



**HAWAII  
GREEN**

**2024**

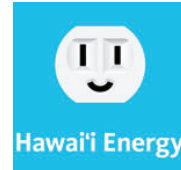
**BUSINESS  
PROGRAM**



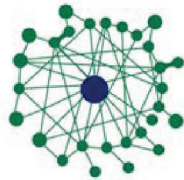
Board of Water Supply



**HAWAII  
STATE  
ENERGY  
OFFICE**



Hawaii Energy



**GBENN** Green Business  
Engagement  
National Network



## Background:

The Green Business Engagement National Network (GBENN) is a consortium of unique local, state-wide and national green business programs from across the United States.

The goals of the 2024 GBENN Summit were to:

- Explore how members are identifying and serving businesses in environmental justice communities,
- Strengthen the dialogue and advance collaborative opportunities that continue from previous GBENN summits and events,
- Share best practice information across programs and foster collaboration that advances the unique objectives of green business programs
- Engage the membership in discussion to fostering networking and relationship-building between green business programs.

## Highlights:

### **GBENN's Annual Summit 2024 was held at Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, HI in December 2024**

The Ala Moana Hotel is a green hotel, recognized by the Hawai'i Green Business Program. The hotel has made changes to reduce single-use plastics and prioritize recycling and composting across the property. They use energy-efficient lighting and appliances and smart control systems to control the HVAC system.

### **Transportation:**

GBENN Summit attendees were encouraged to carpool and take public transportation. Conference organizers provided an arrival survey so that individuals could see when others arrived on O'ahu so they could plan to carpool together. HI Energy Office provided a transportation guide to many different transportation options including public transportation, electric bikes, etc. The group carpooled to an extra-curricular activity on Monday (Luau).

GBENN hosted a sustainability tour of the Hawai'i Convention Center which was walking distance from the hotel. Beach, hotel and restaurants were all walking distance from the hotel—by design!

GBENN offered vegan/vegetarian options for our conference attendees. We worked with the hotel caterers that made sure that each day those options were unique and satisfying. The quality of food at the venue was good. The desserts were local delicacies.

### **Cultural:**

Initiated event with the blowing of the conch shell (pu) and an Oli/Blessing at the opening of the Summit by Kahu Lahela. HI Energy Office staffing provided kukui nut lei and advised event organizers how to make this event culturally relevant for Hawai'i traditions.

Summit attendees were given a list of entertainment options that also included local volunteer activities, including optional beach cleanups, etc.

