



HAWAII GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH



Board of Water Supply

HAWAII™ CONVENTION CENTER

Where Business and Aloha Meet



Background:

From day one, even before its opening in 1998, the Hawaii Convention Center (HCC) has integrated sustainability, conservation and respect for the environment in all aspects of its planning and operations.

HCC has received multiple Green Event Awards from the State of Hawaii for its commitment to environmental responsibility in planning and working with convention clients and has also been recognized by the City and County of Honolulu for its recycling efforts to reduce the impact of waste on our environment.

Air Quality Initiatives:

- Maintaining a building-wide no-smoking policy to maintain optimum air quality and limiting smoking designated smoking areas to parts of the building that will have minimal impact on the public air quality
- Using self-pedal bicycles, electric carts and propane-powered lifts that reduce the need for petroleum products and allow for cleaner air quality
- Providing designated parking areas with a charging station for guest and staff for electric vehicles
- HCC encourages convention attendees to take alternative modes of transportation such as Honolulu's new bikeshare program, Biki, which has a station at HCC. This new transportation service offers residents and conference goers a green and clean means to move about Honolulu and Waikiki.

AEG 1EARTH Participation:

As a proud participant in AEG's corporate environmental sustainability program, [AEG 1EARTH](#), the Hawaii Convention Center contributes to AEG's progress towards its 2020 Environmental Goals by:

- Exchanging environmental best practices with other venues
- Tracking environmental performance monthly, measuring energy use, water use and waste diversion
- HCC is one of 18 venues worldwide that attained 75% of waste diverted from landfills. The AEG 2020 Environmental Goal is that 50% of their venues attain this diversion rate.

Energy Conservation and Efficiency:

- Using rooftop "sails" to send trade winds throughout the building, helping to vent off heat and reducing the need for electric air conditioning
- Controlling lighting and air conditioning with software that ensures guest comfort while optimizing energy use, e.g. timing lights to meeting times, keying lights to motion detection and pre-cooling rooms
- Using a jockey chiller as an alternative to the larger, original chillers, reducing energy used for air conditioning
- Replacing lighting in the ballroom, exhibition halls, parking, back-of-house offices and hallways with efficient florescent lighting
- Programming back-of-house lights and air conditioning to shut off when there is no activity in the building
- Managing energy use by large equipment using VFDs (variable frequency drives) to adjust motor speed to output requirements

Water Conservation Effort:

- Automatic dispensers for faucets as well as hand soap, sanitizer and in all restrooms to save on water and supplies
- Using low-flush toilets and urinals and low-flow aerators in sinks and showers throughout the building
- Xeriscaping and drip irrigation for lower water-use landscapes

- Using a recycled water process in kitchen dishwashing to filter solid materials and pre-rinse dishes, providing a 50% dishwashing water savings

Waste Reduction & Recycling:

- HCC attained a 94% diversion rate from landfills in 2019 and diverted a total of 60% of all waste generated from events and building operations from the waste stream.
- Providing recycling receptacles for attendee and client use in meeting rooms, public areas, convention offices and food and beverage events
- Collecting green waste for composting and recycling into mulch
- Donating older computers, monitors and keyboards to a local service that repurposes equipment for local communities and recycles machine waste
- Offering unneeded equipment and materials to State of Hawaii agencies and community organizations
- Requiring that contractors include recycling and repurposing of materials in their waste management plan for construction projects
- In 2019, HCC diverted 94% of their total waste from landfills, with 60% diverted to recycling and 34% diverted to the Honolulu Program of Waste Energy Recovery (H-POWER), Honolulu's waste-to-energy plant.

Food & Beverage Practices:

- HCC Food and Beverage buys from local suppliers and producers, menus featuring local tastes and products are customized for events and 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 then distributes it to charitable organizations.
- 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, providing an estimated 50% savings on dishwashing water use.
- HCC is a proud participant of the EPA Food Recovery Challenge where organizations pledge to improve their sustainable food management practices and report their results.

Purchasing Practices:

- HCC encourages a "buy local" procurement policy whenever possible. This extends to Hawaii-sourced food products and items created and produced in Hawaii, thereby reducing the shipping and packaging needs for products delivered to HCC.
- Chemicals purchased by housekeeping, landscaping, engineering and food and beverage departments are ecologically friendly.
- Energy Star ratings and other industry certifications are considered when purchasing new equipment and appliances.
- Sustainable properties of building materials are included in the selection process for all capital improvement project purchases.

Staff Activities:

- Encouraging all staff to make a commitment to activism and change through projects and initiatives put forward by HCC and AEG 1Earth program
- Identifying how everyday activities can contribute to sustainability in the spirit of *kuleana* (responsibility) and the culture of *aloha* (kindness)

- Staff engage in annual Earth Day, Earth Hour, and America Recycles Day activities

Event Practices:

- Repurposing event-generated waste, such as displays and furniture, for donation to local charitable organizations
- Repurposing unused convention trade show giveaways for donation to local schools and service organizations
- Banning the use of foam core boards
- Encouraging clients to include ZERO Waste as part of their events with HCC assisting in the planning and execution of the program.
- Working with event planners on environmentally conscious activities, e.g. tracking waste from specific activities, clearing the Center's landscaping of harmful invasive plants and engaging guests in community service

Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative

Through the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, a nonprofit organization that has led the permanent reforestation of more than 340,000 endemic trees on Hawaii Island, the Hawaii Convention Center has committed to planting 1 million native trees across the state.

Visit <http://onemillion.legacytrees.org/> to sponsor a Legacy Tree.

For more information about the Hawai'i Convention Center's Green Initiatives, visit, <https://www.meethawaii.com/convention-center/about/green-initiatives/>