



**HAWAII  
GREEN**

**2022**

**BUSINESS  
PROGRAM**



**HAWAII  
STATE  
ENERGY  
OFFICE**



Board of Water Supply



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH



PACIFIC  
ISLANDS  
INSTITUTE



## Background:

Founded in 1989, Pacific Islands Institute is a local tour operator, meeting planner, and destination management company based in Kaimuki, O'ahu specializing in creating unique educational opportunities for group travel, with a focus on providing interactive cultural and eco-experiences in-bound to Hawai'i and other islands of the Oceanic Pacific.

Our mission statement is: "Through our educational travel programs, Pacific Islands Institute is dedicated to providing positive cultural interactions; to ensuring our programs and practices are culturally and environmentally sensitive; to involving local people in decision-making; and to protecting, sustaining, and respecting indigenous cultures and environments."

## Highlights:

- PII is one of 4 owners of the Isoshima Building—a commercial condominium in Kaimuki in which PII's office is located—we initiated the idea of PV for the building and was intimately involved in the decision to solicit and sign a Power Purchase Agreement resulting in the installation of enough photovoltaic panels to provide approximately 60% of the Isoshima building's total annual energy needs.
- PII has a Sustainable Tourism scholarship at Kapi'olani Community College (in addition to a Master's degree scholarship at the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at UH Mānoa and an endowed scholarship at Hawaii Pacific University for students from Pacific islands where PII operates to further their studies in Hawai'i and return home to apply their knowledge in their local communities)
- PII includes reusable water bottles for group members for most tours to discourage purchases of single use plastic water bottles
- PII includes numerous community non-profit cultural and environmental organizations in its programs (tours), providing funding to support their important work in the community.
- PII contracts with cultural and environmental experts for its programs, helping support their commitment to their craft and their efforts in the community
- PII supports the efforts of national and international non-profit organizations like The Nature Conservancy, National Parks Conservation Association, Earth Justice and others by running programs for their donors and general membership to directly raise funding for or encourage engagement with the nonprofits which indirectly increases donations for the organizations.
- PII includes community service/hands-on volunteer work in its programs (tours) where appropriate so its visitors—especially visiting student groups—can give back to the local communities being visited.
- PII supports underserved populations at a variety of universities on the continental US by running programs (tours) that explore Hawaiian culture and environments through community service
- PII has purchased two lots of trees with Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods to support native environments and to help offset some (a small amount, granted) of the carbon generated by its activities.
- In its Kaimuki office, PII recycles cans, bottles, other recyclable plastics; uses LED lighting and maximizes the use of natural lighting through its large windows; donates and e-wastes old computers and monitors; and implements other environmental practices as small as office best practices such as printing 2-sided and giving each employee their own set of reusable eating utensils to keep at their desks for lunches, etc.





Building photovoltaic array on roof after March 2021 installation complete.



Pii University group volunteering at He'eia Fishpond "Alternative Spring Break".



Building photovoltaic array over parking lot after March 2021 installation complete.