



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

## The 2017 Annual BOMA Hawaii Sustainability Day

### Andy Beth Miller

Honolulu, HI BOMA Hawaii hosted its annual Sustainability Day on April 12, 2017. BOMA is the acronym for Building Owners and Managers Association. The luncheon event was held at The Plaza Club and brought together Hawaii leaders in real estate and sustainability to explore how to best advance sustainability within the Commercial Real Estate Industry.

"The annual event was started in 2008 by our CEO George Benda," says Chelsea Group Building Scientist Dricka Thobois who was responsible for planning Wednesday's event. "He was actually the first sustainability chair, and planned and put into place the inaugural Sustainability Day." Benda has since passed the torch on to Thobois, who is now in her third year operating as committee chair.

After a brief welcome by Thobois, in which she introduced the Chelsea Group team, the floor was opened for the main presenters. Two leaders from Hawaii Energy, Executive Director Brian Kealoha and Program Engineering Manager Keith Block, spoke to 83 attendees about current incentive and rebate programs offered to commercial properties.

One of the properties used as an example within the "Celebrating Sustainability" keynote presentation was Waterfront Plaza, a property at which Chelsea Group recently completed a Central Plant retrofit. Following the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to visit the actual site and learn more about the Chelsea Group process.



Chelsea Group Building Scientist Dricka Thobois presents to BOMA members.



Zack Main leads tour of Waterfront Plaza Chillers.

"Chelsea Group coordinated tours at both Waterfront Plaza and the Topa Financial Center" Thobois said. "The crowd was so large – over 50 people – we had to split the group." The Waterfront tour, led by Chelsea Group Building Scientist Zack Main, focused on the central plant, including the chillers and cooling towers. Tours of Topa Financial Center were led by Chelsea Group Senior Building Scientist Wyeth Crawford. The Topa site gave the group insight into Central Plant Energy Optimization, LED lighting, and even a rooftop garden – a "green roof" in sustainability jargon.

"This is the best event I have had the privilege to plan since I started with Chelsea Group in 2012," Thobois said. Benda was also optimistic after the event's success. "The enthusiasm and size of the crowd at BOMA's Sustainability Event surpassed my expectations," he said. "When I helped initiate Sustainability Week for BOMA in 2008, we all hoped it would be a continuous process because so much work needed to be done. Now, nearly ten years down the road, with much done but much still needing to be done, it is great to see fresh faces and new excitement about the work."

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#### ABOUT Chelsea Group

Chelsea Group is a Hawaii-based building science consulting firm specializing in preserving and enhancing the mechanical infrastructure in existing commercial office, institutional, retail, and industrial facilities. For more than 25 years, Chelsea's building scientists and engineers have solved problems and found opportunities that add asset value to these properties. The Chelsea team is widely recognized for its thought leadership in sustainable, high performance buildings.