



HAWAII
GREEN **BUSINESS**
PROGRAM



Board of Water Supply



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH



Since opening nearly 25 years ago, the Center has served as an essential global gathering place for millions of guests. Inspired by the state's renowned host culture and location between East and West, the Center provides a meeting environment unlike any other.

Hawai'i welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for meetings, conventions and incentives (MCI). The Center is conveniently located between Waikiki and Honolulu on O'ahu, which has consistently grown its trans-Pacific air capacity.

The Center offers a comprehensive health and safety program to ensure the highest levels of cleanliness and safety for staff, guests and community. What Ho'omalūō Means to Us :

Conservation is an important part of our kuleana (responsibility) to everyone served. From the very foundation of the building design to the corporate guidance of the [AEG 1EARTH](#) program, the Center works throughout operations to be responsible stewards of our islands.

Through AEG 1EARTH, the Hawai'i Convention Center:

- Exchanges environmental best practices with other venues;
- Tracks its environmental performance on a monthly basis, measuring energy consumption, water usage and waste diversion;
- Contributes to ASM Global's progress toward its 2020 Environmental Goals. The Center is one 18 venues worldwide that has 75% of waste diverted from landfills.

Conservation is an important part of the Center's In 2018, after a thorough review process of these criteria, the Center was awarded **LEED v.4 O+M: Existing Buildings Gold Certification** by the U.S. Green Building Council. The Center is the first and only "public assembly, convention center" to earn LEED v.4 O+M Gold Certification in the U.S., and is the only LEED v.4 O+M Gold project in Hawai'i. The Center has been re-certified Gold in 2021.

[Version 4](#) is an enhanced measurement of sustainability standards as it:

1. Is a performance-based approach that calls for measurable results through a building's life cycle.
2. Identifies demand response programs
3. Expands focus on materials, analyze impact to human health and environment, not just total used
4. Evaluates total building water use

Through the [Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative](#), a nonprofit organization that has led the reforestation of more than 400,000 native and endemic trees on O'ahu and the Island of Hawai'i, **the Hawai'i Convention Center has committed to planting 1 million Legacy Trees across the state.**

Fewer than 10 percent of Hawai'i's old-growth native and endemic forests remain. The Center offers meeting planners and guests the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture, history and environment of Hawai'i during their event by supporting these vital reforestation efforts. With a few clicks, guests can sponsor and dedicate a Legacy Tree, track its development, and help Hawai'i grow a brighter future. Recently, groups such as the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) have worked with the Center to enhance their meetings through program participation.

Planted in the original Legacy Forest on the Island of Hawai'i's Hāmākua Coast, sponsored koa trees will grow to more than 50 feet in their natural environment, offsetting the carbon footprint of a typical vacation to the islands for a family of four. This beautiful tree, prized throughout Hawaiian history, provides a habitat for numerous rare and endangered species.

Guests are invited to visit onemillion.legacytrees.org to sponsor and dedicate an individual koa Legacy Tree or group of trees at a special price. Each sponsor will receive a high-quality certificate with the RFID tracking information and dedication details. They can then watch their Legacy Tree as it grows with a regularly updated, high-quality aerial map supported by [TreeTracker](#) technology.

Individual guests and groups can also visit the O'ahu and Island of Hawai'i Legacy Forests to plant their own tree through hawaiianlegacytours.com.

Other efforts and initiatives include:

Energy Conservation & Efficiency

- The design of the Center includes a canvas-type sail on the rooftop, allowing Hawai'i's trade winds to circulate throughout the building. This helps to vent off heat and reduces the need for air conditioning and the use of electricity for cooling.
- A computer-based building management system controls lighting and air conditioning, ensuring guest satisfaction while properly managing the use of energy. Electricity use is closely monitored through accurate programming of meetings start/end times and incorporates pre-cooling. Lights are programmed to turn off when there is no activity in meeting rooms.
- A jockey chiller is installed as an alternative to the original larger chillers, further reducing the amount of energy used for air conditioning.
- Lighting in the ballroom, exhibition halls, parking areas and back-of-the-house offices and hallways was retrofitted to florescent and more efficient configurations.
- Lights and air conditioning in the back-of-the-house areas are programmed to be off during weekends and holidays, when there is no activity in the building. Motion sensors in intermittent use areas also help with energy conservation.
- Energy use on large equipment is managed using variable frequency drives (VFDs) to adjust motor speed to output requirements.

Water Conservation

- Automatic dispensers for sink faucets, hand towels, hand soap and hand sanitizer in all restrooms save on water, towels and cleansing product.
- Low-flush toilets and urinals and low-flow aerators in sinks and showers are used throughout the building to reduce water use.
- Xeriscaping and drip irrigation in the landscaping minimize water use.
- Recycled water from barrels are used to tie down tents for our rooftop events.
- Recycled water is used to water plants and for cleaning facility.
- Installed artificial turf on 25% of lawn space to reduce need for watering.

Air Quality

- The Center established a building-wide no-smoking policy to maintain optimum air quality. Designated smoking areas are located to have minimal impact on public air quality.
- Staff members use self-pedal bicycles, electric carts and propane-powered lifts, reducing need for petroleum products, thereby improving air quality.
- The Center provides for electric vehicles with a designated parking area and charging station for guest and staff use.
- The Center encourages our convention attendees to take alternative modes of transportation such as Honolulu's new bikeshare program called Biki which has a station at the Center. This new transportation service offers residents and conference goers a green and clean means to move about Honolulu and Waikiki.

Waste Reduction & Recycling

- The center recycles glass, plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard from events and all administrative offices. Center staff manages the collection and sorting of recycled products.
- Recycle receptacles for attendee and client use are placed in meeting rooms, public areas, convention offices and at food and beverage events.
- Green waste collected from landscaping areas is composted and recycled into mulch.
- Used computers, monitors and keyboards are recycled through a local service that repurposes current equipment for local communities and recycles older equipment.
- Equipment and materials no longer necessary at the Center are offered to other State of Hawai'i agencies or community organizations.
- Contractors include recycling and repurposing of materials in their waste management plans for construction projects.
- In 2020, we have diverted 62.72% our total waste to recycling and 90% diverted to Honolulu Program of Waste Energy Recovery (H-Power), Honolulu's waste to energy plant.

Event Practices

- Event-generated waste, such as foam core boards, displays and furniture, are repurposed and donated to local organizations that service those in need.
- Convention tradeshow giveaways are repurposed and donated to local schools and service organizations.
- Center staff members work with event planners to plan and execute environmentally conscious events. Examples include tracking and documenting waste generated from specific activities, working to clear the Center's landscaping of invasive plants detrimental to Hawai'i's landscape and planning sustainability-focused community service activities.

Sustainable Purchasing

- The Center encourages a "buy local" procurement policy whenever possible. This extends to Hawai'i-sourced food products and items created and produced in Hawai'i, thereby reducing the shipping and packaging needs for products delivered to the Center.

- 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.

Food & Beverage Sustainable Practices

- 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 Aloha Harvest, 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.
- The Center is a proud participant of the EPA Food Recovery Challenge where organizations pledge to improve their sustainable food management practices and report their results

Awards & Accolades

The Center has received multiple Green Event Awards from the State of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu for its commitment to environmental responsibility in planning and working with convention clients.

2020 - The Hawai'i Convention Center was among the 20 businesses, venues and events to receive the Hawaii Green Business Program (HGBP)'s Hawaii Green Business Program award for undertaking energy efficiency and sustainable business practices that will help their bottom line while advancing Hawaii's clean energy and sustainability goals. A partnership between Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Health; Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii; and the Board of Water Supply, this program highlights businesses that are dedicated to creating a sustainable Hawaii.

2018 - The Center attained the Po'okela Level (Excellence in Leadership) for the Hawai'i Green Business Program for venues. The state's Hawai'i Green Business Program (HGBP) assists and recognizes businesses that strive to operate in an environmentally, culturally and socially responsible manner.

2016 - The Center was recognized for environmental stewardship by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, the Hawai'i Department of Health and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i. The Center achieved the highest level of Ma'o Hau Hele, venues leading the way in sustainability

2015-2016 – State of Hawai'i Green Event Award: Hawai'i Tourism Conference from the Hawai'i

Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, the Hawai'i Department of Health and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i

2012– 2013, 2013– 2014 – State of Hawai'i Green Event Award: Hawai'i Build & Buy Green Conference from the Hawai'i Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, the Hawai i Department of Health and the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i