



## MESSAGE FROM CIO CHRISTINE SAKUDA



### Aloha ETS!

For more than 50 years, the State of Hawaii's central mainframe has quietly powered some of our most critical government functions. While it may be considered "legacy" technology, it remains essential to the daily delivery of public services — processing unemployment benefits, calculating and issuing child support payments and administering payroll and vendor payments statewide. It is capable of handling millions of transactions and sudden demand spikes, such as those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mainframe Modernization Madness Month: Powering the Transition Forward**

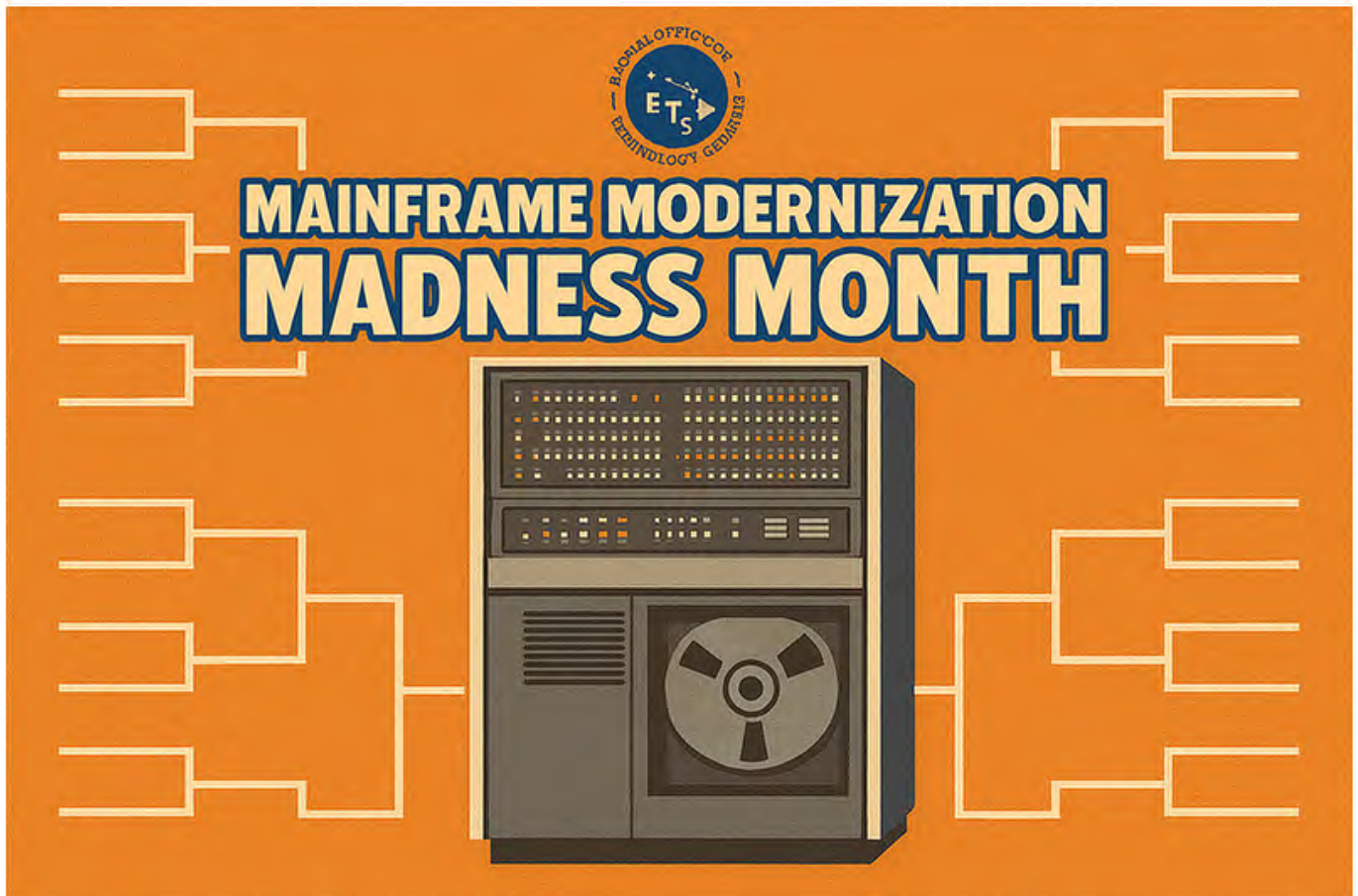
ETS has (un)officially tabbed the month of March as “Mainframe Modernization Madness Month” — and while there’s no bracket to fill out, there is a big goal ahead: ensuring Hawai‘i’s most critical legacy system transitions successfully into the future.

At more than half a century old, the state’s central mainframe remains a powerhouse. Designed for reliability, it continues to serve as the backbone for a small but vital group of departments.

But even champions need a succession plan.

The mainframe is aging, increasingly expensive to maintain and more difficult to support over time. We are actively planning for a full transition to modern, cloud-based systems, with a projected completion by June 2030. However, we cannot retire the mainframe overnight without risking service disruptions that would directly impact residents and state employees.

Adding urgency to this effort, federal funding that has historically supported mainframe operations is projected to end in July 2027. As that funding declines, the state’s financial responsibility will increase. ETS does not have excess operating funds to absorb these rising costs and relies on a shared funding model among the departments that use the system. A small number of departments still depend heavily on the mainframe, so coordinated planning, shared accountability and disciplined vendor management will be critical to meeting modernization timelines.



Modernization Madness Month is about teamwork. A small group of departments must collaborate closely, manage vendor timelines carefully and commit to a coordinated transition plan. ETS will continue providing 24/7 support and statewide leadership — but modernization requires shared accountability.

The goal is clear: maintain uninterrupted services today while building a more secure, efficient and sustainable digital foundation for Hawai‘i tomorrow.

Our path forward requires partnership — with departments, policymakers and stakeholders — to align on funding, schedules and communication. ETS will ensure the continuity of service while guiding this transition thoughtfully and responsibly.

Modernization is not just about replacing technology. It is about strengthening resilience, improving efficiency and building a more sustainable digital foundation for Hawai'i's future.

**Mahalo!**

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

### Register for the Upcoming Data & AI Summit



Join us on **May 13, 2026 for the Data & AI Summit at the Prince Waikiki** sponsored by Government Technology. The Office of Enterprise Technology Services is pleased to host this free event for State government IT workers. The annual Data & AI Summit is not open to the public. To register, click [here](#).

In May of 2025, Hawai'i hosted the second State Data & AI Summit in the nation. This summit brought together over 200 data-focused public sector professionals with leading industry partners to connect on innovative approaches to managing, governing, and using data empowered by AI to complex decision-making. Summit attendees had the opportunity to learn about leading trends, share success stories and lessons learned, participate in cross-departmental discussions, and help position the State better utilize data and AI to make decisions and serve constituents.



ETS Executive Team members Christine Sakuda, CIO (left), and Rebecca Cai, CDO (right) with Hawai'i Data & AI Summit 2025 keynote speaker Patrick Tedjamulia (middle).

## 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 and a pizza party lunch for your team!

**To enter, submit your ideas via email to [glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov](mailto: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 and a pizza party lunch for your team!**

**To enter, submit your ideas via email to [glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov](mailto:glenn.l.delacruz@hawaii.gov).**

## 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.



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

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