

# HAWAII LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

*Lae J Lae A newsletter from the Hawaii Land Surveyors Association, an affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors and a member organization of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping*

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E-mail: [admin@hlsa-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@hlsa-hawaii.org)

Website: [www.hlsahawaii.org](http://www.hlsahawaii.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha HLSA members, friends and colleagues!

Your HLSA Board of Directors has all been quite busy on many different fronts making this association better for everyone. For me it has already been an exciting year as President, and a very humbling one also. This is really my first opportunity leading other professionals within the industry, and to be quite frank, they are honest, caring and giving individuals. What a wonderful team!

- Christina Seto, Vice-President, has been keeping me in check, which is no small task at times. Seriously, she has been our eyes and ears, keeping us abreast with industry changes like High Resolution Data available to the public from NOAA. This topobathymetric LIDAR data was collected along our Hawaii coastlines. She also is now with PAREN and Wayne Teruya, LPLS, one of my past mentors. Congratulations Christina!
- Alika Garo, Secretary, a man behind the scenes, has been managing the website, which I must say, is improving all the time. He also has setup new email accounts for all board members. Sometimes the people behind the scenes don't get enough credit. He also has created an evaluation system in tallying the feedback from our annual conference, which by the way, was a huge success. Thank you all Speakers! Vendors! Sponsors! Members! Thank you thank you!
- Kenn Nishihira, PLS and Treasurer has, besides participating and growing with Toastmasters International, been updating our membership database, which is constantly growing. Keeping up with emails, addresses and the like is no small task. And then there's your money in the form of dues, of course.
- Russell Higa, LPLS, 2nd Director, has been busy gathering his thoughts on a workshop/s on Maui for this summer, and potentially next years' conference! Whoa, what a thought? This really struck a chord when we mentioned it to the mainland surveyors. A joint HLSA/WFPS conference in Hawaii?? It may come true.
- John Akina, LPLS, 1st Director and I, attended the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors/ Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (NALS/WFPS) Western Regional Conference at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada this past month. It was the perfect opportunity for us to "mentor up" with the likes of Carl CdeBaca, PLS and NALS 2016 President; Gary Kent, PLS and Chair of the ALTA/NSPS Standards among other notable accolades; Jeff Lucas, PLS, Esq., a licensed attorney and member of the Alabama State Bar since 2003 and author of "Alabama Boundary Law", Jan VanSickle, PLS, a nationwide speaker on surveying and GIS, experienced in LIDAR, and a contributor to POB Magazine, and more. Please read John Akina's write-up for more of the conference. I am so grateful to have received a complimentary registration from them. Mahalo Nui!!
- Joanne Williamson, LPLS, attended the NSPS National Spring Meetings. She is on fire!! Read her write-up and be inspired! It is well-written as the professional Joanne is, with details on her time in Washington, D.C. From visiting with our local Senator's staff, to being a Committee Chair on UAS/UAV Technologies. I'd say that NSPS committee is well-handled with Joanne at the forefront. Go Joanne!

Your BOD is hard at work for you. Even though we have full-time employment at various firms, we have chosen to serve you. We always welcome your feedback!! Check out the webpage and the new Forums Section. Let's start talking about surveying in Hawaii! Truly grateful.....Arden. Ps. Is your tribrach adjusted?

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**Point to Point**

# Greetings from your Hawaii NSPS Director

## My Impressions of the NSPS Annual Conference

March 13-March 17, 2016  
Crystal City, Virginia

I was honored to represent HLSA at the National Society of Professional Surveyors Annual Spring Conference this past month. Through the years, many local names familiar to us Hawaii surveyors, Pat and Mary Cummins, Andy Harada, Kendall Hee, Stephen Okuhara, Dennis Yamasato, Layton Nakao, Kevin Kea, amongst others, and most recently Arden Torcuato and Clayton Kaneshiro have gone to Washington DC to represent Hawaii at the NSPS meeting. NSPS Governor's, as they were called, as well as HLSA presidents, have attended this annual event. The event was a grand display of the collective professionalism, strong sense of ethical principles, and a profound commitment to the surveying community that is the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

This year's conference was held in conjunction with MAPPS as a way for two different societies, representing the various geomatics disciplines around the country, to connect over common issues.

The conference spanned five (5) days. For myself, as a first timer, it took about that long to get the lay of the land. One of the notable first day events for me was a chance to see the student map exhibitions and meet the exhibitors. The maps ranged from topo maps to quite involved civil plans and complex subdivisions. The exhibitors were students from surveying and geomatics programs from around the country. [http://c.y.mcdn.com/sites/www.nspss.us.com/resource/resmgr/Student\\_Comp/NSPS\\_Student\\_Competition\\_201.pdf](http://c.y.mcdn.com/sites/www.nspss.us.com/resource/resmgr/Student_Comp/NSPS_Student_Competition_201.pdf) There was also a presentation on an innovative UAS program by Dr. Balaji Ramachandran of Nicholls State University in Louisiana on the Gulf coast using UAS in the aftermath of a disaster for photogrammetric mapping.

On Day two (2) NSPS sponsored a mock trial educational workshop. That was a real eye-opener. The trial concerned a disputed parcel between two rural neighbors and managed to examine principles of both boundary law and survey ethics. The script was written by Gary Kent, and opposing attorneys were Jeff Lucas and Jim Deema. All of the volunteers, including the plaintiff, defendant and the two surveyors were slowly, and painfully, roasted during testimony. Lesson learned: when a surveyor is called to court, either as a defendant or as an expert witness, that surveyor must be very fluent in both the laws governing our practice as well as the principles and methodology of survey. Conversely, if you are not prepared, be afraid, be very afraid. Fortunately my day in court has not yet come.

The business meeting kicked off for NSPS Wednesday with 'Lobby Day' and I spent it on Capitol Hill. I was completely awed by being in the offices of the Senators and Representatives our state. Visits had been prescheduled with our elected officials to ask for support and to raise awareness of issues related to survey and mapping. Fortunately for me, as the lone delegate from our state, Hawaii only has two Representatives along with our two Senators. I chose to present the issue of Geospatial Workforce Development to all of them, which is easily presented as both a local and national issue.

We had been told that it is not at all a slight to have our meetings scheduled with the aide of a Representative or Senator. I didn't really believe it, until I met the very bright (and young) aides that work for Congressman Takai, (Kana Smith) Senator Schatz (Serena Li) and Senator Hirono (Dr. Jen Burks.) (Congresswoman Gabbard was unavailable) These aides are the folks that put together the actual bills presented to Congress. When I arrived they had all done their homework on the subject of the Geospatial Workforce, and they actually coached me through the 'ask' for sponsorship of legislation. I know I did not wow them with my articulate presentation, but I was so impressed by theirs. Senator Hirono joined me and her aide in discussing the need for promoting the surveying profession and for educational resources for surveyors in the State of Hawaii. She was supportive of introducing and co-sponsoring legislation for Geospatial Workforce Development, and indeed had co-sponsored the bill for the Digital Coast initiative last year.

The next two days were the real 'meat' of the NSPS meeting. This is when the NSPS state directors met together to vote on the various issues that had been discussed in earlier committees. This was also incredibly impressive, not only because I can't remember seeing that many suits and ties anywhere in Hawaii, but because of the enthusiasm, articulateness and professionalism the directors brought to their issues. It was an incredibly dedicated group of surveyors that I met and hope to work with in the upcoming years. An overview of the meetings and votes follows in the accompanying report.

# REPORT FROM THE SPRING NSPS MEETING, CRYSTAL CITY, VA,

March 13-17, 2016

Submitted by Joanne Williamson. LPLS\*

The meeting started off with a heartfelt speech by new NSPS President, Tony Cavell, of Louisiana, that emphasized the goal of increasing participation and contribution, and learning how to engage and encourage folks in a respectful and grateful manner. (See the link below for an article that was the basis of his speech)

- NSPS needs a champion(s) for the ALTA Certification Program to take the reins and move the program forward. Mr. Gary Kent is supportive of the idea, but looking for other leadership to make it happen. Please let me know if you are interested in participating or leading.
- NSPS is continuing to pursue having a joint meeting with FIG. (International Federation of Surveyors) in 2022. Sites for consideration may include Orlando, New Orleans and Washington D.C.

This is a list of new initiatives and observations from the NSPS Annual Spring Meeting\*

- First and foremost, a warm welcome was extended to fellow surveyors in West Virginia who recently voted themselves into the 100% membership program. John Green (a past WVSPS President) sat in for Jared Wilson who will serve as their first NSPS Director.
- The Young Surveyors Network was front and center, well represented by Amanda Askren, LPS who is also a member of the board of the Land Surveyors Association of Washington. YS is signing a MOU with NSPS and they will have a non-voting seat on the NSPS BoD. Currently 40 states take part in the Young Surveyors Network, which is also affiliated with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). They are an inspiring group of individuals to have involved in the workings of NSPS, and hopefully we can make a chapter in Hawaii as well.
- 9 teams competed in the student competition. Congratulations to the winners: The University of Akron (4 year) and Dunwoody College of Technology (2 year)
- Geodetic Certification committee is pressing forward. There has been an online poll requesting input from our fellow surveyors across the country. Dave Doyle offered that they want to make a concerted effort to obtain professional input and support versus relying on recommendations from an academic panel.
- NGS 2022 Datum – Model Law. NSPS continues to work with NGS on templates we can provide the states to use in crafting legislation to recognize the new datum. Hawaii is the most affected by this new Datum which will result in up to 8 ft. horizontal and 2.5 ft. vertical shift.
- NSPS is working on a white paper to share with our state associations to support professional licensing. We are aware of a tangible force within federal and local governments that seeks to eliminate licensing, referring to it as an impediment to work force development and our economy.
- NSPS will develop “Best Practices Guidelines” which our membership can follow to help ensure Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Compliance.
- The UAS Committee has been moved from an ad hoc committee to a permanent committee, and will be investigating the role of survey in UAS technology and mapping.

- Our Joint Government Affairs Committee will pursue having the geospatial (or Geomatics) field included as a STEM discipline (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This classification would open up sources of funding for grants, scholarships and tax credits targeted towards STEM majors.
- NSPS will craft a letter to the National Association of Realtors requesting that specific language be inserted in their Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice to the effect that they will not engage in activities that constitute unauthorized practice of land surveying – such as suggesting to their clients where their boundaries are, or what constitutes a legal property corner monument.
- The NSPS Public Relations Committee presented two awards. The first went to The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors for a flyer and website they put together for educating youth about land surveying – see link below

The second was a humanitarian award given to the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association for a joint effort between the Northeast Chapter of IPLSA and The Northern Illinois University’s Geomatics program to survey an area wiped out by a tornado, replacing monumentation and documenting existing infrastructure – see link below



Past President John Warren addresses the General Membership Meeting. Sitting left to right Bob Miller – Treasurer, Tony Cavell - President, Jan Fokens,-President Elect. Newly elected Vice-President for 2016 Kim Leavitt missing from the photo, sworn in by the end of the meeting.



Curt Sumner leads the Installation of Officers, Standing Left to Right: Jon Warren-Immediate Past President, Kim Leavitt-Vice President, Jan Fokens-President Elect, Tony Cavell-President; Sitting far left Bob Miller-Treasurer

A heartfelt speech by newly installed President, Tony Cavell, quoted from this article in the *Tech Insider* publication:

<http://www.techinsider.io/a-pulitzer-prize-winning-journalist-investigated-the-science-of-productivity-heres-what-he-found-2016-3>

*PR Award Winner – Texas*

<http://www.becomeatexasurveyor.com/>

*PR Humanitarian Award Winner – Illinois*

[http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/Public\\_Relations/PR\\_Compensation\\_-\\_NEC\\_Fairdal.pdf](http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/Public_Relations/PR_Compensation_-_NEC_Fairdal.pdf)

In Recognition of National Surveyor's Week, a celebration of the land surveying profession in the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 18, 2016

America has always been driven forward by those who push the boundaries of what is known, give the dreams we envision the chance to flourish, and use the wisdom that is born out of our restless curiosity to shape a better future. Understanding land's importance in charting the course of our shared destiny, some of our Nation's oldest surveyors include our Founding Fathers. They knew, as you do, that in order to thrive as a Nation and as a people, we must first determine who we are and where we intend to go.

As you reflect on the impact surveying has on our country and work to empower young people to explore and define their dreams, I wish you all the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, consisting of a large 'B' and 'O' followed by a stylized 'O' and a horizontal line extending to the right.



The Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL) is a statewide agency of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). It assists the 49 professional boards, commissions, and programs that are administratively attached to the DCCA, and oversees the licensing and renewal of over 150,000 businesses and individuals licensed in the State. Its sister agency, the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO), serves as the enforcement arm for the professions and vocations, investigating and prosecuting allegations of professional misconduct by licensees and possible unlicensed activity that may be occurring in the State.

Both PVL and RICO are funded by fees that support licensing and enforcement services. Those fees include (1) initial and renewal licensing fees (the PVL revenue source), and (2) compliance resolution fund fees (the RICO revenue source). Despite steady increases in operating costs, fees first established around 1982 have remained static. Both PVL and RICO have resisted the need to increase licensing fees. This has been achieved by leveraging costs across license types, implementing efficiencies in how work is accomplished, and at times, keeping positions vacant. DCCA's decisions in those instances were very purposeful, and intended to ensure that DCCA could deliver services to meet the needs of licensees and the public, while at the same time, managing costs.

Despite the DCCA's continued efforts over the past ten years, operating costs are now, clearly, outpacing revenue generated from licensing fees. The greatest increases include salary and fringe benefits (which are subject to collective bargaining agreements), and rents and utilities.

In October of 2014, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §26-8, former Governor Abercrombie and the Department of Budget and Finance authorized a temporary fee increase of 23%. The temporary increase represented a short-term strategy to obtain initial funding to replace antiquated 1980s database systems. This effort was part of a long-range plan to address not only immediate database needs, but also long-term revenue shortfalls.

As part of that long-range plan, DCCA is currently proposing to increase both PVL license fees and RICO compliance resolution fund (CRF) fees through the Administrative rulemaking process as set forth in Chapter 53 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules. On March 23, 2016, Governor David Ige received a memo from the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, recommending the DCCA to obtain public input regarding the proposed amendments and fee increases. The information provided here provides an important backdrop for those proposed fee increase amendments.

A link to the proposed rule amendments can be found at:  
[http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2015/12/HAR53-R\\_0915\\_Proposed.pdf](http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2015/12/HAR53-R_0915_Proposed.pdf)

To be clear, the proposed fee increases are not designed to simply "catch up" with outpaced costs. The DCCA believes that increasing fees must be accompanied by improved value and services to both licensees and applicants, and the DCCA is both expecting and anticipating increased timely services and information, increased timely complaint investigations, and increased support for the Boards and Commissions with which it works.



### **When were the fees last increased?**

- Hawaii licensees with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division have not seen a licensing or CRF fee increase since many were established around 1982.
- The initial average increase per licensee will be about \$45/license renewal period. For most, that equals to an additional \$1.90/month.
- From 1984 to 2015, the number of licensees have grown from 86,000 to 150,500, a 57% increase, while the number of personnel and licensing fees have remained roughly the same.

### **What will the fees be used for?**

- The computer systems used by DCCA's PVL and RICO were established in the early 80s, are no longer being supported by the developer, and are in critical need of replacement.
- DCCA has worked diligently to maintain and continue to operate these decades' old systems, and wants to avoid system failures that would impact licensees, consumers and businesses.
- The new licensing system will allow PVL to process applications and renewals faster, and provide more online functions that will update licensees as the application process progresses.
- The new RICO system will allow consumers to file complaints online and to receive updates as the investigation process continues.
- The new systems will handle more functions, allowing PVL and RICO staff to provide more direct and timely assistance to licensees and the public.
- Both PVL and RICO have seen labor increases. The increased revenue will enable RICO to fill existing vacancies to improve and expand upon its current capabilities and capacity.

A new provision entitled "Fee Increases" is also included in the proposed rule amendments. In an effort to assist licensees with planning and providing for future increases, the DCCA is proposing a new section to allow for an incremental increase of 16% for license (PVL) fees and RICO compliance resolution fund (CRF) fees, to be imposed every seven years. The DCCA believes that scheduled, imposed fee increases will not only meet increasing costs, which include the maintenance of mainframe databases and increases in personnel costs resulting from collective bargaining agreements, but will also allow licensees to calculate and plan for increases on a long-term basis.

It is important to note that the PVL licensing fees and CRF fees collected are for the purpose of supporting the operating costs related to the PVL and RICO divisions. Should the revenue collected over time outpace costs for PVL or RICO, the proposed "fee increases" can be temporarily suspended or fees can be reduced. The DCCA does not intend to collect more revenue than is reasonably required to cover the costs of these divisions. Much needed increases will allow the DCCA to continue to maintain and improve services to licensees and consumers.

Send an email to DCCA by April 22, 2016 at: [pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov) with your questions or concerns. PVL and RICO want to understand how the proposed increases can be effective in meeting the needs of consumers and licensees alike.



## Western Federation of Professional Surveyors

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday April 15, 2016 at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada

### Summary Report

Written by: John Akina

To begin the meeting a moment of silence was observed for Jerry Tippin, PLS. He was the previous treasurer of WFPS and is said to be a huge reason why WestFed made a great deal of money in the past. Jerry is also a founding member of WestFed and has dedicated a large part of his life to the success of this organization. Kind words and memories were exchanged in his honor. I instantly felt respect for a man I will never have a chance to meet. May he rest in peace knowing his legacy lives on through his family, friends and colleagues.



The Chairman, Chairman-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer reports brought good news to the status of the Federation. Financial statements were discussed and it was believed that the predicted income of the WFPS/NALS conference could bring in around \$25,000. It was discussed that the success is due to a marketing campaign that started early in the year. Through all 13 states of WestFed they were able to reach a large audience. In fact the conference saw a majority of out-of-state attendees. It was reported that 30 states were represented at the joint conference.

Each State reported their respective current events. There was a plethora of information spewing from the state reports. It was overwhelming to hear that some states such as California have a few more challenges than normal. Arizona is facing legislature that could potentially remove the agency responsible for governing professions such as Land Surveying. They would be left without regulation. On the other hand Washington seems to have good direction and boasts a total of 999 members! Being at the table has been enlightening and reminds us to keep an eye on the bigger picture. We sometimes fail to see that others may be going through similar situations or blazing a trail through new ground. Hawaii's report was very mild in comparison and most states were in good standing. A full copy of the individual state reports will be available to review upon request.

Committee reports were read. We touched on electronic voting. It was suggested we review Montana Corporate Code to reference for our own solutions. Arizona has By-Laws in place for electronic voting. I will be following up with those states for more information. The TwiST Committee was in high gear. We are highly encouraged to get at least one teacher involved preferably from the middle school level. Recommendations were to make contact with the PTA, School District Curriculum Director,

Geography, Science and Technologies teachers. The deadline to submit teachers and funds ends April 30, 2016.

Coming into the meeting I had no expectations. I was surprised to find that the group in attendance was very friendly and genuinely delighted to have Hawaii represented at the meeting again. It may have helped that we brought goodies to the party. Arden and I presented the officers and delegates with an extra-large



assorted box of Honolulu Cookie Company Cookies. They were more than happy to indulge in the simple island treat. In fact, there was a motion passed (not sure it was entirely legal) that I am required to attend the meetings with a box of cookies, no less. The biggest conversations were about Hawaii hosting the WFPS BOD meeting. I received verbal confirmations from the majority of delegates that would most definitely be in attendance. Talk of a joint HLSA/WFPS Conference took place and some were very responsive to that idea as well. Some delegates/officers were already trying to allocate funds in their respective budgets!

I'm eagerly looking forward to the next meeting. I have already started to pursue additional means of income to be able to attend the meeting scheduled for October in the City of Phoenix. I am hoping that we can open a discussion about the possibility to include the WFPS Board of Directors meetings into our budget.

## **Hawaii Land Surveyors Association Online Discussion Forum**

“We are proud to announce the launch of our newest addition to the HSLA online experience. Head over to <http://hlsa.proboards.com> to join in our online discussion forum. This forum, or message board, was developed to get more involvement, comments, feedback, questions and over all participation in our association. The Board of Directors will also be posing questions and polls to all of you members in regards to current topics and items you would like the Board to address. If you feel your voice hasn't been heard, please register and participate in the discussions. Any registered forum user may initiate a discussion with a simple click. We highly encourage everyone to get registered on the forum and jump right in. We look forward to seeing you all online!”

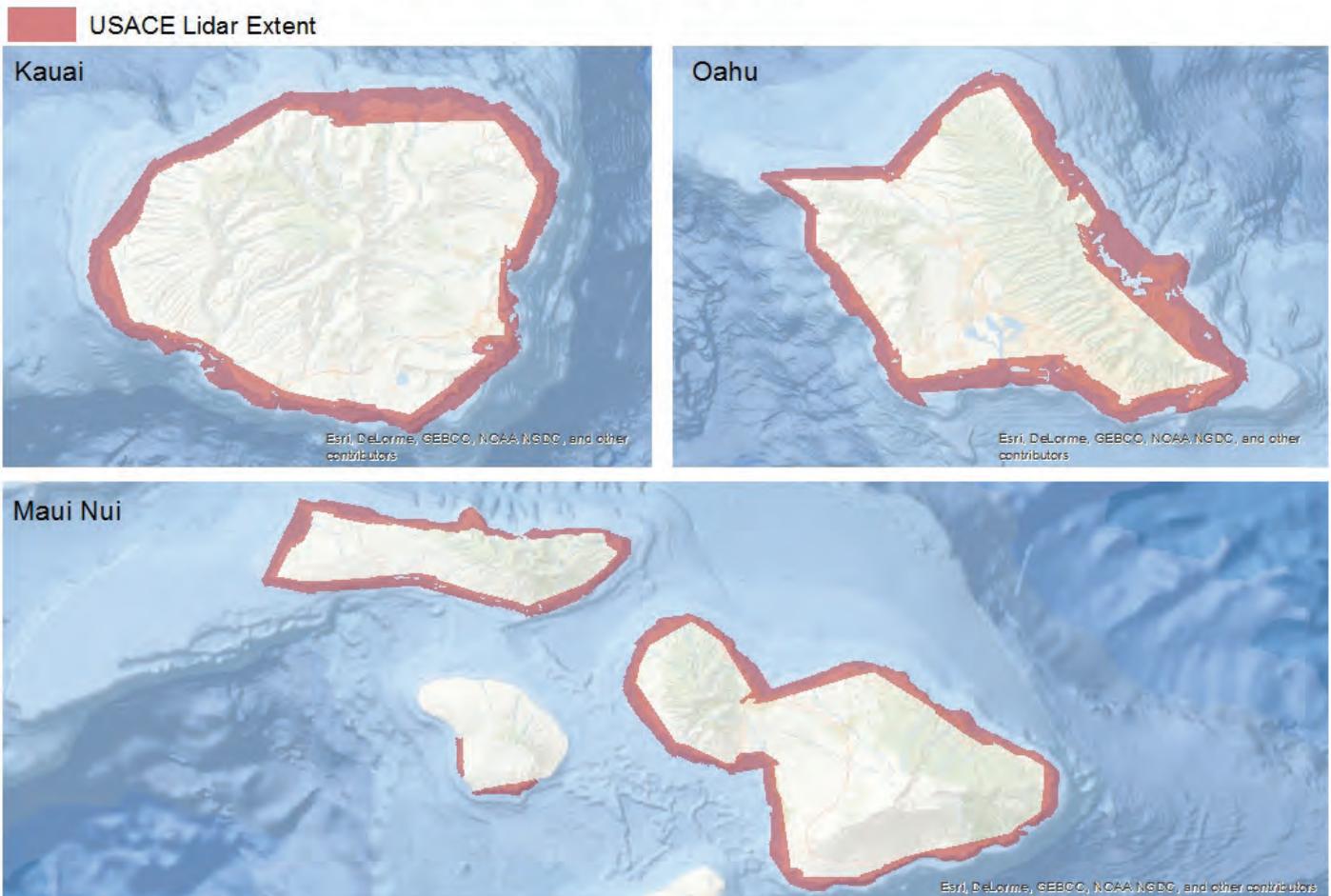
# Topobathymetric Lidar Data State of Hawaii's Coastlines

In 2013 the US Army Corps of Engineers collected topobathymetric lidar data along the State of Hawaii's coastlines. Topobathymetric lidar provides the land elevations and ocean depths of Hawaii's near shore environment in a single data set.

This data is now freely available to the public via NOAA's Digital Coast Data Access Viewer. The data is available with heights referenced to Hawaii's approximated Local Mean Sea Level (LMSL) or heights referenced to the ellipsoid.

For more information about the data contact [jessica.h.podoski@usace.army.mil](mailto:jessica.h.podoski@usace.army.mil), for help acquiring the data via NOAA's Digital Coast contact [ross.winans@noaa.gov](mailto:ross.winans@noaa.gov).

## 2013 USACE Topobathy Lidar Extents for Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, and Maui



Hawaii Land Surveyors Association  
P.O. Box 2981  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

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