

# Annual Report 2014-2015

Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council

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## Introduction

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The **Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council (HIGICC)** is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization consisting of members of Hawaii's geospatial community. Our goal is to provide coordination of geospatial activities among a wide range of users in order to avoid duplication of effort, promote data sharing, and maintain data standards throughout the state. HIGICC is a member of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), "an organization committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies."

HIGICC strives to bring together and continue to build the geographic community into a cohesive, recognized coordinating body that facilitates the use, development, sharing, and management of geographic data and communicates the value of geographic information to citizens and decision-makers. In the State of Hawaii, GIS is recognized and effectively used as an invaluable tool by the government, business and the citizens for understanding and managing our aina (environment). The Hawaii GICC is a shared mechanism for the diverse community to identify, explore, and solve problems with geospatial information.

## Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Craig Clouet	President
Joan Delos Santos	Vice President
Malie Beach Smith	Treasurer
Robert O'Conner	Secretary
Sam Aruch	Director
Rich Nezelek	Director
Dan McNulty-Huffman	Director
Alexa Jacroux-Biggs	Director
Gretchen Chiques	Director
Jean Fujikawa	Director
Asia Addlesberger	Director
John Higuchi	Director (retired)

2015-2016 Board: Asia Addlesberger, Sam Aruch, Malie Beach Smith, Christine Chaplin, Gretchen Chiques, Craig Clouet, Joan Delos Santos, Jean Fujikawa, Alexa Jacroux-Biggs, Robert O'Conner, Isla Young.

## President's Report

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The HIGICC is happy to have completed another successful year. We continue to work towards promotion of geospatial awareness in the state and in our communities. To that end we held several events and attended meetings and workshops to foster a stronger geospatial awareness.

In the hopes of working with as many people as possible, we have had several different events and workshops. Using the internet, we hosted a NOAA's C-CAP land cover products. Certainly data continues to have a strong showing of interest by members and the community. There was two GIS day events, one on Oahu and one on Maui. NOAA was again instrumental in its support of the Oahu event, which was held out at the new Inouye Regional Center. Maui's Women in Technology team again spearheaded the event on Maui. The WIT team, headed by Isla Young continues its excellence with STEM education and support for K12 education.

In our attempt to keep current with technology trends, a UAV workshop was held at the McCoy Pavilion. There was a series of great presentations by a group of individuals who are using UAVs. It was well attended and a topic that we will be hearing more about over the next few years.

The board then began the planning and arranging for the upcoming joint HCPO-HIGICC conference which is scheduled for October 14-16, 2015. This joint conference is called Island Futures and continues to be the largest geospatial event in the State of Hawaii.

As always, we value your membership and participation in the Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council. Please do let us know what you think and provide feedback on activities and programs we can be a part of to keep our community strong and vibrant.

Thank you very much,



Craig Clouet  
HIGICC President  
2014-2015

## President's Award

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The president's award goes each year to someone who has been a positive influence on the geospatial community here in Hawaii. While it is often difficult to single out just one individual as so many people make a difference, this year the award goes to a well deserving individual.

The 2015 HIGICC president's award is in appreciation and acknowledgment of years of work and commitment to everyone in Hawaii. This year we would like to recognize Anthony Kimmet, of the USDA NRCS. Tony is the NRCS National Imagery Leader. While he does live and work in Texas, there are few satellite images we use in Hawaii that Tony has not had a hand in getting and improving. He was the driving force in managing the complete coverage of World View 2 imagery for the state. Beyond just Hawaii, Tony has managed to get most of all the US affiliated places in the Pacific, such as the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

Tony does not only work hard to get quality cloud-free imagery, he is tireless in disseminating the data to people. He is always sending hard drives of data across the state to anyone who has a need. If you are a user of his hard work, send Tony a note of thanks. More importantly, let the NRCS know how you are using the imagery, and what value it has to your work. That will be a big help in allowing Tony to continue helping us out and showing the NRCS their investments is justified.

Finally, don't think that Tony only has interest in Hawaii as a Remote Sensing project. He has a place on Maui and is hanging out in Hawaii every year.



## Finances

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### Membership Dues Income and Basic Operating Costs:

Membership dues income is projected to be approximately \$6,000 by the closing of the 2014-15 fiscal year. Actual membership dues income, to date (6/23/2015), is \$5,920. Basic operating costs for the year were \$4,508.97. The projected \$1,491 surplus was used to support Board of Directors' travel, scholarship deficits, and 'event' deficits.

### Donations and Scholarship Funds:

The \$1,000 "post graduate" scholarship was partially supported by a \$100 donation. The remaining scholarship deficit was supported by surpluses from membership dues. No 'undergraduate' scholarship was awarded due to lack of applicants.

### Board of Director Travel:

Board member travel expenses are projected to be approximately \$2,748 by years' end. Actual expenses, to date (6/23/2015), are \$2,348. Board member travel is supported by previous years' 'event' surpluses.

### Events:

The 'UAV' workshop generated a \$366 profit. The workshop surplus was used to partially support 'GIS Day' and 'Annual Meeting' event deficits of \$414 and \$223, respectively. Remaining 'event' deficits are supported by previous years' 'event' surpluses. No income was generated from sponsorships.

### Conference 2015:

Expenses for the upcoming October 2015 conference were \$9,320. The Hawaii Planners' Association, co-sponsors of the conference, contributed \$4360 (HIGICC conference income). The conference is expected to 'break even' by next fiscal year. Prior conferences have generated \$5,000 to \$10,000 surpluses.

## Membership

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Membership has held steady and increased a modest amount. There are over 100 full members. The new election policy has made it easier by removing the categories. The election process for the board has been transformed to all online. Members come from all facets of the geospatial community. There are members in government, education, and private industry. We thank the support and commitment of all members. We cannot do it without you.

## Scholarship

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This year, the scholarship committee chose Rachel Mapuana O'Sullivan to receive the Mark Lierman award in the graduate category.

**Mapuana O'Sullivan**, Penn State University World Campus. Mapuana is pursuing a MS in Geographic Information Systems. Her focus of interest is in Natural Resource Management on the Island of Kauai where she is currently employed as a Specialist with the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife in the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Program.

Her career and passion for GIS and natural resource management began when living in California for two years after graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor's in Biology. Following this employment was a move to Kauai to pursue an internship with the Kokee Resource Conservation Program in Kokee (KRCP). After the internship KRCP offered her employment as a GIS consultant part time while she pursued her current career as a NARS Specialist IV and full time mom to her son, Makia Cassel who is three years old.

"Rachel has shown great interest in the GIS field and is clearly excited to apply all of the concepts and techniques to her career. Natural resource management projects can highly benefit from more individuals utilizing GIS technology. I find Rachel to be a self-motivated individual who demonstrates leadership qualities that are admired by peers and supervisors."  
*Elizabeth King, Penn State*





## Events

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Board member Gretchen Chiques of NOAA at GIS day explaining the uses of geospatial technologies. There was near 150 students participating, including a group from the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind.



Here, a group of the volunteers enjoy lunch after the hard work. Many thanks to the GIS professionals that took the time to share their work and knowledge to the school children.





The UAV workshop was the second in a series. The first one the previous year was all about flight operations. This one was focused on the data products and data collection from the UAV. We had a good turnout for the event. Many thanks to the presenters that came and shared their work and knowledge; Ted Ralstrom, Aaron Woods, Miguel Castrence, Dave Harrington, Ryan Perroy, and Rob O'Conner.

For sure a good amount of effort is going into the planning for the Fall Conference. It takes a year of planning to have a successful conference. We have again joined forces with the Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) to have a joint event at the Hawaii Convention Center. We are hoping you can make it.



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