

the PIPELINE

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

Winter 2024 / 2025
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NELHA's 50th Anniversary Open House a Success!

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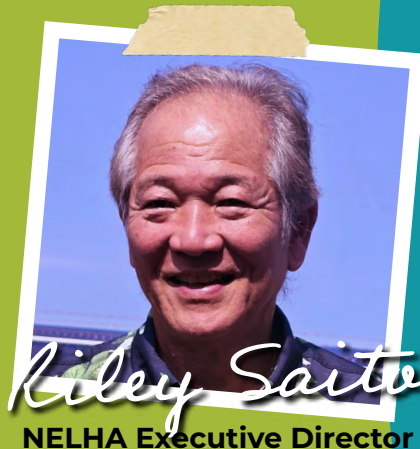
Welcome NELHA's New Executive Director Riley Saito

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i (NELHA) has named **Riley Saito** as its new executive director.

In his new role starting February 18, Saito will oversee the organization including supporting the research and development and commercial efforts at HOST Park, running a unique seawater utility and implementing programs and initiatives to support state goals in energy and food security.

Saito has a diverse background in the private and government sectors as well as significant experience in the energy sector.

He is also a long-time resident of Kailua-Kona and is very familiar with NELHA's role in innovation through his work at the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development.



"Riley Saito has established relationships with the West Hawai'i community which will be extremely important as NELHA works on updating its master plan that will feed into an EIS update for HOST Park," said NELHA Board Chair Noelani Kalipi.

"We're thrilled to welcome Riley to our team and look forward to his leadership in building on NELHA's past achievements while moving into new advancements that are grounded in local values."

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.
Chad Debina, General Laborer II
Faustine Edge, Administrative Asst.
Dr. Alex Leonard, Chief Projects Mgr.
Edward Lizama, Utility Electrician I
Pam Madden, Water Quality Lab Mgr.
Bryce Matsuoka, Asst. Maint. Mechanic I
Rae Nguyen, Mktg. & Leasing Spc.
Keith Olson, Chief Ops & Science Ofc.
Sherry Ortiz, Account Clerk III
Jennifer Rasmussen, Business Mgr.
Riley Saito, Executive Director
Laurence Sombardier, Deputy Dir.
Kevin Tapley, Ind. Maint. Mechanic

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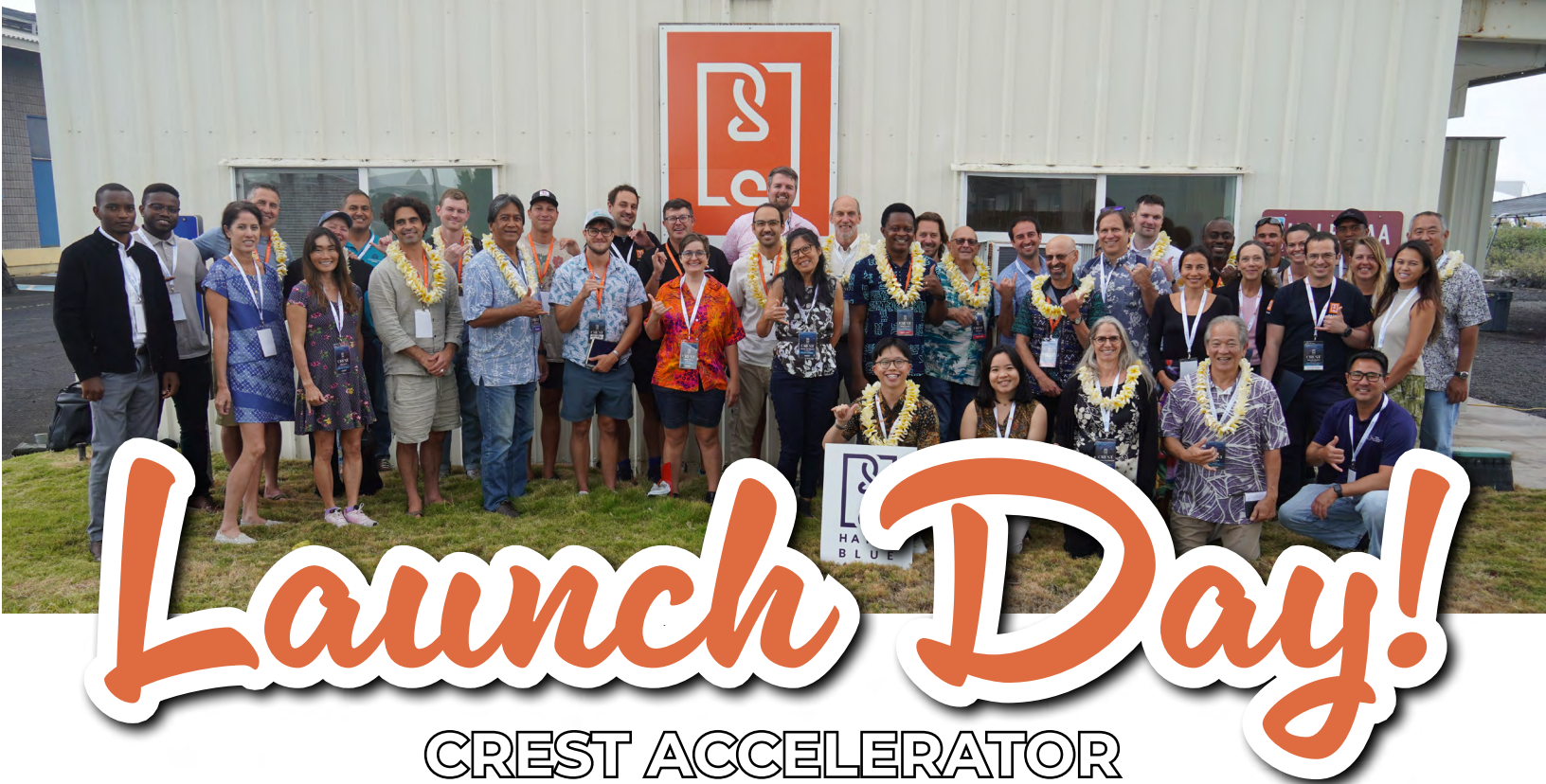
2025 NELHA Board of Directors

Noelani Kalipi, Chair | Cyd Miyashiro, Vice-Chair
Alan Hilton, RAC Chair | Dr. John C. Wiltshire, RAC Secretary
Gordon Bruce, Gov. Appointee | Jaclyn Kaina, HTDC
Merrick Nishimoto, County of Hawaii | Russell Tsuji, DLNR
Benson Medina, County of Hawaii
James Tokioka, DBEDT | Dane Wicker, DBEDT
Dr. Vassilis Syrmos, University of Hawaii
Dick Jones, Tenant Rep. | Nate Tsao, Tenant Rep.



Follow Us On SOCIAL MEDIA!





Hatch Blue's revamped Crest Accelerator kicked off its first of two programs scheduled for 2025 in Hawai'i on Feb. 18.

The launch featured notable speakers: Herb Lee, Executive Director of Waikalua Loko I'a, a traditional Hawaiian Fish Pond on O'ahu; Laurence Sombardier, Deputy Director of NELHA; Neil Sims, CEO of **OceanEra**; and Dick Jones, CEO of **Blue Ocean Mariculture** - both based at HOST Park.

The five companies selected for this inaugural program include AlgiSys Biosciences, Scape, GroLink, Seatopia, and Sensor Globe, all eager to tap into Hawai'i's thriving aquaculture and marine science network at HOST Park.

Get ready for the next wave of innovation—Hatch Blue will launch its second program in July at HOST Park, featuring a new set of groundbreaking companies. Stay tuned!



HOST Park's

OPEN HOUSE A HUGE SUCCESS!



More than 1,700 visitors clamor to learn about HOST Park and its tenants.

Photos: Tetrachrome

The 50th Anniversary Open House at HOST Park was a resounding success, drawing more than 1,700 visitors to celebrate NELHA's birthday.

The event generated an outpouring of positive feedback, highlighting the community's growing interest in learning more about HOST Park and its innovative tenants.

"We were truly overwhelmed by the turnout and the enthusiastic response from the community," said Interim Executive Director Laurence Sombardier. "It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diverse range of businesses and research organizations contributing to Hawai'i's blue economy."



Presented by State House Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa and Senator Tim Richards, the NELHA team was gifted a certificate signed by the entire legislative body.

The event was made possible by the generous support of numerous partners, including: **Matsuyama's Food & Fuel** who provided delicious bentos and musubis, with proceeds benefiting **West Hawai'i Explorations Academy** (WHEA) and allowing our banner to be displayed on their property.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to all who participated in making this a memorable event," said Sombardier. "The success of the Open House reinforces the vital role HOST Park plays in fostering innovation and driving sustainable economic growth in Hawai'i."

A **BIG MAHALO** to our participating clients and partners!

Matsuyama's Food & Fuel | Terraformation | 'Ako 'akoa Reef Restoration | West Hawaii Explorations Academy | Big Island Abalone | Ke Kai Ola, The Marine Mammal Center | Kona Salt Farm | Makai Ocean Engineering | Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture | Ironman Foundation | Hawaii Keiki Museum | UH Hilo | UH Applied Research Laboratory | UH Infrasound Laboratory | Hawaii Aquaculture Collaborative | HCC Palamanui | Hatch | Pawprints Care | UH Hilo Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center | Sea Dragon Energy, Inc. | Symbrosia, Inc. | Captura Corp. | Blue Ocean Mariculture | Ocean Era Cyanotech | Pacific Coast Growers Association | Papa Pops Kona | Aloha De Nada Empanadas | Sally Jane Cooks | Kealakehe High Athletics Dept. | Civil Air Patrol – Kona Composite Squadron



Purple Maia Retreat

Seeing Purple...



Purple Mai'a, a Hawaii-based non-profit empowering Native Hawaiian communities, recently toured HOST Park.

The group was particularly interested in the park's circular economy initiatives, such as **Light Manufacturing's** solar-powered plastic molding process.

They also engaged with the **Kona Salt Farm**, learning about culturally relevant projects within the park.

Purple Mai'a plays a crucial role in supporting economic development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment across the Hawaiian Islands.

HOST Park.io Phase II:

ELEVATING OUR STORY

NELHA is enhancing the HOST Park website and developing new marketing materials to better showcase the park's unique features.

The updated website will delve deeper into ancient Hawaiian history, featuring historical context and in-depth interviews with kupunas and historians.

It will also highlight successful companies within the park that exemplify circular economy principles, showcasing contributions to workforce development and addressing food security challenges in Hawaii.

An interactive historical map and expanded content on the park's cultural ties will also be incorporated.

New marketing collateral will be produced to highlight the unique resources offered at HOST Park. Tetrachrome will lead the project, conducting interviews, filming, and taking photographs.

In the meantime, stay tuned! We are excited to see what takes place in the coming months.

**If you want to contribute to any historical and/or cultural information, please let us know. We would love to include it to our project.
Reach out to Rae at rae.tt.nguyen@hawaii.gov.**

Meet our new BOARD MEMBERS



Jaclyn K. Kaina is a dedicated community leader, currently serving as the Executive Director of the Kaua'i Economic Development Board.

Her professional journey is marked by a strong commitment to fostering economic growth and community well-being on Kaua'i.

Prior to her current role, Kaina held key positions within the Kaua'i Economic Development Board, including Director of Programs and Business Development and Program Manager for the Kaua'i Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. With a BBA in Accounting and an ongoing MA in Organizational Leadership, she combines strong academic foundations with practical experience to effectively lead and contribute to the economic development of Kaua'i.

Merrick Nishimoto serves as the Deputy Managing Director for the County of Hawai'i, bringing extensive local knowledge and professional expertise to the role.

Born and raised in Kealahou, he possesses a deep-rooted understanding of the island's unique needs and challenges.

Prior to his current position, Nishimoto held the role of Development Manager for the Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation, where he honed his skills in project development. His career also includes a significant

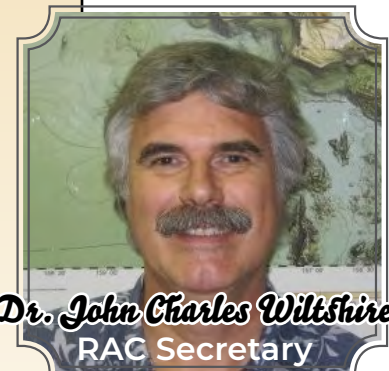


tenure within the County's Public Works Department, where he served as both a Civil Engineer and Deputy Director, accumulating over 12 years of valuable experience in public service.

Dr. John Charles Wiltshire is a seasoned geological oceanographer, boasting a career of over four decades dedicated to marine science.

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hawai'i and a Bachelor of Science from Carleton University, specializing in marine minerals, geotechnical studies, and deep submergence research. His extensive academic background laid the foundation for a distinguished professional journey.

Throughout his career at the University of Hawai'i, Wiltshire held key leadership positions, notably as Chairman and Associate Chairman of the Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering, and Director of the Hawai'i Undersea Research Laboratory.



HATCH's Blue Venture Builder

Six teams emerge, poised to transform Hawai'i's blue economy

By **Dylan Howell** and **Sarah Karner**, HATCH Blue

The Blue Venture Builder Hawai'i program accelerated the development of Blue Tech ventures, building on the success of AquaHack and the Blue Venture Builder Africa initiative.

The program aimed to foster innovation and support the sustainable blue economy in Hawai'i, focusing on food security and bridging technology gaps.

Key elements included industry exposure, such as visits to leading organizations like **Blue Ocean Mariculture**, **Symbrosia**, **NELHA**, and **OceanEra** within HOST Park, providing valuable insights into the thriving blue businesses within the park.

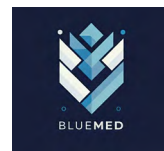
Participants engaged in three phases of development, progressing from initial exploration to market validation. The program received 150+ applications and selected 20 participants, fostering

collaboration and a strong sense of community.

Six teams: BaharMar, and Hawaii Ocean Powered Solutions, Hook & Hide, ReefCycle, BlueMed and FinFish have advanced to the final phase, poised to make a lasting impact on Hawai'i's blue economy.

By empowering entrepreneurs with resources and mentorship, Blue Venture Builder Hawai'i is catalyzing the next wave of Blue Tech innovation in the state, contributing to a more sustainable future.

This initiative highlights the vital role of HOST Park and organizations in supporting and nurturing the growth of the blue economy in Hawai'i.



Pioneering

BLUE TECH IN





INNOVATION in the *Aloha State*



REAL-TIME Environmental Data Portal

New online platform will provide live monitoring and trending of CEMP data, enhancing transparency for the community

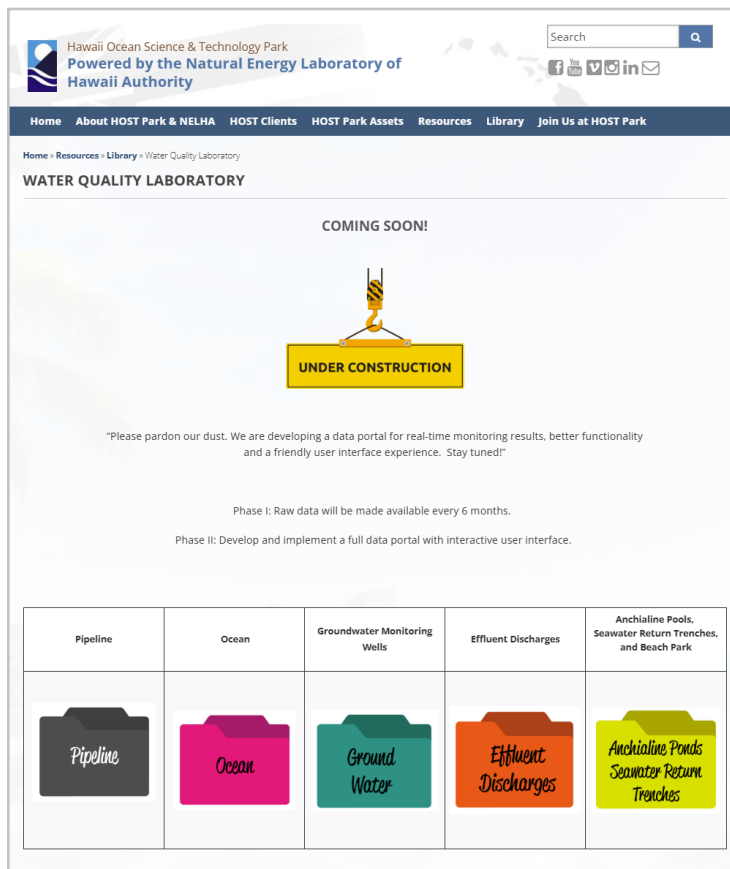
NELHA is developing a new online data portal for the data collected through its Comprehensive Environment Monitoring Program (CEMP).

When completed the portal will allow real time monitoring and trending through the NELHA website.

As a first step, data is being provided on a more frequent basis than in the past through the posting of raw data every 6 months.

We welcome your feedback as we continue to improve our systems to better serve the HOST Park ecosystem and West Hawaii community.

Visit nelha.hawaii.gov and go to the Library tab and click on Water Quality Laboratory.



GETTING CARRIED AWAY Angler makes a splash at HOST Park

A deep-sea surprise! A mysterious goosefish (*Sladenia sp.*), a creature rarely seen by human eyes, made an unexpected journey through the NELHA pipeline in August 2024.

This nearly three-foot-long anglerfish caused quite a stir with its presence. Normally found in the deep-sea benthos, it somehow made its way into a sump at the 55" station.

Scientists at the Bishop Museum are now investigating this fascinating find.

Photo credit: Jeff Milisen



nelha.hawaii.gov

combating climate change

Captura Corp. opens new direct ocean capture pilot plant at HOST Park

Captura has launched operations at its new Direct Ocean Capture (DOC) pilot plant in Kona, Hawaii.

Located at the Makai Research Campus, this facility - developed in partnership with Equinor - can capture 1,000 tons of CO₂ per year.

This marks a major milestone in scaling up DOC technology and is the third and final pilot in Captura's development program.

It paves the way for commercial deployment, and design work has already begun on Captura's first commercial facility, which will capture tens of thousands of tons of CO₂ annually.

Photo credit: Tetrachrome



Welcome!

HOST Park's leasing activity has been bustling, with new companies and organizations moving in.

We're excited to welcome the innovative projects and ingenuity they bring to the park. E Komo Mai!

captura

A direct marine carbon capture company, **Captura Corp.** has finally finished construction of their facilities makai of NELHA's administrative offices.

They are looking to build and operate a one kton/year marine carbon capture pilot plant. Learn more at capturacorp.com.

Sea Dragon Energy Inc. will demonstrate novel seawater CO2 extraction technology for integration with gas-to-liquids and liquids upgrading technologies to generate sample volumes of sustainably-produced aviation fuel.



They are located at Mauka Research Campus warehouse. For more info on Sea Dragon's initiatives, visit seadragon.energy.

One of HATCH's cohort, **Namaka Algae** will perform research to optimize algae cultivation and is currently located at the Hale Wai Ono laboratory.



Learn more at namaka-algae.com.



Taking residence at the bottom half of the old Forever Oceans, Inc. lot, **Kona Limu Co.** will grow out and sell limu for food service and retail customers in Hawaii and elsewhere.

Visit konalimu.com.

NELHA's Executive Director Greg Barbour Retires

Barbour had been with NELHA for more than 13 years

Gregory Barbour, a stalwart advocate for Hawaii's economic growth, recently retired after a remarkable career spanning over three decades.

His leadership at the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, combined with his instrumental role at the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawaii Authority (NELHA), has left an indelible mark on the state.

Since joining NELHA in 2011, Barbour spearheaded the transformation of HOST Park into a vibrant center for innovation and sustainability.

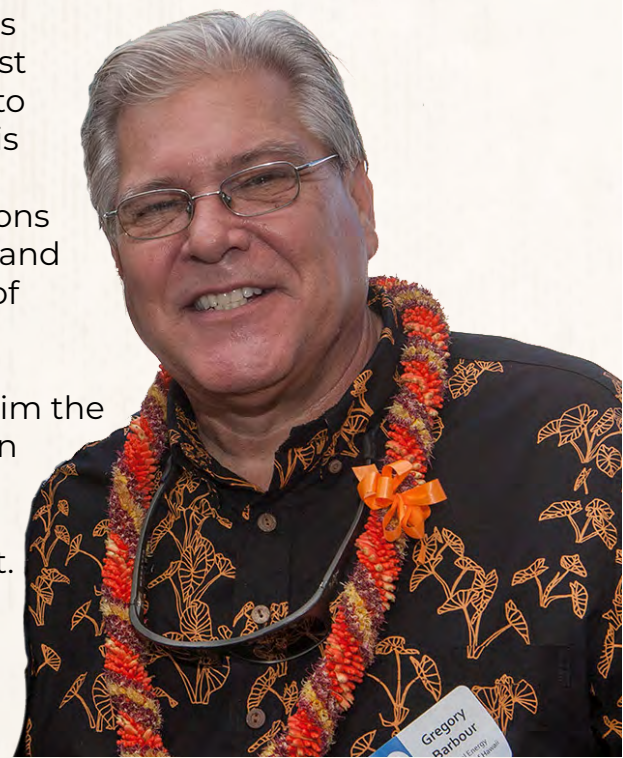
With a dedicated team, he oversaw significant infrastructure improvements and organizational advancements, attracting over 55 businesses to the park during his tenure.

These businesses collectively contributed

over \$145 million to Hawaii's economy in 2022, firmly establishing HOST Park as a beacon for entrepreneurs and environmentally conscious ventures.

We express our deepest gratitude to Greg for his invaluable contributions to NELHA and the State of Hawaii.

We wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.



Explore the Possibilities...

HOST PARK



Consider Your Future here!

AVAILABLE SPACE FOR:

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



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