

Megan Canniff



Statement:

HIGICC was my first introduction to the GIS community in Hawai'i and has been awesome in bringing passionate people together. The projects I am most proud of were team efforts and I enjoy learning from and sharing with others. I would be a good addition to the Board of Directors because I am an organized and approachable person and hope to continue to build community with others who have an interest in making data fun. Mahalo for reading!

Bio:

I was born and raised in Kohala on the Big Island of Hawai'i, where I learned to love the outdoors. In college, I studied environmental science and took my first GIS course. My interest in GIS led me to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management where I collaborated to develop situational awareness dashboards and other maps during the pandemic. I recently started working as an IT Data Analyst at Hawaiian Airlines, but hope to continue to be involved in GIS projects whenever possible.

Andrew McGowan



Statement:

As a geospatial coordinator, a large part of my focus is to ensure the coastal data, products, and tools that NOAA hosts are available and easily discoverable. HIGICC is a great organization for the Pacific region because of the work they do in bringing people together, providing a platform for sharing, and facilitating educational experiences. I'd like to help this organization and add to the HIGICC experience. I think there is still plenty of education and capacity building that can be done in Hawaii. Geospatial knowledge and place-based thinking should also be a two-way street. As we seek to educate people on the tools and products available we learn more about the location and its history. There is more data available today than ever before but not enough people or time to fully utilize these datasets. I seek to advance the understanding of publically available geospatial resources. To build capacity for anyone to use these assets in a free and open-source way. To empower Hawaii students and residents to better understand or quantify their place of being and make plans for a more resilient future.

Bio:

Hello, My name is Andy McGowan. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island with an Ocean Engineering degree. I have spent most of my professional career as a hydrographic surveyor and data processor. Habitat mapping and restoration monitoring was my introduction to GIS and I've been using geospatial programs of some sort ever since. I am currently the Pacific region geospatial coordinator contracted to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management which is a program office of NOAA's National Ocean Service. Our work supports the Coastal Zone Management program, the National Estuarine Research Reserves, the Coral Reef Conservation Program, and NOAA's Digital Coast. In my free time, I like to get out on the water or into the woods. I'm an avid runner and cyclist, I do trail work and invasive species removal on some of our local Oahu trails. I also enjoy participating in outreach events when possible as either a NOAA liaison or a GIS professional.

Michael Wahl



Statement:

I've served on the Board of Directors of the HIGICC since 2019 as Secretary and since 2022 as President. I enjoy working with other GIS professionals and working on projects that benefit students and our communities. I'm proud to be a member of HIGICC and I'm dedicated to serving the GIS community in Hawai'i. My goals align with the goals of HIGICC to enhance communication and collaboration among GIS professionals and to promote the science and technology of GIS to everyone in Hawai'i.

Bio:

Aloha mai kakou,

I have over 18 years of experience working with GIS and I am currently the GIS Specialist for DLNR State Historic Preservation Division. I have a background in Archaeology and a master's degree in GIS from the University of Southern California. In my past life, I worked as an archaeologist and as a GIS technician for a water company in California before moving to Hawai'i in 2012. Since then I've been a GIS contractor for the Army at Schofield Barracks and for the Navy at Pearl Harbor and have taught GIS in the University of Hawai'i system since 2016. My main career goal is to create GIS products that empower the community with knowledge of their environment so they can make better informed decisions about land and water use. I like to volunteer at site cleanups around O'ahu and also help students at UH West O'ahu and STEMworks by providing them with internship opportunities. I've been a foster parent for 5 years and I enjoy bringing my family to the beach and on hikes, as well as watching them play sports and taking them to places they've never been before.

I am honored to have been nominated to the Board of Directors of the HIGICC again and look forward to further serving the GIS community as President for another term. Mahalo nui loa!

Joey Furlett



Statement:

Ever since starting as a student in geography I have loved being part of the geographic community. What I bring to the table is enthusiasm for geography along with an “end-user-focused” industry perspective since I have been on the utilization end of geography for much of my career rather than creating GIS data. If the HIGICC will have me as a Director, I'd be glad to be a part of this fantastic organization. While I did not go to the traditional route of going into GIS analyst or programming work following graduation, I never strayed too far from those geographic roots. As an attorney, I have been reviewing surveys and said assessments since day one. As a realtor, I've used my geographic and geological surveying skills to ground truth properties for buyers based on initial site assessments. And now, as a fintech cofounder, I am reviving my geographic skills to help create GIS-based models for programmers to execute. I am interested in helping spread the word regarding the importance of Geography outside of the traditional sphere. I think my industry focus and my background in GIS before entering private industry could be valuable to the board. I also think it would be great to be involved in helping to plan events to bring together the greater Geographic community. I am honored to be nominated for the board. Mahalo for your consideration.

Bio:

Joey is an attorney, realtor-broker, and, more recently, a co-founder of a GIS-focused home affordability fintech startup. Joey is dually licensed as both a Realtor-Broker and Attorney and holds both licenses in Hawaii and Illinois. Between his two first two careers, he has helped to close more than 1,600 transactions, ranging from residential to agricultural, to multi-family, to commercial. He applies his vast experience as an attorney towards ensuring that his contracts protect his clients, and he uses his industry knowledge to make sure that his transactions run smoothly. He has reviewed countless surveys and title reports and holds two title insurance licenses in Illinois. He is applying his legal and realty experiences, along with his background in geography, towards increasing home affordability. As a realtor, Joey is data-driven and has used his legal and geographic

analytical knowledge to help buyers and sellers find the right properties and sell at the right prices. As a startup co-founder, he is applying these skills towards making homeownership more affordable across the US. Joey has an academic background in flood mapping, geologic surveying, and architectural history

Joey earned his BA in Geography at Dartmouth College. While at college he performed research on climate change, storm surges, and urban land usage models using GIS. He then graduated with his Juris Doctor in the top 4% of his class at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. He attended law school as a "Distinguished Scholar" on a full tuition plus stipend scholarship. Joey worked under a Federal Magistrate Judge in Chicago, IL for 2 years crafting multiple judicial training and reference guides. He also worked as an Adjunct Law Professor at UIC School of Law where he taught contract analysis and legal analysis to first-year law students.

Joey is also a member of the Dartmouth Lawyers Association, the Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council, and the Hawaii Land Surveyors Association. He is also a full member of the Hawaii Estate Planning Council (which consists of the roughly 100 top professionals in the industry). He is also a member of the Residential Real Estate Council where he holds certifications in Real Estate Investing Certification, Luxury Homes, and as a Divorce Residential Real Estate Specialist. He is an Associate Member of the ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers), which focuses on issues in commercial and investment land deals, and he is a Developing Leader in the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, where he was selected for the 2023 Executive Connect Cohort.

When Joey isn't doing real estate work, he is usually doing distance and uphill unicycling (yup, that's not a typo, he rides around on one wheel). If you ever see a really tall and rather skinny guy riding around on the largest unicycle tire you have ever seen, that is probably him!

Board memberships:

Communications Chair; Activities Chair, Dartmouth Club of Hawaii; Vice President, Hawaii State Bar Association Business Section

Professional Associations:

Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council • Dartmouth Lawyers Association • Dartmouth Club of Hawaii • Hawaii Estate Planning Council • HSBA Business Section • Big Green Agents (the Dartmouth Real Estate Association) • Farmers Working Group, HSBA Business Section • HSBA Probate and Estate Planning Section • HSBA Real Property Section • Hawaii Land Surveying Association • International Council on Shopping Centers • NAIOP Hawaii, Developing Leaders • Residential Real Estate Council • YIMBY Action • YIMBY Hawaii • Honolulu Association of Realtors • Honolulu Board of Realtors • National Association of Realtors • Realtor Association of Maui • Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Young Professionals • Bluegrass Hawaii • Japan–America Society of Hawaii

Jennifer Lam



Statement:

I am interested in serving on the board because I want to network with other GIS professionals. I am also interested in learning and keeping up to date with current knowledge in the field. I initially would like to help with setting up the Discord server. Additionally, I would like to use my skills in graphic design to help improve HIGICC's social media presence.

Bio:

Currently I am a GIS analyst with the City and County of Honolulu. I completed my master's in natural resources at University of Hawaii – Manoa, focusing on species identification through UAV imagery. My current interests are in UAV imagery analysis, mapmaking, photography, and graphic design.

Aron Boettcher



Statement:

Dear HIGICC Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the HIGICC board. My extensive experience in the geospatial industry, leadership roles, and academic pursuits underscore my commitment to promoting geographic information for more informed decision-making and improved community outcomes. As a resident of Hawaii and a current PhD student in Geography at the University of Hawaii, I am well acquainted with the unique geospatial and environmental challenges faced by our region. I appreciate HIGICC's commitment to promoting geospatial excellence and collaboration, and I am drawn to the opportunity to contribute to this mission and facilitate connections within the geospatial community in Hawaii and the Pacific region. Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated my passion and competence in leveraging geospatial technologies for a wide range of applications. From my time as a Sonar Technician with the US Navy to my present position as Co-founder and Head of Data Science at Madronus Wildfire Defense, I have consistently sought innovative ways to apply remote sensing, image analysis, and data science to solve real-world problems. I was instrumental in the development of our Wildfire Risk Score and land use cover products, demonstrating my skills in project leadership and talent development. In my leadership role at Continue To Serve, I showcased my ability to lead diverse teams, fundraise, and navigate organizational development and strategic planning. As Forest Team Lead at Earthshot Institute / Collaborative Earth, I managed the successful writing and awarding of a \$250k grant through the National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation and Development Program, evidencing my ability to foster partnerships and secure critical resources. Furthermore, as a Geospatial Data Scientist at NV5 Geospatial, I spearheaded a team of 40 technicians and analysts, developing novel machine learning methods for the analysis of geospatial data and executing strategic projects. My work with the Statewide Irrigated Landscape Analysis in California and the Green Heart Project in Kentucky is testament to my ability to manage complex projects and create valuable, actionable results from geospatial data. As a potential board member, I bring a rich network within the GIS industry, a strong track record of project management and innovation, and a deep understanding of advanced geospatial technologies and their applications. I am confident that this blend of technical expertise, leadership skills, and strategic planning experience would make me a valuable asset to the HIGICC board.

I am excited about the prospect of contributing to HIGICC's mission and look forward to the opportunity of discussing my candidacy in more detail.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Aron Boettcher

Bio:

Aron Boettcher

SKILLS AND GOALS

Highly skilled executive leader and data scientist engaged in leadership roles across a broad spectrum of projects and programs. Deep experience and education in the field of remote sensing, image analysis and technical leadership. I started a Geography PhD program at University of Hawaii in Fall 2021.

EXPERIENCE

Madronus Wildfire Defense, Santa Rosa, CA – Co-founder, Head of Data science

May 2021 – Now

- Perform scientific research examining the relationship between wildfire and the built environment
- Lead implementation of Wildfire Risk Score and land use cover products
- Recruit and develop talent for the purpose of building and growing our understanding of the impacts of wildfire on residential properties
- Develop partnerships with service providers
- Identify and develop grant and venture funding opportunities

Continue To Serve, Washington, DC – Executive Director

July 2020 – December 2022

- Volunteered with Continue To Serve since its inception
- Provided remote administrative support with regards to company formation and program development
- Worked with previous executive director to support program goals and needs including fundraising and team leadership
- Was asked by the board of directors to step into an executive leadership role when the previous Executive Director (David Smith) needed to step back from the project for personal reasons (August 2021). My goal as Executive Director is to complete the process of filing as a 501c3 and to get fiscal sponsorship for the program until that happens.

Earthshot Institute / Collaborative earth – Forest Team Lead

September 2020 – Now

- Work with membership at Earthshot, wrote and was awarded a \$250k grant through the National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation and Development Program
- Work with forest team to develop and implement research for the enumeration of predictive biomass analytics globally