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Seawater A/C contractors stay on board despite facing long delays

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[Duane Shimogawa](#)

Reporter- Pacific Business News

[Email](#) | [Google+](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Despite the delay in construction, Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC said that all of the contractors chosen to help build the project are still on board.

Honolulu-based Makai Ocean Engineering noted that it is encouraged by the recent investment of Ulupono Initiative and the recent sign-up of several important customers, including The Queen's Medical Center.

"Makai is currently involved in half a dozen seawater A/C projects at various stages of development around the world and we understand well that these are large projects with a lot of moving parts," [Duke Hartman](#), vice president of business development for Makai, told PBN in an email. "It is not unusual for a project of this magnitude and complexity to experience delays. We are optimistic that this recent momentum will propel HSWAC through this near-term hurdle to get the green light for construction financing."

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He also pointed out that the project represents a huge step forward in energy sustainability for Hawaii, in reducing its dependence on imported fossil fuel.

"We are eager to help HSWAC make it happen," Hartman said.

Bill Wilson, president of Honolulu-based Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. Inc., told PBN that it also is still on board.

"HDCC is fortunate to have a number of projects underway so the delay has not been a concern," he told PBN in an email. "Hopefully for them and the community it does proceed [in a timely manner]."

[Tim Pearia](#), an engineer with Seattle-based Frank Coluccio Construction Co., also said it is still ready to work on the project. Honolulu Seawater A/C officials said it selected Coluccio Construction because of the firm's extensive experience in Hawaii tunnel projects. Pearia said that the use of tunnels to and from the chiller plant can reduce the construction impact on the neighborhood and the traveling public.

"You can imagine the problems with digging a big trench for the pipes going across [Ala Moana](#) [Boulevard]," he told PBN.

Some of Coluccio Construction's work included the H-3 exploratory tunnel; Fort Kamehameha sewer extension tunnels at Pearl Harbor; Kalaheo, Hamakua and Wanao sewer tunnels in Kailua; and the beachwalk wastewater pump station for [Ala Moana](#) Beach Park.

"Delays are not unusual and we are accustomed to work with owners and help them solve problems with delays," Pearia told PBN in an email.

Yogi Kwong Engineers, **R.M. Towill Corp.** and inSynergy Engineering, are working on engineering for the ground trenches

and a cooling station.

Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. and [James W. Fowler](#) Co. were chosen as the contractors for the project's underground pipe system, specifically for the downtown distribution portion.

Contractors

- Frank Coluccio Construction Co.
- Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. Inc.
- [James W. Fowler](#) Co.
- Healy Tibbits Builders Inc.
- dck pacific construction LLC

Design Engineers / consultants

- Makai Ocean Engineering
- R.M. Towill Corp.
- Yogi Kwong Engineers
- InSynergy Engineering

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.