

Build and Buy Green Conference and Expo

As a 2013 Green Events honoree, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), Sustainability Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Convention Center and University of Hawaii-Hilo have actively applied the phrase “lead by example” to the planning and design of the 2012 Hawaii Build and Buy Green Conference. In order to accomplish the goals of reducing the overall environmental impact of the Conference, several sustainable measures were implemented into the framework of the Conference that covered everything from the food that was provided to the type and amount of paper that was used. The menu included local ingredients wherever possible as well as vegan/gluten-free options and fish selected from sustainable fish supplies. Waste was reduced by tracking attendance and tailoring food according to the final count as well as by the use of Biodegradable Product Institute certified compostable cups, containers, and tableware. Furthermore, 16 percent of the total waste was diverted through recycling measures that were implemented over the course of the event.