipolani Morgan from Kona Sea Salts paddled in the 2023 Hawaii State Paddling Championship as members of the Kai Opua Canoe Club and won one of many races, including the Women Golden Masters 55.

The club also collected a gold medal and two silver medals in the Men Novice B and Women Golden Masters 55 and a bronze medal for Girls 13 race. Kai Opua's first place finisher was its Mixed Masters crew which included Dane Enos, Mel Kelekolio, Nicki-Lacey Enos, Dave Old, Mesepa Tanoai and Cheryl Villegas. Congrats!





# KEIKI connection

## Schools Line Up for NELHA's School Tour Program

**WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS:** Inquiries for fields trips came pouring in as local schools clamor for more educational tours at HOST Park.

NELHA was happy to oblige, hosting over 300 students since starting its school tour program last November.

Students learn about NELHA and what companies occupy at the tech park. They also had a chance to trek through the research campus, talk to experts and participate in a fun and easy scavenger hunt for an edible treat.

Activity books and internship brochures were also provided to eager keiki.

Mahalo to **West Hawaii Explorations Academy, Ke Kai Ola Marine Mammal Center, Blue Ocean Mariculture, Ocean Era, Big Island Abalone, Terraformation, Makai Ocean Engineering** and **Hawaii Natural Energy Institute** for participating!

If you are interested in helping create educational memories for our young keiki, please reach out to Rae at (808) 327-9529 or email [rae.tt.nguyen@hawaii.gov](mailto:rae.tt.nguyen@hawaii.gov).

*FIRST IN LINE: Mahalo Kokua Academy for happily agreeing to being the first guinea pig school and providing inquisitive and smart keikis.*







*LET'S GET STARTED: Konawaena Middle School Ecology Club excited about the tour and scavenger hunt!*



*TEAM WORK: Working together to find the answers.*



*POOPED OUT: When the scavenger hunt proves to be too tiring.*



*YAY! Waikoloa Middle School kids finished the scavenger hunt.*



*BRR! Deep seawater is about 4 degrees Celsius - that's cold!*





# HATCH COHORT 5.0: The Next Step

## HATCH Blue is Now Accepting Applications for Their 6.0 Accelerator



**NOW AQUACULTURED:** After intense weeks of meeting industry experts and exploring cutting-edge solutions, the ten graduating companies from **HATCH's** Accelerator 5.0 are poised to revolutionize sustainable aquaculture from within their communities.

Congratulations to Halophilic Marine Agriculture, HEDROS Biotechnology, GreenSage Prebiotics, Living Seas Aquafeeds, Blue Pond Group, **EcoHarvest LLC**, **Pacific Hybreed**, Certified Quality Foods, Coast 4C, and The Crop Project - your innovations hold the key to a healthier, more sustainable future for our oceans and food systems!



Ready to join the next generation of aquaculture pioneers? Applications for HATCH's Accelerator 6.0 are now open! Dive into a world of mentorship, funding, and industry connections to propel your sustainable aquaculture venture to success. Learn more and apply at [hatch.blue/accelerator](https://hatch.blue/accelerator).

# MATSUYAMA'S

## NOW OPEN!

**PIT STOP BEFORE WORK OR BEACH:** Workers at HOST Park now have another lunch option - **Matsuyama's Food and Fuel** convenience store and restaurant is now open.

Located at the corner of Kahilihili St. and Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy., Matsuyama's opened its doors Dec. 27 in a soft opening with plenty of options to fuel up and go, shop at their retail market for supplies or dine at their onsite restaurant.

Feel that cold air? It's owner MATS4LLC's commitment to sustainability using seawater AC. They've also installed EV chargers and hoping to provide H<sub>2</sub> fueling in the future.

Make sure to stop by and try their spicy ahi nachos and kimchi fried rice!





# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News

## Unveiling NELHA 50th Anniversary Logo

**WHAT'S TO COME IN 2024:** We're filled with excitement for the grand journey ahead - NELHA's 50th anniversary!

To mark this momentous occasion, we're thrilled to unveil a special gift: our stunning 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, designed by a dear friend of NELHA who wishes to remain anonymous.

This beautiful artwork captures the essence of our organization's spirit: growth, innovation, and dedication to Hawaii's green future.

But the celebration doesn't stop there! Even our keiki are bursting with creativity, showering us with vibrant and imaginative artwork for our anniversary.

Their enthusiasm fills our hearts with joy and reminds us of the lasting impact NELHA has on future generations.

Mahalo to all kids who submitted their artwork!



## NELHA Seeking Input, Ideas and Participation

We're thrilled to announce plans for a grand commemoration of NELHA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a milestone filled with groundbreaking achievements and dedication to Hawaii's green future.

To make this celebration truly unforgettable, NELHA is open to input and ideas to make this a memorable celebration!

If you're brimming with ideas and want to be part of this historic occasion, here's your chance to shine!

Reach out to Laurence at [laurence.sombardier@hawaii.gov](mailto:laurence.sombardier@hawaii.gov) or Rae at [rae.tt.nguyen@hawaii.gov](mailto:rae.tt.nguyen@hawaii.gov).

We are eager to hear your thoughts and collaborate on making this a truly momentous event.



# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

## NELHA Participates in WHEA's Design Sprint



**AN IDEAL MODEL FOR SUCCESS:** NELHA accepted an invite from **West Hawaii Explorations Academy** to participate in a sprint design for WHEA's Profile of a Graduate.

The workshop aims to co-create the school's "Portrait of a Graduate" and will serve as a guiding touchstone to advance the school's mission with purposeful instructional priorities and practice.



With a roomful of current and graduating students, including four Hawaii State's House of Representatives of the Education Committee and members of the community to provide insight of what they believe is all graduates should be ready for in pursuit of their academic career.

Mahalo WHEA for letting us help shape the future.

## Accepting Energy Project Submissions for HKM Display

**THE NEXT BIG IDEA:** Partnering up with Hawaii Keiki Museum (HKM), NELHA is seeking innovative and creative displays using what we have plentiful of: sun and sea.

Kids can create a 3D diorama, architectural model or an interactive exhibit of anything related to using sustainable energy resources like wind, solar or even ocean.

The winning masterpiece will be at the HKM with the creator's photo and bio credits on display.

For more information, visit [nelha.hawaii.gov](http://nelha.hawaii.gov) and click on "School Tours."



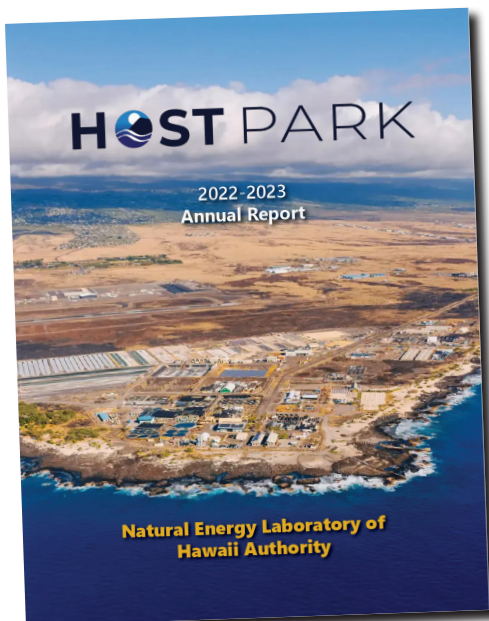


# HOST Park announcements

Got News to Share with  
HOST Park?

Let us know! Email  
nelha@nelha.org

## NELHA's Annual Report Now Available Online



HOST Park's annual report is available online on NELHA's website, under the Library tab.

The annual report details the park's major projects and its progress, the economic impact and contributions to Hawaii, highlighting its commitment to groundbreaking research, economic development and sustainability.

It also includes the 2022 and 2023 financial standings. This provides stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of NELHA's financial health and its responsible stewardship of resources.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, HOST Park offers an ADA-compliant version of the annual report, ensuring everyone can access and appreciate its valuable information.

We encourage everyone to download the report and explore the remarkable achievements of HOST Park. By understanding the park's impact, we can all be inspired to contribute to a brighter future for Hawaii and the ocean.

## MY SPACE

### New Workspace Booths Slated for Hale Iako

**A LITTLE PRIVACY, PLEASE!** Soon in 2024, tenants and visitors will see two brand new workspace booths at Hale Iako where users can expect a quiet, comfortable and interruption-free area for a quick video conference, a private phone conversation or simply to get work done.

The Talkbox Booth will include a large desk and power outlets for use. The booth has sound-dampening panels to absorb echos and outside noises and a skylight for increased natural light.

Tenants are welcome to use it as part of the perks at Hale Iako. Expect the booths to come sometime before the summer.





# Mahalo Bill Mielcke

## For Faithfully Serving on NELHA Board

Bill Mielcke, who recently served as NELHA Board Chair and Vice Chair, was surprised and delighted to see a room full of smiling faces in the executive conference room.

"Are you ready to start your meeting?" Executive Director Greg Barbour asked jokingly.

Laughter filled the air as Mielcke settled into his seat.

Barbour presented him with a lei and a gift bag which included two YETI brand wine coolers engraved with his last name before starting off his speech with a thank you.

Mielcke has led a prolific career in hospitality and in the private sector, and has given back to the State of Hawaii by serving on many of its Boards over the span of 30 years.

Recently retired, Mielcke has been enjoying a

quieter pace of life. It's been much overdue considering he had served under four governors during his time, starting with former governor Ben Cayetano.



When asked which Boards he felt he had made the most impact, he responded, "Tourism, Heath and NELHA Boards." As Chair of the NELHA Board, he enjoyed advancing new green and blue business development at HOST Park.

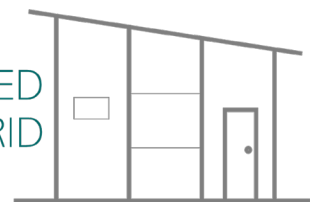
Mielcke is ready to share his wisdom with those who want to be happy. His advice? Serve your community.

## NEW TENANTS

The newest tenant situated at the Makai Research Campus, **Integrated Offgrid** is here to demonstrate a solar-powered system to produce potable water from ambient humidity.

For more info on the project, visit CEO Chuck Call's LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-call-76933/>

INTEGRATED  
OFFGRID



**Symbrosia Inc.**, has signed a 30-year lease and will occupy a 15.7-acre lot behind WHEA.

This strategic land acquisition marks a major step forward in Symbrosia's mission to scale up its production and deliver its sustainable feed additive to the global market.

For more info, visit [symbrosia.co](http://symbrosia.co).



# NELHA OPS @ work ...

## Easy to Come, Not so Easy to Let Go

### Ops Team Spruce Up HOST Park

**SMOOTH OPERATOR:** Have you noticed a newfound gleam around the Farming Compound?

It's no illusion, but the handiwork of NELHA's dedicated Ops Team, who've been quietly working their magic to clean up the facility and showcase a pristine Kona coastline.

With a lean but mighty crew of five, they've tackled the grime head-on, saying "Aloha" to a cleaner future.

Out went the outdated, the expired, and the termite-infested, like that abandoned building that finally said its goodbyes.

Even the landscaping along Makako Bay Drive got a much-needed pruning, revealing breathtaking ocean views you might have missed before.

So, what do you think?



## Teamwork Makes Things CHILL

### Cooling Matsuyama Food Market with Seawater AC



**HIGH FIVES ALL AROUND:** NELHA, Matsuyama, and Tinguely Development Inc. staff worked together to install a sea water air conditioning system at the new Matsuyama Food Market and Gas Station at the Corner of Ka'imani Drive and the Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy.

The system required coordination to balance the seawater and fresh water setpoint temperatures, system pressures and flows to chill the building.

Another example how teamwork, and cold seawater can make the world a little more comfortable.



# Happy Retirement!

## Let the Adventures Begin!



### Three Long-Term Employees Start the Next Chapter of Their Lives

**SAYING GOODBYE:** The offices of NELHA may feel a little less vibrant but they echo with the warmth of countless memories of Office Manager Jerrae Miranda, Operations Supervisor and Engineer Dean Towle and Mechanic Maintenance Tony Mitchell. After decades of dedicated service, these remarkable individuals have embarked on a new chapter, leaving behind a legacy of laughter, loyalty and invaluable contributions.

Jerrae, our beloved foodie, never let an occasion pass without sharing her infectious joy and delectable treats. From Hawaiian haupia to melt-in-your-mouth Japanese mochi, her culinary adventures brightened every day. But her kindness extended far beyond the kitchen; she was a constant source of support and a pillar of the NELHA family.

Dean, the mastermind behind HOST Park's smooth operation, wasn't just an engineer; he was a walking encyclopedia of its history. But his talents extended beyond blueprints and schematics. From whipping up gourmet brews to officiating weddings with a twinkle in his eye, Dean always added a touch of magic to the everyday. And let's not forget his passion for feline welfare - he is a true AdvoCat!

Tony, the longest-serving member of the crew, was the silent hero, always quietly behind the scenes ensuring everything ran smoothly. His dedication to NELHA spanned over three decades, mirroring his unwavering devotion to his family. As a father who adopted his children and lovingly cared for his mother, Tony epitomized the spirit of generosity and selflessness.

While their absence leaves a void, Jerrae, Dean, and Tony take with them our deepest gratitude and best wishes. We celebrate their achievements, cherish the memories, and eagerly await the next chapters of their remarkable stories. NELHA may be saying a *hui hou* but the bonds forged within these walls will forever remain.







*Explore the Possibilities...*

**H****OST PARK**

*Consider Your Future here!*

**Space is available for:**

**Innovation | Business Incubation  
Research | Demonstration | Commercialization**

**To inquire, contact:**

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**NELHA**