



1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel (808) 943-3500  
**kelepa'i** fax (808) 943-3599  
**kahua pa'a** web hawaii-convention.com

## **HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER:**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**HONOLULU** – The Hawai'i Convention Center has integrated a respect for Hawai'i's environment in all aspects of its operations, since opening in 1998. The center has implemented a variety of efforts to enhance the conservation of Hawai'i's natural resources and reduce its impact on the environment.

The Center has received multiple Green Event Award from the State of Hawai'i for its commitment to environmental responsibility in planning and working with convention clients. The center has also been recognized by the City and County of Honolulu for its recycling efforts in reducing the impact of waste on our environment.

#### **Corporate Initiatives**

The Hawai'i Convention Center is proud to participate in AEG 1EARTH, AEG's corporate environmental sustainability program. Through AEG 1EARTH, we:

- Exchange environmental best practices with other venues
- Track our environmental performance on a monthly basis, measure energy consumption water usage and waste diversion
- Contribute to AEG's progress towards its 2020 Environmental Goals

To learn more about AEG's sustainability efforts and progress towards its 2020 Environmental Goals, please visit the [AEG 1EARTH website](#) and read [AEG's Sustainability Report](#).

#### **Energy Conservation & Efficiency**

- The design of the building includes a canvas-type sail located on the rooftop, allowing the Hawaiian trade winds to circulate throughout the building. This helps to vent off heat and reduces the need for air conditioning of the public space and the use of electricity for cooling.
- A computer-based building management system controls the lighting and air conditioning, assuring guest satisfaction while properly managing the use of energy. Electricity use is closely monitored through accurate programming of meeting rooms start/end times as well as incorporating procedures of pre-cooling and simply closing doors to keep the rooms cool. Lights are programmed to turn off when there is no activity in the meeting rooms.

- A Jockey Chiller has been installed with smaller capacity, as an alternative to using the larger chillers originally installed in the building, reducing the amount of energy used for air conditioning.
- Lighting in the ballroom, exhibition halls, parking and back-of-the-house offices and hallways were retrofitted to florescent lighting with more efficient configurations.
- Lights and air conditioning in the back-of-the-house areas are programmed to be off during weekends and holidays when there is no activity in the building. Light motion sensors have been installed in intermittent-use areas to help with energy conservation.
- Energy use on large equipment is managed using VFDs (variable frequency drives) to adjust motor speed to output requirements.

### **Water Conservation**

- Automatic dispensers for sink faucets, hand towels, hand soap and hand sanitizer in all restrooms have been installed to save on water and dispensing towels and cleansing product.
- Low-flush toilets and urinals and low-flow aerators in sinks and showers are used throughout the building to reduce water use.
- Xeriscape planting and drip irrigation are incorporated in the landscaping to minimize water use.

### **Air Quality Initiatives**

- HCC established a no-smoking policy building wide for clients and staff to maintain optimum air quality. Smoking areas have been designated in areas of the building that will have minimal impact on the public air quality.
- Staff uses self-pedal bicycles, electric carts and propane-powered lifts to access and service areas in the building. This reduces the need for petroleum products and allows for cleaner air quality in the building.
- HCC provides for electric vehicles with a designated parking area with a charging station for guest and staff use.

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

- The center recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard from events and all administrative offices. HCC in-house staff manages the collection, sorting and disposal of the recycled products.

- Recycle receptacles are placed for attendee and client use in meeting rooms, public areas, convention offices and food and beverage events.
- Green waste collected from the landscaping areas is composted and recycled into mulch.
- Used computers, monitors and keyboards are recycled through a local service that repurposes current equipment to local communities and recycles older equipment.
- Equipment and materials no longer necessary at HCC are recycled by offering them to other State of Hawaii agencies or community organizations.
- Contractors include recycling and repurposing of materials in their waste management plan for construction projects.

HCC attained a 75% diversion rate from landfills in 2015 and diverted a total of 40% of all waste generated from events and building operations from the waste stream since 2013.

### **Event Sustainable Practices**

- Event-generated waste, such as foam core boards, constructed items for displays and furniture are repurposed and donated to local organizations who service those in need.
- Convention trade show giveaways are repurposed and are donated to local schools and service organizations.
- HCC staff works with event planners to plan and execute environmentally-conscious events. Examples include tracking and documenting waste generated from specific event activities, working to clear the Center's landscaping of invasive plant species that is detrimental to Hawai'i's landscape and planning community service activities that serve sustainable practices.

### **Sustainable Purchasing**

- HCC encourages a "Buy Local" procurement policy where possible. This extends to Hawai'i-sourced food products and items created and produced in Hawai'i. This reduces the shipping and packaging needed to deliver the product to the HCC property.
- Chemicals purchased by the housekeeping, landscaping, engineering and food and beverage departments are ecologically friendly.
- Energy Star ratings and other industry certifications are considered in purchasing new equipment and appliances.
- Sustainable properties of building materials are included in the selection process for all purchases for capital improvement projects.

### **Food & Beverage Sustainable Practices**

- Food and Beverage actively participates in buying from local food suppliers and producers. Menus dedicated to featuring local tastes and products are customized for events. *808 Coffees Café*, a coffee kiosk on the meeting room level, serves only locally grown and produced coffee.
- Disposable food and beverage service ware is biodegradable and compostable.
- Food that is prepared but not served is donated to Harbor House, which distributes food items to organizations that help those in need. The center also supports the Kids Kitchen program, in collaboration with University of Hawai'i volunteers, which feeds children in after-school programs.
- Food waste is used for animal feed locally. Oil used in deep fry preparation is recycled through a third-party contractor.
- The kitchen uses a recycled water process that filters solid materials and pre-rinses before running the dishwasher; providing an estimated 50% savings on dishwashing water use.

### **Staff Involvement**

- Staff of HCC are involved and committed to the sustainable efforts at the Center. All employees are encouraged to make a commitment to activism and change through projects and initiatives put forth by HCC and the AEG 1Earth Program. In the spirit of *kuleana* (responsibility) and culture of *aloha* (kindness), staff have identified how they can change a part of their personal everyday activity or process to contribute towards sustainable success at the center.

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### **About Meet Hawai'i**

Meet Hawai'i is a collaboration of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) to reinforce the brand of the Hawaiian Islands as a world-class destination for business meetings, conventions, and incentive programs. The marketing efforts of the Meet Hawai'i team are overseen by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the state of Hawai'i's tourism agency. HTA was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai'i's economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.

**Special note to media:** HTA recognizes the use of the 'okina ['] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the (modern) Hawaiian language; and the kahakö [ä] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai'i such as Lāna'i). However, HTA respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

**Media Contacts:**

Darlene Morikawa  
Director – PR/Communications  
Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau  
dmorikawa@hvcb.org  
(808) 924-0259

Rebecca Pang  
Senior Account Supervisor  
McNeil Wilson Communications  
rebecca.pang@anthologygroup.com  
(808) 539-3424

For information about Meet Hawai'i and the hosting of meetings, conventions and incentives, please visit [MeetHawaii.com](http://MeetHawaii.com).