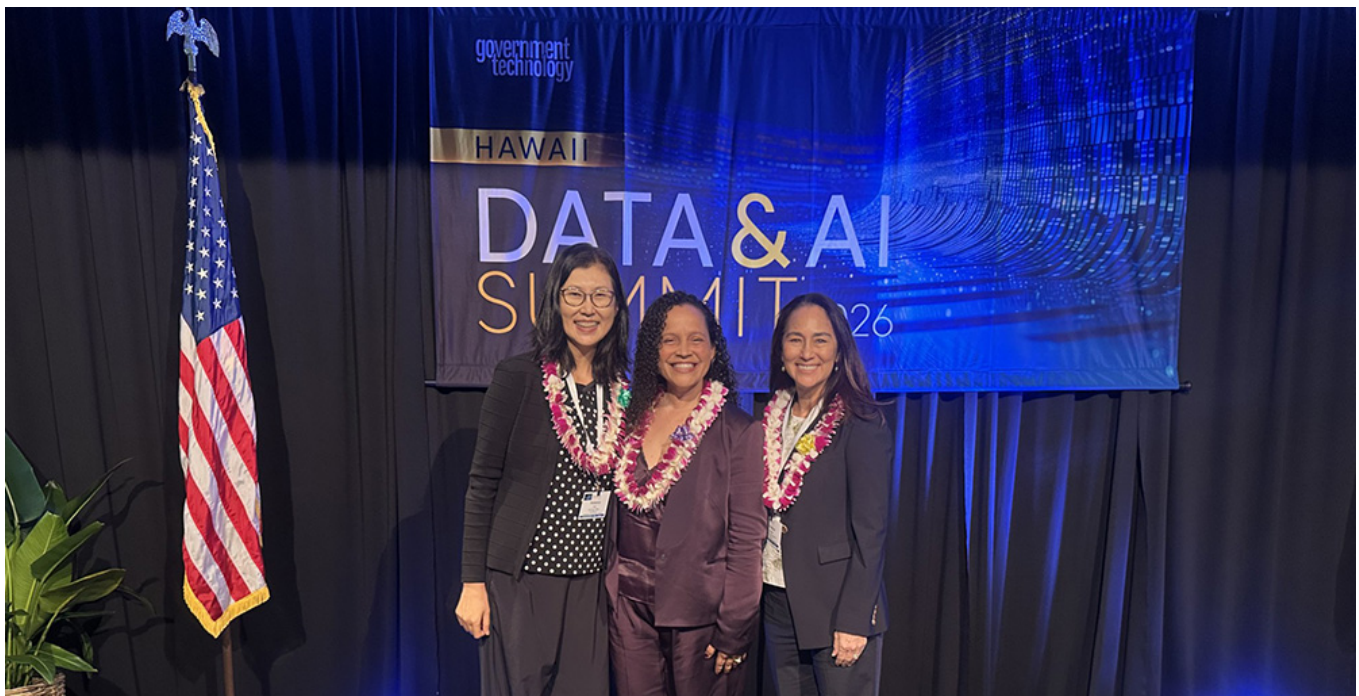




MESSAGE FROM CIO CHRISTINE SAKUDA



From left to right, CDO Rebecca Cai, Hawaii Data & AI Summit 2026 Keynote Speaker Noelle Russel, and CIO Christine Sakuda

Aloha ETS!

Mahalo to all who joined us at the 2026 Hawai'i Data & AI Summit. It was an honor for ETS to host this year's event and to welcome technology leaders, data practitioners, and partners from across state and county agencies. Your presence and engagement reaffirm the power of collaboration as we work toward a modern, resilient, and service-focused government for the people of Hawai'i.

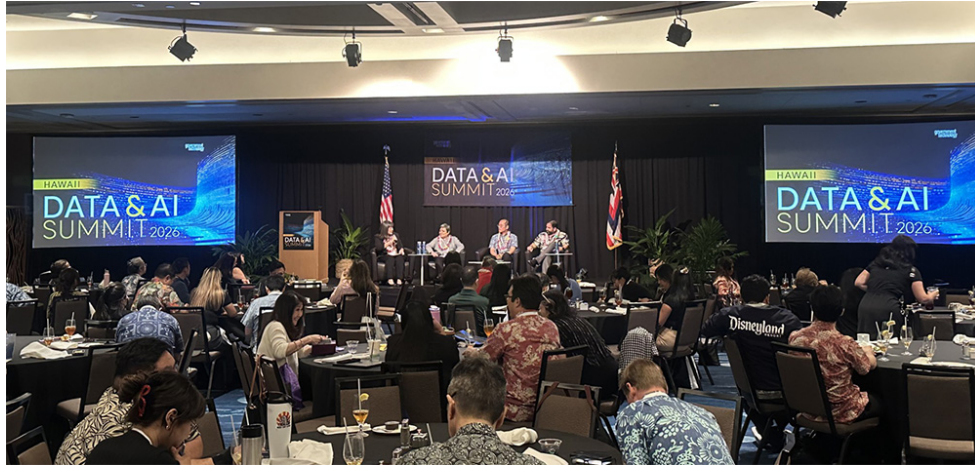
Throughout the summit, it was inspiring to see our community of public-sector innovators come together to share insights, exchange best practices, and explore new possibilities in data and AI. Each conversation underscored the same message: meaningful progress happens when we align around shared goals and invest in the systems, governance, and relationships that support long-term transformation.

ETS remains committed to guiding this work—helping agencies modernize, strengthening data capabilities, and ensuring emerging technologies are adopted responsibly and effectively. I am grateful for your continued partnership and look forward to building an even brighter digital future together.

Mahalo!

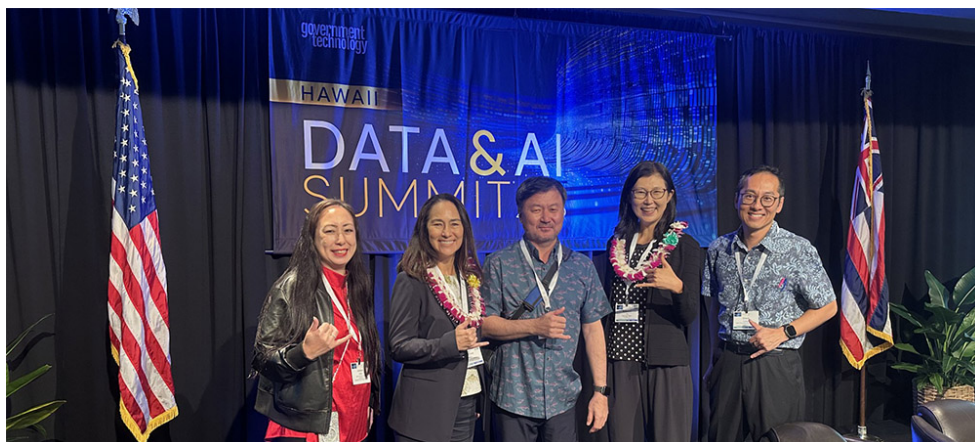
Chief Information Officer and administrator of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services Christine M. Sakuda

CIO and CDO Open 2026 Hawai'i Data & AI Summit



The 2026 Hawai'i Data & AI Summit brought together state and county leaders, technology partners, and practitioners for a full day of collaboration focused on the future of data and artificial intelligence in government. The event opened with remarks from State Chief Information Officer Christine Mai'i Sakuda and State Chief Data Officer Rebecca Cai, who highlighted the importance of responsible innovation, cross-agency collaboration, and investments that strengthen services for Hawai'i's communities.

CIO Sakuda emphasized the state's responsibility to modernize in ways that advance equity, efficiency, and trust. "Data and AI offer tremendous opportunities to improve how we serve the people of Hawai'i," Sakuda said. "But technology alone is not the answer. Our progress depends on strong partnerships, thoughtful governance, and a shared commitment to designing solutions that truly meet community needs."



ETS Executive Team Members Lenora Fisher, CIO Christine Sakuda, Tom Ku,
CDO Rebecca Cai, CISO Vincent Huang

As the state's first female CIO of Native Hawaiian ancestry, Sakuda also spoke about the importance of ensuring emerging technologies reflect Hawai'i's values, including stewardship, transparency, and collaboration across sectors. She noted that the summit represents a key moment to align statewide priorities and continue building momentum toward digital transformation.



CDO Rebecca Cai participating in a panel at the Hawaii Data & AI Summit 2026

CDO Rebecca Cai expanded on that theme, sharing her perspective on the state's evolving data strategy and the importance of generating real-world impact. "As data and AI continue to reshape how government operates, the 2026 Hawai'i Data & AI Summit is our chance to look beyond the tools and focus on the impact," Cai said. "I look forward to inspiring new ideas and fostering conversations that will guide Hawai'i's data and AI journey."



CIO Christine Sakuda giving opening remarks at the Hawaii Data & AI Summit 2026.

The daylong summit featured keynote speakers, expert panels, technical sessions, and discussions with members of the State Data Task Force. Topics ranged from privacy and governance to workforce readiness, data sharing, GIS, public safety applications, and the rise of agentic AI.

Together, Sakuda and Cai set the tone for a collaborative, forward-looking summit—one centered on responsibly harnessing data and AI to deliver better services and outcomes for Hawai'i's residents.

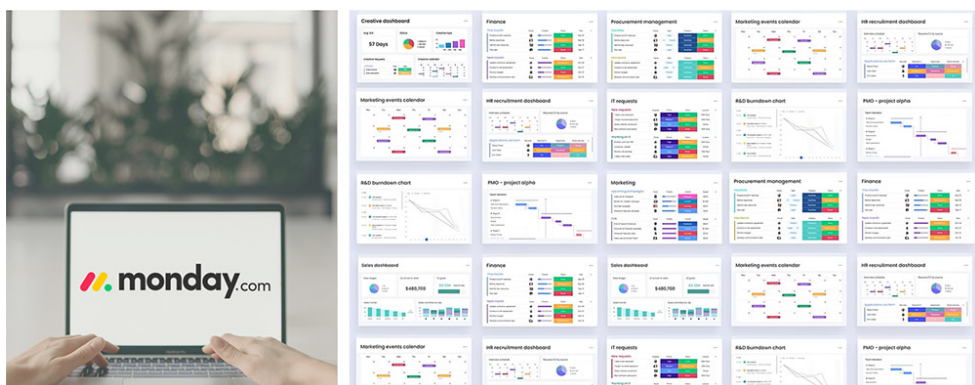
From Sticky Notes to Smart Boards: Monday.com Arrives at ETS



The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) is moving forward with a major internal modernization effort: the division-wide adoption of Monday.com as a centralized platform for project management, collaboration, and workflow visibility. This new tool will support ETS's growing portfolio of statewide IT initiatives and help teams work more cohesively across branches.

Monday.com is a cloud-based, highly visual work management system designed to help teams plan, track, and manage projects and daily tasks in a single, organized space. The platform offers user-friendly dashboards, customizable workflows, automated task management, and enhanced communication tools—all aimed at reducing manual processes and improving team alignment.

ETS's shift to Monday.com comes at a pivotal time. Today, teams rely on a patchwork of tools and informal methods, making it difficult to see division-wide priorities, manage workloads consistently, or generate standardized reporting. According to the Monday.com Adoption Impact Summary, the new platform will help address these challenges by providing centralized project and task management, greater transparency into resource allocation, clearer strategic alignment, and standardized practices across ETS.



The implementation will follow a phased approach throughout 2026. Activities include discovery and strategic planning (January through early May), followed by pilot training, division-wide rollout, and continuous training and performance monitoring through the end of the year. The project is slated for completion in December 2026.

To support a smooth transition, all ETS supervisors are required to identify 2–3 subject matter experts (SMEs) from their teams. These SMEs will receive focused training and play a critical role in supporting team adoption and ongoing

management within Monday.com. In addition, all executive leadership and supervisory personnel will participate in mandatory training to build proficiency with the new platform.

Hawai'i State Chief Information Officer Christine Sakuda highlighted the importance of this effort in advancing ETS's mission and strengthening statewide digital service delivery. "This initiative will enhance coordination, accountability, and operational effectiveness across ETS," she shared. "By working together and embracing modern tools, we can better support the departments and communities we serve."

More details on training schedules and onboarding resources will be shared in the coming weeks as ETS prepares for the next phase of implementation.

Lights, Camera, AI: Join Our Summer Movie-Themed Art Contest



ETS is excited to launch a brand-new creative challenge for the summer: The Art of the Prompt, an AI-generated art contest celebrating imagination, storytelling, and the power of emerging technology. This friendly competition invites state employees to explore the possibilities of AI tools while having a little fun along the way.

This year's theme is Summer Movies—with a twist. Participants are encouraged to use AI to design an original poster for a fictional film inspired by an existing movie. Think along the lines of a Hawai'i-set Bourne Identity, a whimsical Crazy Rich Asians 2, or a mashup like Godzilla vs. Transformers. Any genre is welcome, as long as the final poster is creative, appropriate, and connected to a recognizable film.

To participate, each submission must include:

- The AI software used
- The specific prompt(s) used to generate the artwork
- The AI-created poster itself
- A short written summary or explanation of the concept

Entries will be featured as part of ETS's Instagram content, showcasing the talent and creativity across Hawai'i state government.

All submissions are due July 31. Send via email to joanna.y.lee@hawaii.gov

We look forward to seeing the imaginative ways our colleagues blend technology, storytelling, and local flavor. Let your creativity shine—and may the best prompt win!

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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