



MESSAGE FROM CIO CHRISTINE SAKUDA



CIO Christine Sakuda (left), Senator Chris Lee (middle), and Comptroller Keith Regan during the 2026 Legislative opening day at the State Capitol.

Aloha ETS!

As the legislative season is officially underway, I see how our work at ETS underpins an effective and responsive Hawai'i state government. As lawmakers gather to set priorities for the year ahead, it is clear that technology - how we use it, protect it and govern it - continues to play a central role in shaping public service across our state.

ETS stands at the heart of that conversation. Every day, we advance the business of government through secure, efficient technology solutions that help agencies work smarter and better together. You enable departments to run their

operations effectively, share data securely and seamlessly, support informed decision-making and deliver services that residents rely on. Much of this work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt statewide.

DAGS and ETS at Legislative Opening Day 2026

This legislative session will be exciting and challenging. We expect a high volume of bills requiring ETS review, comments and testimony — particularly in the rapidly evolving areas of data and AI. These discussions are not abstract or theoretical. They directly affect how the state safeguards information, uses emerging technologies responsibly and maintains public trust while innovating.



CIO Christine Sakuda (left), Representative Ikaika Hussey (middle), and Comptroller Keith Regan posing for a picture during the 2026 Legislative opening day at the State Capitol.

What gives me confidence as we head into this year is YOU! Your expertise, professionalism and commitment to thoughtful governance ensure that ETS provides clear, balanced guidance to policymakers. You help translate complex technical issues into practical considerations that strengthen operations and create a more connected, responsive government.

As the session unfolds, your work will continue to inform important decisions that shape Hawai'i's digital future. Thank you for the dedication you bring to ETS and to public service. Together, we are not just responding to change — we are helping to lead it.

Mahalo!

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

Data and AI Take Center Stage as 2026 Legislative Session Begins



As the 2026 Legislative Session begins, data and artificial intelligence (AI) have taken center stage at the Hawai'i State Capitol. With more than 30 bills related to AI introduced this year, lawmakers are examining how to encourage innovation while safeguarding privacy, security and public trust. A nexus for tracking these efforts is the Hawai'i State Data Office within ETS, which continues to implement a comprehensive Data and AI Strategy to guide responsible technology use across state government.

Established under Act 167 within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, the State Data Office is led by Chief Data Officer (CDO) Rebecca Cai. The office's vision is to drive trust, transparency, citizen satisfaction and innovation by improving the security, quality, accessibility and accountability of data and AI across Hawai'i's government.

The strategy promotes a data-driven, impact-focused and citizen-centric culture. A key element is its use case-driven, phased approach — focusing on solving real business challenges with measurable outcomes. Rather than implementing technology for its own sake, the strategy prioritizes practical applications that improve decision-making, streamline processes and enhance services for residents.

The strategy fosters a data-driven, impact-focused, and citizen-centric culture. Its use case-driven, phased approach targets solving real business challenges with measurable outcomes. Instead of technology for its own sake, it emphasizes practical applications that enhance decision-making, streamline processes, and improve services for residents. This approach is bolstered by valuable input and collaboration from ETS and departments, ensuring alignment with their needs and leveraging their expertise to drive innovation and efficiency.

"Data and AI solutions are powerful, but they must be implemented thoughtfully and responsibly," said CDO Cai. "Our strategy ensures that Hawai'i embraces innovation while maintaining strong governance, protecting privacy and delivering measurable value to our communities."

With clearly defined data ownership at the state, department and dataset levels, Hawai'i's data & AI governance framework provides a strong foundation as policymakers consider AI-related legislation. The State Data & AI Office's work ensures that innovation moves forward with trust, accountability and a focus on serving the people of Hawai'i.

Learn more by visiting the State Data Office Website: <https://data.hawaii.gov/>

Staff Art Now on Display in Kalanimoku B20 Hallway



CTRL + ART + CREATE

Kalanimoku B20 Featured Artists

CHARLES CHAI &
HIMOD TEAM



"NEW HORIZONS"
SUMMER 2025



"ALOHA KĀUA"
SUMMER 2025



"MĀO HAU HELE"
FALL 2025

VIANCA CAO
SORKIN



"ALOHA BLOSSOMS"
FALL 2025

JOSEPH
PIERCE



"ROOTED CONNECTION"
SUMMER 2025

BRIAN FREY



"BIG ISLAND WAIPI'O VALLEY LOOKOUT"
FALL 2025





"PHISHING"
SUMMER 2025

"IKE I KA 'ĀINA"
SUMMER 2025

JAMIE IKEDA

LISA HUANG

"AI BEE & THE BIRD OF PARADISE"
SUMMER 2025

"CONNECTION" (3 PARTS)
SUMMER 2025

SHELLEY IZUNO

Last year, ETS staff were encouraged to contribute their original artworks for display as part of CTRL + ART + CREATE, a new initiative that celebrates the creative talents within our division.

We're excited to announce that staff art submissions are now on display in the Kalanimoku Building basement hallway near Room B-20. Please take a moment to stop by and enjoy the various works shared by our fellow team members.

A special mahalo to everyone who submitted their art for consideration and your willingness to share your creativity with others is greatly appreciated.



Help ETS Rename and Rebrand the HACC!



As we head into our second decade, it's time to evolve HACC branding

Celebrating its tenth year, the HACC has supported the state of Hawai'i's goals of expanding the local IT workforce, strengthening community engagement, and promoting civic-minded innovation.

Your task: Come up with one or several new names to replace "Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge." For instance,

“HAWAII AI Challenge” or “Aloha Intelligence Olympics.”

Your prize: a \$25 gift card!

To enter, submit your ideas via email to glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov.

About HACC

In 2025, nine teams of Hawai'i's emerging technologists were recognized as winners of the 10th Annual Hawai'i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) after presenting their solutions addressing four real-world challenges from various state agencies.

State Chief Information Officer (CIO) Christine Sakuda highlighted the importance of cultivating talent and fostering collaboration between the state and the community.

“The HACC has been one of Hawai'i's most powerful platforms for growing our innovation ecosystem,” said CIO Sakuda. “These teams have brought fresh perspectives and bold ideas that could transform how government serves the public. Their work not only helps us improve our systems but also strengthens the next generation of technology leaders across our islands.”

For a decade, this competition has inspired students, amateurs and professionals to help modernize state services and strengthen Hawai'i's local tech community. We look forward to seeing what names you can come up with!

Help ETS Redesign our Logo!

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) is launching a logo design contest—and we're inviting you to help shape the future visual identity of our organization



ETS serves as the backbone of Hawai'i's digital government. We're here to facilitate the collaboration of IT leaders across Hawai'i so they can confidently and effectively educate, mentor and lead their teams and organization; boldly advocate for technology innovations and generously invest in our state's future IT leaders and our local community. From maintaining the state's mainframe and telecommunication networks to leading IT consolidation and advancing

cybersecurity, our work ensures that government systems are reliable, resilient and always ready.

What the Logo Should Represent

Your design should reflect the core role and values of ETS

1. Reliability and Security

We safeguard statewide IT infrastructure, manage critical systems and support business continuity and disaster recovery. The logo should convey trust, strength and stability.

2. Innovation and Modernization

ETS leads digital transformation, data governance and responsible AI adoption. We oversee enterprise platforms such as Microsoft 365 and Adobe Sign to improve collaboration and streamline workflows. The logo should feel forward-thinking and future-ready.

3. Connectivity and Collaboration

Through initiatives like the Hawai'i Wireless Interoperability Network (HiWIN), Next Generation Network (NGN) and the Enterprise Notification System (ENS), ETS ensures seamless communication and operational resilience. Consider elements that symbolize connection, networks or unity.

4. Service to the People of Hawai'i

Above all, ETS supports agencies in delivering cost-effective, citizen-centric services. Our work strengthens disaster readiness and aligns technology investments with statewide priorities — all while upholding the aloha spirit. The logo should feel distinctly rooted in Hawai'i, balancing professionalism with local identity.

Design Guidelines

- Must include "Office of Enterprise Technology Services" or "ETS."
- Must include the 'okina when spelling "Hawai'i"
- Should be clean, modern and scalable for digital and print use.
- Must be a circle.
- Avoid overly complex designs — simplicity and clarity are key.
- Incorporation of Hawai'i-related graphics, imagery and or language is preferred.

Consider how the logo will appear on websites, presentations, apparel and official documents, as well as in black and white.

This is your opportunity to help define how ETS is visually represented across the state of Hawai'i. We encourage creativity that reflects both our technical expertise and our commitment to serving our community with integrity and aloha.

We look forward to seeing your ideas and celebrating the talent within our ETS 'ohana!

Awards

We will narrow down the submissions to three finalists and from there, the ETS Executive Team will select the final choice. The winner shall receive a \$25 gift card.

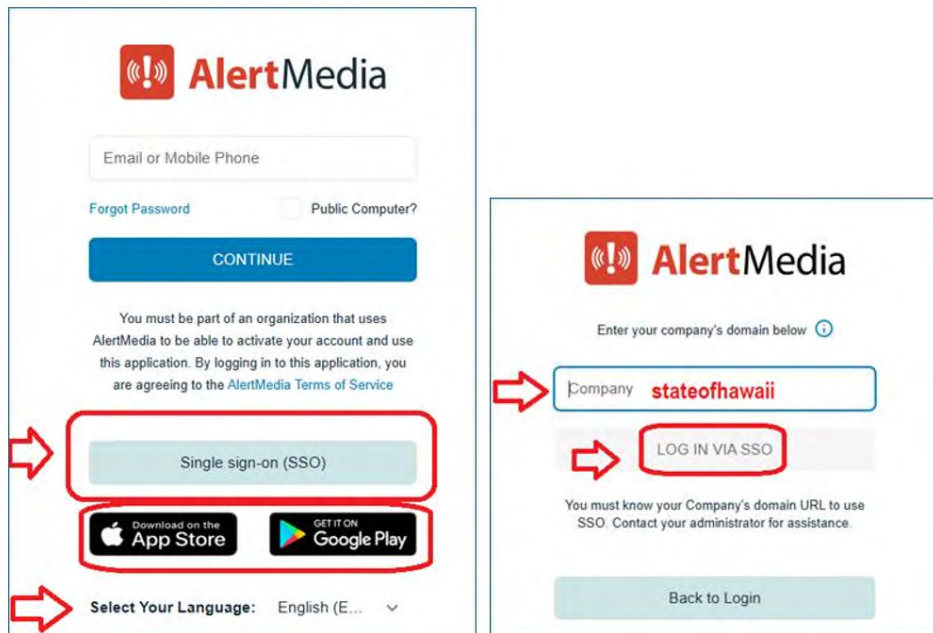
To enter, submit your ideas via email to glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov.

DAGS AlertMedia - Emergency Notification Platform

To improve our DAGS emergency communications, please share the AlertMedia link with your program staff to register/update their contact information to receive our DAGS Alert Media emergency notifications. Programs have reported that their staff did not receive any notifications on the state office closure on Monday, February 9, so although use of AlertMedia is optional to provide personal contact phone number/email/etc., please gently encourage staff to sign up, otherwise, they will not receive emergency alerts that DAGS sends out after normal business hours, including weekends and holidays.

<https://dashboard.alertmedia.com/>

Login is your hawaii.gov email and email address. Please follow screenshots below.



- After user logs into the SSO (single-sign-on), they will be taken to the office.com page to log-in using their hawaii.gov email, email password and if not using the state network, user will receive the multi-factor authentication according to what they opted to use (text, phone call, etc.)
- Note: user can opt to receive alerts in different languages. (See above screenshot.)
- Note: user can also install either Apple or Google apps for use on their personal cellphones. (See above screenshot.)
- Every month, a reminder is sent out to rally employees to register/update their account. When you have new employees, as part of onboarding please share this email with them .



Kung Hee Fat Choy from ETS

Riding Forward: The Year of the Fire Horse

As we move forward into this new legislative year, we also welcome the Lunar New Year—marked as the Year of the Fire Horse. The Fire Horse symbolizes energy, courage, innovation and forward momentum. It represents bold thinking, balanced with determination and resilience. Those qualities reflect who we are at ETS and what this year will require of us. Through strong governance of executive branch IT projects, we help identify and prioritize initiatives that increase efficiency, reduce waste and strengthen transparency and accountability in state government. We provide coordinated, cost-effective technology and telecommunications services so agencies can achieve their missions and better serve the people of Hawai'i. This year will call on us to bring both the “fire” and the discipline of the Horse — especially as artificial intelligence, data governance and digital modernization remain central topics in policy discussions. We must be bold in our ideas, steady in our governance and thoughtful in our execution.

ETS has continued to evolve to meet the state’s growing technology needs and we are a team that exemplifies professionalism, collaboration and public service. Together and in partnership with Hawai'i’s broader IT community, we will continue advancing the business of government and strengthening the digital future of our state.

Here's to a year of courage, innovation and meaningful progress.

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.



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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ETS@hawaii.gov

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