

DBIA-WPR HAWAII CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



DBIA Hawaii Region – 2025 Year in Review Newsletter

A look back at our chapter's milestones, programs, and community impact throughout 2025.



Message From Chapter Leadership

As Chapter Chair, I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made together this year. Our DBIA Hawaii Chapter has continued to grow in ways that truly reflect the spirit of collaboration that defines our islands. I've had the privilege of working alongside dedicated members who care deeply about advancing design build excellence, and that passion shows in everything we do.

Throughout 2025, our monthly meetings became more than just gatherings—they became opportunities to connect, learn, and strengthen our shared commitment to improving project delivery across Hawaii. Whether we were welcoming new members, building partnerships across the industry, or developing high value programs for owners, designers, contractors, and young professionals, I felt inspired every step of the way.

Thank you for being part of this chapter's journey. Your engagement, ideas, and support are what make our progress possible, and I look forward to everything we'll accomplish together in the coming year.

MAJOR EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Owner Training & Education Initiatives

A key regional accomplishment was delivering exclusive **Owner focused Design-Build training**, held September 25, 2025, at the AC Marriott Honolulu. The event—coordinated with DBIA National and the Western Pacific Region—featured participation from DBIA National President Lisa Washington and industry expert Brian Pratt. This heavily subsidized session advanced the chapter's goal of elevating owner understanding of design build best practices.

Additionally, the Programs Committee completed one Owner training event in January and began planning a second with the Department of Education for late 2025.



Networking & Community Building Mixers

The Hawaii Chapter hosted several mixers, highlighted by the Design Build Connections Pau Hana on September 25, 2025. This sold out event at The Dotted Line (AC Marriott) brought together

certified professionals, owners, young leaders, and seasoned experts to create meaningful industry connections.

Young Professional (YP) engagement was another success area, driven by the YP Committee, chaired by Kate MacKeigan. Goals included two YP events, UH outreach for student chapter development, and professional mentorship programming.



2025 Hawaii Chapter Golf Tournament

One of the chapter's marquee annual events, the DBIA WPR Hawaii Chapter Golf Tournament, was held October 10, 2025, at Hoakalei Country Club. The tournament sold out quickly and provided a full day of networking, friendly competition, and sponsor engagement for owners, designers, and industry partners. Led by Golf Chair Danny Graif, the event continued building on prior year success.

CHAPTER COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Membership Committee

Under the leadership of Peter Mercuris, the committee emphasized:

- Enhanced engagement, recruitment, and retention
- Outreach to new members within 30 days of activation
- Hosting member focused social events
- Supporting unlimited membership benefits for Industry Partner organizations
- Promoting free online education resources for members



Young Professionals Committee

The YP Committee prioritized leadership development and student outreach, including:

- Hosting summer and fall YP networking events
- Continuing coordination with UH to launch a DBIA student chapter
- Organizing jobsite tours in collaboration with the Programs Committee
- Building mentorship connections between students and industry professionals



Regional Presence & Representation

Hawaii Chapter members actively contributed to Western Pacific Region efforts and attended the annual WPR Conference (August 19–22). Regular updates highlighted coordinated regional initiatives, membership strategies, and alignment with DBIA National efforts to advance Design Build Done Right®.

This year the Western Pacific Region awarded Mariano Ponsiano the Jacob Williams Volunteer of the Year Award.

Looking Ahead

With strong momentum from 2025's training programs, networking successes, and member driven committees, the DBIA Hawaii Region is well positioned for expanded educational opportunities, deeper owner engagement, and continued growth in 2026. **If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Mariano Ponsiano at mponsiano@henselhelps.com.**