The Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

SWE Hawaiian Islands
Agenda

• SWE
  - http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org
  - Mission, Vision, Values
  - History
  - Benefits

• SWE Hawaiian Islands
  - http://hi.swe.org
  - History
  - Outreach, educational and professional development programs
SWE Mission and Vision

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization.

Mission
Stimulate women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity.

Vision
To be key to the success of women in engineering and technology.

SWE members represent all engineering disciplines and many areas of technology.
**INTEGRITY:** We aspire the highest level of ethical behavior as evidenced by honesty and dignity in our personal and professional relationships and responsibilities.

**INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT:** We embrace diversity in its broadest interpretation and commit to creating an inclusive environment for all our members and stakeholders. We value the contributions of a diverse membership, which enables SWE to achieve its full potential.

**MUTUAL SUPPORT:** We provide an organization that fosters mentoring, and the development of professional and personal networks.

**PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE:** We conduct our activities in a professional manner, demonstrating and demanding the highest standards of business practices.

**TRUST:** We share a common definition of success with open, transparent access to common information, building mutual respect and confidence in the competence of those with whom we lead, serve and partner.
SWE History

• In the late 1940s, the shortage of men due to WWII provided new opportunities for women to pursue employment in engineering.
• Over the weekend of May 27, 1950, some 60 women engineers and engineering students came together in New Jersey at the Green Engineering Camp of the Cooper Union to take part in the first national meeting of the Society of Women Engineers.
• Four original sections: metropolitan New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Boston
• Beatrice Hicks was elected as SWE’s first president.
• In the 1960s, technology research and development intensified after Russia launched Sputnik. Many engineering schools began admitting women. Membership doubled to 1,200.
• Recently, in the past 10 years, SWE’s membership has doubled again and in 2018 there are 40,000+ members globally: 300 collegiate sections, 100 professional sections, international affiliates, 60+ countries

https://alltogether.swe.org/2016/05/commemorating-swe-founders-day/
http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/about-swe
SWE Benefits

• Create a diverse workforce
• Network of peers and mentors
• Professional development
• Local and global conferences
• Outreach for young girls
• Recognition, awards, scholarships
• Advocacy in government
SWE Key Areas of Focus

- Diversity and inclusion in engineering worldwide
- Work/Life balance
- Networking and professional development opportunities
- Re-entry programs for getting back into technical careers
- Advocacy for Federal funding of STEM education
The proposed SWE-HI section started in 2009 and the SWE-HI section was formed in 2012.
SWE Hawaiian Islands (SWE HI) Professional Section

• **Technical talks:**
  - PDC’s Disaster AWARE: Tracking Disasters with Technology (Maui)
  - Building the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (Maui)
  - Mauka and Makai Stewardship in West Maui (Maui)

• **K12 Outreach, Community education, and STEM events**
  - Expanding your Horizons Hawaii (Oahu)
  - Annual Engineers Week Exhibit – Windward Mall (Oahu)

• **Technical tours:**
  - Gemini Telescope on Mauna Kea (Hawaii)
  - US Air Force Observatory on Haleakala (Maui)

• **Conference:**
  - Hosted SWE Western Regions conference in 2012
  - SWE-HI members presented at Annual SWE conferences with 14,000+ attendance
  - SWE-HI members represent their companies at SWE conferences

• **Partner with and mentor UH Manoa SWE Section and the students**
  - Pau Hana (Oahu, Maui)
  - Wow! That's Engineering (Oahu)

• **Networking events**
  - Maui Annual Holiday Lunch (joint event with ASID, AIA, ASLA, HSPE)
  - Holiday Ice Skating Social at Ice Palace (with Oahu and Maui SWE-HI members and Waipahu High School students)
Thank you for supporting SWE and SWE-HI

Click here for a short video

Introduction to SWE