



MESSAGE FROM CIO CHRISTINE SAKUDA



From left to right: Senior Advisor, Arnold Kishi, Information Security Officer, Vincent Hoang and Chief Information Officer Christine Sakuda

Aloha ETS!

A lot has happened since our last newsletter and I'm excited to share some updates with you.

In October, I attended the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Annual Conference held in Denver, Colorado along with Information

Security Officer, Vincent Hoang and Senior Advisor, Arnold Kishi. Over the four-day conference, senior technology leaders from across the nation gathered to engage in deep-dive sessions and peer forums on critical issues facing state government IT environments including state technology procurement, enterprise architecture, cybersecurity, and the emerging role of artificial intelligence (AI) in government.

The conference offered a valuable opportunity to exchange best practices and benchmark Hawai'i's technology journey and the accomplishments of ETS, against those of other states. The volume and quality of insight shared will benefit Hawai'i's government technology landscape. I believe we brought back actionable insights as we continue the great work we do at ETS in modernizing our state's government services.

Mahalo!

Chief Information Officer and administrator of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services Christine M. Sakuda

Into the Breach: Cybersecurity Capture the Flag Challenge



Participants in Cybersecurity Capture the Flag Challenge

To close out cybersecurity month, cyber defenders from across Hawai'i gathered on October 28, 2025, for a hands-on, high-energy workshop that put participants' skills to the test.

Using Microsoft 365 Defender and Microsoft Sentinel, teams took on the role of

security analysts responding to simulated cyber incidents, including a ransomware attack, a network access breach, and a data leak.

The gamified event gave participants a chance to strengthen their technical skills, collaborate with peers, and apply real-world cybersecurity strategies in a safe, simulated environment.

“Events like Into the Breach give our IT and security professionals the chance to practice real-world defense in a collaborative and engaging way,” said Vince Hoang, State Chief Information Security Officer. “Building these skills is critical as we continue to strengthen Hawai‘i’s cybersecurity readiness across all departments.”

Throughout the day, participants sharpened their technical and analytical skills while earning points for successful incident resolutions in this capture the flag style competition. The event combined education and friendly competition to create a dynamic learning atmosphere that reinforced best practices in threat detection, response coordination, and use of automated security tools.

DAGS Manager of the Year Presented to Bryce Fujii, ETS



Deputy Comptroller, Meoh-Leng Silliman (left) and Comptroller, Keith Regan (right) standing with Bryce Fujii, DAGS Manager of the Year (middle)

The Department of General and Accounting Services (DAGS) recognized winners of the DAGS Service awards, which honors individuals who exemplify the highest caliber of public service and dedication in serving the people of Hawaii.

This year, the DAGS Manager of the year was awarded to our very own Bryce Fujii, Technology Support Services Branch (TSSB) Manager for the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS).

"I am truly honored to receive this award, and while I am grateful for the recognition, the real credit belongs to my incredible team," Fujii said. "They make my job easier and more rewarding every day. I am also deeply thankful for the support and encouragement from my colleagues and leadership. It is a privilege to work alongside such talented and dedicated individuals."

Congratulations to Bryce and we thank him for his hard work and dedication to ETS!



DAGS Manager of the Year, Bryce Fujii with his 'ohana

The HACC is BACK! Now in its 10th Year



In 2015, the idea of a hackathon that encouraged civic engagement with the local technology community was conceived by Governor Ige to strengthen the pipeline of the IT workforce and expand the tech industry in our state. In the decade since, the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) has played a crucial role in its evolution into the annual Hawaii Annual Code Challenge (HACC) that we see today - a competition that is:

- Nationally recognized with the State IT Innovation of the Year award by State Scoop, the leading government IT media company in the nation's capital
- Sponsored by national tech giants such as Google, Microsoft, AWS, Salesforce, Oracle and IBM
- In partnership with the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Pacific University



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The HACC final event is upon us and we need your help! This year marks the milestone 10-year anniversary, and will be held on Saturday, November 22 at UH West Oahu. We appreciate your continued support year in and year out to help successfully run this event.

ETS is looking for 10 to 12 volunteers to do any, some or all shifts as listed below:

- **8:30 am - 10:00 am:** Set up and registration (2)

- **8:30 am - 2:00 pm:** Technical management (includes a setup Friday afternoon) (2)
- **10:00 am - 12:30 pm:** Timekeeper and teams herder (2)
- **11:45 am - 1:30 pm:** Lunch set up, distribution and cleanup (2)
- **2:00 pm:** Break down and set up tables for Meet & Greet. (2)
- **4:00 pm:** Final break down (2)

Lunch will be provided and there is plenty of free parking. If you are able to volunteer on Saturday, November 22, please email glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov with the shift(s) you are interested in.

And the winner...of the 2025 ETS Halloween Costume Contest is...



The Saturday Night Live "More Cowbell" Band!

From left to right, congratulations to Sal Nicosia, Patrick Stuart, Mishkat Rahman, and Elijah Nabong.

ETS IS HIRING!

ETS has several job openings to fill. If you know someone that may be interested in being part of our dynamic, innovative team that works on the latest cutting-edge technology in the industry, please visit [jobs](#), for more information.



TECH OPPORTUNITIES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

ETS is hiring for 20 jobs!

More information:
ets.hawaii.gov

Send resume to:
ets@hawaii.gov

Share *howz.IT* with friends and colleagues

Forward this email to anyone you think might be interested in state efforts to leverage technology to ensure an effective, efficient and open government.

FORWARD



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