

# Society of American Military Engineers

Honolulu Post

April 2026 Newsletter



## **Post President's Message**

### **Col. Justin Morris, USAF**

Aloha SAME Honolulu Post Members and Friends,

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2026, I'd like to share a brief update on the continued momentum of the Honolulu Post. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and members, the Post remained active across professional development, STEM outreach, and community engagement.

We began the year with our **January monthly presentation**, reinforcing the value of our luncheons as a forum for technical exchange and collaboration among military, government, and industry professionals. These gatherings continue to be an important way for our community to connect, learn, and share perspectives.

A highlight of the quarter was our **Engineers Week Luncheon in February**, which brought together professionals from across the A/E/C community for networking and cross-sector dialogue. The strong participation reflected continued interest in SAME as a trusted convenor within Hawai'i's engineering community.

We also wrapped up the quarter with our **March luncheon**, which featured an engaging and timely technical presentation on restoring water resiliency at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and welcomed several new faces to the Post. It was great to see members and guests come together to learn and connect around a meaningful topic.

STEM engagement remained a priority throughout the quarter, with continued planning for a **new local STEM outreach pilot** and ongoing preparation for the **SAME Engineering & Construction Camp**, including volunteer and sponsorship coordination.

The strong start to 2026 positions us well for the months ahead. I encourage you to stay involved, attend our events, and consider volunteering—your participation is what keeps our Post strong.

Mahalo for your continued support to our amazing Post!

Best Regards,

Justin

## **New News!**

**Congratulations to Josh Biggers!** Josh is now the Chief of Military Integration at the Pacific Ocean Division. He and his staff oversee the USACE portfolio of military, host nation, work of others, and environmental work all executed by four subordinate Districts. A well-deserved promotion for Josh! Our Post and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are lucky to count him among our ranks.

**Australia Field Chapter is now an Official SAME Post!** – Two years ago, leaders from the Honolulu and Guam Posts began working with motivated leadership in Australia — and the idea has become reality. A Field Chapter was chartered in June 2025, and just nine months later, the SAME Australia Post is official!

Despite remarkable distances — members span Sydney and Brisbane on the east coast, Melbourne and Adelaide in the south, Perth in the west, and Darwin in the north, across a country nearly 2,500 miles from east to west and north to south — a dedicated group of government and industry professionals, including NAVFAC, pushed forward to meet every requirement for full Post status: 11 corporate members, 39 active members, and a functioning Board.

With leaders including Ben Khandan (Austability), Brad Stapleton (GHD), LCDR Brad Garrigues (ROICC Australia, NAVFAC), Judd McCann (Ocebile), Brad Richardson (Palladium), Oliver Crowther (AECOM), Joshua Biggers (USACE, Pacific Ocean Division), and many others driving the effort, the future looks bright Down Under. Congratulations!

## **SAME Young Professionals – Nick Wood**

It was a heartbreaking final 10 minutes of gametime and unfortunate loss, but the SAME Young Professionals group still had a fun time. Long Beach State had the persistence to come back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, pulling off an upset victory and 84-75 final score. The Rainbow Warriors finished their season at 22-8 and UH is still the No. 2 Seed in the upcoming Big West Championships. Turns out they have the double bye...

SAME YP brought a large group with 16 total from AECOM, Stantec, Jacobs, Orion, GHD, Army, and Parsons. Next up, **UH Baseball** vs. UC Irvine, April 10 @ 6:30pm



## **SAME Fellows – Todd Barnes, F. SAME**

Working with Will Boudra to nominate a candidate for Fellowship in SAME.

# **Upcoming Event Details**

## **SAME Scholarship – Josh Biggers**

Applications for the \$2,000 scholarships are being accepted and reviewed  
<https://www.same.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-SAME-Honolulu-Scholarship-Application.pdf>

Questions? [scholarship@samehonolulu.org](mailto:scholarship@samehonolulu.org)

## **Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair – Col. Elisa Hammer**

SAME Honolulu Post is proud to continue its support of the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair (HSSEF) sponsored by the Hawaii Academy of Science. The 2026 HSSEF will be held at Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall on April 2, 2026.

Six (6) SAME Honolulu Post Volunteers have stepped forward to help evaluate the junior and senior engineering projects!!! Mahalo for your support of STEM Education in Hawaii!!

## **SAME Engineering & Construction Camp – Alyssa Agustin**

Planning is well underway for the Hawaii STEM Camp, and interest has been strong. The camp will run June 7–13, 2026 for campers, with mentors arriving on June 6 for orientation and setup. Our campers are high school juniors and seniors, selected from a competitive applicant pool. This year, we received 62 camper applications, selected 40 campers, and identified 10 alternates in case of any withdrawals.

We are still seeking volunteers for the following roles:

- Mentors (engineer or scientist preferred; full-week commitment)
- Logistics support
- STEM teaching support

Volunteer applications are being accepted through the national SAME process, deadline is April 3, 2026 (<https://www.same.org/camps/>). Applications will be reviewed shortly after the deadline to better understand remaining gaps. All volunteers must complete CAMPSafe training and pass a background check. Volunteers who are old enough to rent and drive vehicles are appreciated, as we will be renting 10 SUVs to transport campers throughout the week. National guidance is for volunteers from off-island to first seek travel funding through their Posts.

Camp sponsorship opportunities remain open, and we encourage early participation as we increase marketing efforts on LinkedIn:

- Silver (\$750): Invitation to participate in one STEM activity and recognition on marketing materials
- Gold (\$1,500): Silver benefits plus company swag provided to campers
- Platinum (\$2,500): Gold benefits plus prominent logo placement on a featured STEM activity and inclusion in the student problem-solving scenario

## **2026 Pacific Industry Forum (PIF)**

The PIF website will be populated this weekend, with registration opening in April. The website link will be shared via an email blast to the Post and posted on the SAME Honolulu website.

Sponsorships will open soon, and a sponsorship prospectus will be sent directly to organizations that sponsored the PIF in 2024. New sponsors may contact Camille Gozum ([Camille.Gozum@ghd.com](mailto:Camille.Gozum@ghd.com)) to be added to the sponsor communications distribution list.

Those interested in volunteering may contact Chul Kim ([chul.kim@jacobs.com](mailto:chul.kim@jacobs.com)), this year's Volunteer Coordinator. The Program Lead for PIF 2026 is Will Boudra ([boudraw@bv.com](mailto:boudraw@bv.com)).

The 2026 PIF will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, with the following schedule:

- September 15: Icebreaker
- September 16: Sessions
- September 17: Golf Tournament

## Power Up Pacific 2026 - Col. Elisa Hammer

Join us in Honolulu for Power Up Pacific 2026 on May 4-5, 2026 at Hilton Hawaiian Village, a two-day conference focused on strengthening America's energy advantage across the Pacific. The event brings together leaders from defense, energy, infrastructure, and industry for technical sessions, networking, and collaboration.

Register Here: <https://www.gulfcoastenergynetwork.org/>

Member Discount: SAME Honolulu Post members receive 30% off registration using code HONOLULU30.

### Volunteer Opportunities (Free Registration)

Volunteers receive complimentary event registration. We are seeking support for the following roles:

Monday, May 4

- 0830–1200: Registration Table (1) - Keithesia Parris
- 0830–1200: Exhibitor Check-In (1) - Todd Barnes
- 1300–1930: Registration Table (2)
- 1300–1930: Photographer (1) – cell phone camera OK

Tuesday, May 5

- 0730–1530: Registration Table (2) – Will Boudra & Alyssa Agustin
- 0830–1530: Photographer (1) – cell phone camera OK

If you're interested in volunteering or have questions, please reach out to Alyssa Agustin ([alyssa.agustin@ghd.com](mailto:alyssa.agustin@ghd.com)).

## Joint Engineering Training Conference (JETC)

The conference this year will be in Portland, Oregon May 19-21, 2026 (<https://www.samejetc.org/>). Designed for uniformed engineers, federal civilians, industry partners, technical experts, and emerging leaders, this three-day event delivers insight, collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions. This year's theme, "Innovate Forward," will showcase the innovations, strategic approaches, and critical partnerships which shape engineering in support of national defense and infrastructure resilience. As the premier annual SAME event, JETC offers unmatched opportunities to learn, connect, and influence the future of the A/E/C community.

## Credentialing Assistance Program

The Credentialing Assistance Program provides financial support for professional development, education, licensure and certification preparation, exam testing, and mentoring initiatives to benefit members ([Credentialing Opportunities - SAME](#)). SAME will reimburse a portion of exam sitting or registration fees as well as reimburse for costs of testing preparation and training materials upon confirmation of passing of an exam.

### Eligibility Requirements

- This program is open to all SAME members, regardless of age.
- Applicants must be a member of SAME for at least 18 months before applying.
- Applicants must have passed the respective examination and provide required documentation with the application.

In addition to the support described above, SAME offers on-demand credentialing review courses

- Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (All included)
- Professional Engineer Exam (All included)
- Architect Registration Examination (PcM, PM, PA, PPD, PDD, CE)

Applicants for the on-demand credentialing review courses must demonstrate active engagement or participation at the Post, Regional, or National level and receive an endorsement from a Post President, Fellow, or National Board of Direction member. Applicants must be active, paid SAME members for at least 12 months. Student memberships do not count toward this period. The member must provide proof of registration for their respective exam within 30 days of receiving access to the review courses through PPI2Pass (for FE, PE, and ARE credentials) under the SAME corporate account. The exam should be scheduled within three- to nine-months of the award. Applicant must be willing to engage with a mentor (monthly at a minimum) throughout the time enrolled in the review course.

## SAME Young Professionals – Austin Taterka

**UH Baseball Game** UH vs. UC Irvine, April 10 @ 6:30pm

Contact Austin Taterka - [austin.taterka@aecom.com](mailto:austin.taterka@aecom.com)

## **Help Wanted!**

**Looking for a volunteer to manage the Honolulu Post's Website and Social Media accounts.** If you are capable and interested in helping your Honolulu Post, please contact Phil Mok.

## **Honolulu Post's Calendar of Events**

**Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair** – April 2, 2026 at the Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall

**Young Professionals** – April 10th UH Baseball Game against UC Irvine

**SAME April 8<sup>th</sup> Luncheon**, Panel discussion on Commercial Development at 5:00 pm  
Coffman Engineer's Conference Room, featuring Christine Camp. Limited to first 50

**Power Up Pacific** - May 4-5 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village

**Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC)** – May 19-21, Portland, OR

**STEM Camp**, June 7-13, 2026

**Cyber Action Forum (CAF)** September 14, 2026 at the Hale Koa Hotel

**PIF 2026** – September 15-17 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village