Alison Green, Project Wildfire

- Building Partnerships to Create Action (Breakout Session B)

  Alison Green, Program Coordinator for Project Wildfire, is a Bend native and former firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. She changed her focus to wildfire prevention and preparedness to dovetail her passion for working with people and natural resources into one career. While coordinating Project Wildfire, she is able to work on emergency preparedness, Fire Adapted Communities, local fire history, empowering local residents, and promoting prescribed fire.

Andrea Buckman, Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership

- Community-Driven Restoration and Fire Preparedness at Kahikinui, Maui (Breakout Session B)

  Andrea Buckman is the Program Manager for the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership (LHWRP). Andrea conducts planning, research, fundraising, and implementing native forest restoration across over 43,000 acres on the slopes of Leeward Haleakalā. Andrea has an educational background in biology and environmental management, and began her career in sailing, marine science, and as a volunteer at Auwahi in 2004, and has worked for the Partnership since 2007.

Carolyn Stewart, Marine and Coastal Solutions International, Inc.

- Field Workshop

  Carolyn Stewart is the Vice President and a principal consultant for Marine and Coastal Solutions International, Inc., a small consulting firm specializing in planning, management and policy analysis for marine and coastal resources. She has worked on numerous coastal and marine resources management projects locally and abroad, for government agencies and non-profit organizations. Much of Carolyn’s work has had an emphasis on polluted runoff control and watershed management. Between 1991 and 1999, she worked as a planning and policy analyst for the Hawai‘i Coastal Zone Management Program. She is President of Mālama Kai Foundation and has provided foundational leadership and inspiration since its inception. She is also on the board of Parker School and was one of the founding directors of Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization. When not working, Carolyn enjoys gardening, playing tennis, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Cesar Gellido, Saws & Slaws; Double 8 Knot

- Building Stronger Communities Through a Healthier Forest (Breakout Session B)

  Cesar Gellido, as a trained architect, uses his problem-solving skills to design creative programs that encourage collaboration between residents, fire protection districts, and local businesses and agencies to help protect their mountain town from catastrophic wildfires. He was bitten by the firebug while training as a volunteer wildland firefighter and now runs his own professional fire mitigation tree removal company called Double 8 Knot.

Chad Wiggins, The Nature Conservancy

- Overview of West Hawaii’s Coral Reef Ecosystem, Downstream Effects of a Fire/Flood Regime on Nearshore Marine Habitat, and Collaborative Solutions for Improving Coastal and Coral Resilience (Breakout Session A)

- Field Workshop

  Chad Wiggins is the Hawai‘i Island Marine Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. He has studied coral reefs in West Hawai‘i since 2000 to document the effects of fishery and watershed management actions, invasive fish species, and coastal activities. He also leads the regional Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise program and networks focused on co-management of cultural sites and coastal/marine life. With
Chad Wiggins (cont’d)
support from NOAA, he is leading work through partnerships to design and implement effective sediment and nutrient mitigation actions that generate measurable benefits to coastal water quality and marine life and evaluating the potential for sustainable private funding mechanisms to build and maintain green infrastructure.

Cheyenne Perry, Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance
• MKWA Fuels Management Restoration Efforts on Mauna Kea (Breakout Session A)
  Cheyenne Perry grew up on O‘ahu in Wai‘anae, the leeward coast known for its dry climate and beautiful beaches. While pursuing a degree in Marine Science at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, he met his wife and eventually started a family there, where the allure of Mauna Kea and expansive native forests was strong. After working with the USDA Forest Service for eight years he earned a Masters from UH Hilo in 2010 and worked as a research intern with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands studying Gorse, Fire Planning and Management, and Restoration on Mauna Kea. Today he is the Coordinator for the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, one of ten Watershed Partnerships statewide.

Dr. Clay Trauernicht, University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service; Pacific Fire Exchange
• Wildfire in Hawai‘i and the Pacific (General Session 1)
• Co-Development of Research (Breakout Session B)
• Pre-Fire Planning Workshop (Breakout Session C)
• Fire Behavior Basics for Non-Firefighters (Breakout Session C)
  Dr. Clay Trauernicht is an Assistant Specialist in Wildland Fire Science and Management with the University of Hawai‘i Cooperative Extension Service in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. His Extension program (www.nrem-fire.org) seeks science-based solutions to improve fire management and climate adaptation across natural resource and agriculture sectors in Hawai‘i and other Pacific Islands. His research integrates quantitative ecology and remote sensing to understand how people and climate influence tropical forests and savannas, especially through fire. He currently leads the Pacific Fire Exchange (PacificFireExchange.org), a fire science communication and networking project sponsored by the Joint Fire Science Program. He’s also a full-time dad and husband and stays sane (relatively speaking) by surfing.

Cody Dwight, Kohala Watershed Partnership
• Field Workshop
  Cody Dwight is the Coordinator for the Kohala Watershed Partnership (KWP). Prior to his role as the Watershed Coordinator, he was a KWP Field Operations Technician for eight years. Before working for KWP, Cody served as a hotshot for the U.S. Forest Service in California.

Dan Dennison, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
• Communicating the Wildfire Message (and Drought) Through Effective Partnerships (Breakout Session B)
  Dan Dennison is the Senior Communications Manager for the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As a 40-year-long TV reporter and broadcast news executive he was involved in direct coverage or leading coverage of many of the largest and most notable wildfires in recent U.S. history, including the Yellowstone Complex Fires in the 1980’s, the deadly Storm King Fire and the massive Hayman Fire, both in Colorado in the 1990’s. He has led multi-agency wildfire media initiatives since joining DLNR in 2014.
Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka, Jr., Cultural Historian

- **Opening Pule and Aloha E (Opening - Day 1)**

  Daniel "Kaniela" Akaka, Jr., is a cultural historian and musician who is the Director of Cultural Affairs at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows, where he educates the public about Hawaii’s history and culture. He also is an active Board Member of the Bishop Museum, the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame, the Pōhakuloa Cultural Advisory Committee and the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests.

Dawn Bruns, US Fish and Wildlife Service

- **Session Chair: Wildfire Behavior, Planning, and Hazard Reduction Workshops (Breakout Session C)**

  Dawn Bruns is an HCP and Section 7 Specialist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office where she addresses threats of proposed federal and private projects to endangered species. Before moving to the North Shore of O‘ahu, Dawn was an FMO at Cumberland Island National Seashore, a Prescribed Fire Specialist at Loxahatchee N.W.R., a tractor plow operator on the Ocala N.F., a Missoula Smokejumper, a fire behavior monitor at Sequoia N.P., a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist, and a seasonal firefighter on the Wenatchee N.F. Dawn studied fire ecology of Florida Scrub plants at Archbold Biological Station for her undergraduate (Cornell University) and MS (University of Washington) research.

Derek Wroe, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS)

- **Fire Weather and Climate in Hawai‘i and the Pacific (General Session 1)**

  Derek Wroe is a Senior Forecaster and Incident Meteorologist at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Honolulu. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Meteorology from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and in 2001, entered the NWS full time in 2001 in Monterey, CA, where he was first introduced to fire weather. He moved back to Hawai‘i in 2003, and became a certified Incident Meteorologist in 2014, which has allowed him to serve on large wildfires in California, Oregon, and Montana.

Diane Maka‘ala Kaneali‘i, Honokoa Firewise Community

- **Firewise in Hawai‘i - Lessons Learned from Community Leaders (General Session 2)**

  - **Field Workshop**

    Diane Maka‘ala Kaneali‘i serves as the Kailapa Community Association Executive Director and Project Manager. She is responsible for the management of all grants, projects, programs and contracts awarded to KCA. She is a mother of five and proud grandmother of twelve and a retired registered nurse who began her nursing career in 1975. She received her nursing degrees from Hawai‘i Community College and the University of Phoenix. Ms. Kaneali‘i and her family built their home in Kailapa Hawaiian Homestead as part of the self-help program in 2002 and became permanent residents in 2006. Since that time, she has served as a KCA member, was elected as President in 2010, and has served as the Executive Director since February 2014. She represents KCA on the Kai Kuleana Network and the South Kohala Coastal Partnership, uniting to care for West Hawaii’s coastal and marine communities. Additionally, she is a member of Kailapa’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and currently serves as the Chair of the South Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee (SK CDP AC). With her as the chair of Kailapa’s Firewise committee, Kailapa, with the support of HWMO, became a nationally-recognized Firewise Community in 2016. She felt it was important for the community to become a recognized Firewise Community due to the very dry and fire-prone conditions of Kawaihae and wanted to insure the community would make every effort to educate and prepare as many people for wildfires as possible. Last year, with HWMO’s support, KCA held a community-wide green waste removal project throughout the homestead. With the help of the Kohala Center, KCA is working on sediment reduction and looking at ways to improve the health and wellness of the lands that they live on.
Dietra A. Myers Tremblay, State of Hawai‘i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

- **Session Chair: Missing Pieces and Next Steps for Hawai‘i and the Pacific (Breakout Session D)**
- **Forum: Next Steps for Hawai‘i and the Pacific (Breakout Session D)**

  Dietra A. Myers Tremblay is a Planner for the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). Her interest in wildfire began while working for the O‘ahu Army Natural Resources Program (OANRP) where she facilitated helicopter coordination for wildland fires. After leaving OANRP, she worked at the Hawai‘i State Legislature as a Legislative Analyst while obtaining her Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Graduate Certificate in Wildfire Planning Policy from the University of Hawai‘i’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Dietra is a wildland firefighter for the DOFAW O‘ahu Branch and a member of the State Emergency Response Team. She serves as a Subject Matter Expert for the State Hazard Mitigation Forum.

Elizabeth Pickett, Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization

- **Summit Introduction (Opening - Day 1)**
- **Forum: Next Steps for Hawai‘i and the Pacific (Breakout Session D)**
- **Closing Ceremony: Summit Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

  Elizabeth Pickett is the Executive Director of Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization. Elizabeth works with HWMO Board of Directors, staff, and partners to lead and implement wildfire mitigation, planning, and education projects throughout Hawai‘i and beyond. She was a founding member of the Pacific Fire Exchange and serves on its steering committee. Elizabeth earned a Masters of Environmental Science degree from Yale School of Forestry in 2007, and a Bachelor’s degree from University of California, Berkeley in 2000. In addition to her work for HWMO, Elizabeth is a program coordinator for partner organization Mālama Kai Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that specializes in coastal and marine protection. She is a full-time mom to a boy turning 3 this Friday (yay!), and paints, gardens, and kitesurfs whenever possible.

Emily Troisi, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

- **Learning from Each Other: How a Network Supports the Fire Adapted Communities Framework (General Session 2)**

  Emily Troisi is a Network Liaison and the Affiliate Member Initiative Lead for the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net). She graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation Studies and Master of Science in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management. Her favorite thing about working for a learning network is the creativity and connections that the people in the network bring to community wildfire resilience. She currently lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Chief Eric Moller, U.S. Army-Garrison, Fire and Emergency Services

- **Welcome Back (Opening - Day 2)**
- **Agency Updates and Highlights (General Session 2)**
- **Field Workshop**

  In addition to serving as the Army Fire Chief at Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawai‘i Island, Chief Moller was on the Board of Directors of Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) for the better part of a decade, and has since transitioned to become Chair of the HWMO Technical Advisory Board. He was a founding partner in the Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) and now serves an active role on the PFX Steering Committee.
Eve McGlynn, UC Berkeley, Geography
- HWMO WebApp: Building Capacity Through Data Visualization (Breakout Session B)
  
  Evangeline McGlynn is a Ph.D. student in Geography at the University of California, Berkeley. She holds a Master of Design in Risk and Resilience from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Building on her professional background in field response to humanitarian emergencies, her academic work is focused on the intersections between social conflicts and environmental crisis, with an eye toward using moments of catastrophe as opportunities address more insidious types of social deprivation toward inclusive recovery and change.

Chief Gantry Andrade, Hawai‘i Fire Department
- Welcome from HFD (Opening - Day 1)
- Agency Updates and Highlights (General Session 2)

  Chief Gantry Andrade is the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations for the Hawai‘i Fire Department. He has twenty-seven years of experience and oversees the Firefighting, Rescue, Hazmat, and Ocean Safety Lifeguard divisions. He is a member of the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group (BIWCG), California Nevada Hawai‘i Forest Fire Council (CNH), the Firewise program, and Hawai‘i Island Safety and Security Professionals Association (HISSPA), and is a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructor. He enjoys eating.

Gloria Edwards, Southern Rockies Fire Science Network
- Keynote: Letters from the Front: Confessions of a Fire Science Exchange Coordinator (Opening - Day 1)

  Gloria Edwards has an extensive and diverse background in natural resource management, including archaeology, archaeobotany, forestry, silviculture, wildfire, non-profits and education. Together with her husband, she ran a private forestry and wildfire mitigation company on the western slope of Colorado for seven years. She was bitten by the firebug working on the Yellowstone fire of 1988 and currently works as Program Coordinator for the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network based out of the Department of Forestry, Colorado State University in Fort Collins. She is a compulsive gardener, hiker, lover of the outdoors, and mother of two fine young men.

Gordon Firestein, Launiopoko Firewise Community
- Firewise in Hawai‘i - Lessons Learned from Community Leaders (General Session 2)

  Gordon Firestein and his wife Doris Lang moved to Maui in 2008 after thirty years in Berkeley. They purchased two acres of ag-zoned land in hot, dry, windy and rocky Launiupoko, and have worked hard to create and maintain a farm. The landscape is reminiscent of the Middle East where olives thrive, so they planted 250 olive trees as an experiment. While awaiting their potential first crop of olives, these “carbon farmers” take heart from the success of their tropical fruit trees, happy egg-laying chickens, productive vegetable and herb gardens and agroforestry plots, and native drought-tolerant plants. Alarmed by the fire threat of nearby vacant parcels thick with grasses and haole koa, he helped to start the Launiupoko Firewise Committee in 2015.

Greg Funderburk, National Park Service
- Agency Updates and Highlights (General Session 2)
- Field Workshop

  Greg Funderburk is the Fire Management Officer for the National Park Service’s Pacific Island network of parks and historic sites. He is based at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and frequently travels to the National Parks throughout the Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa. During his childhood, he developed a passion for outdoor activities and after graduating with degrees in Natural Resource Management and Geology from North Carolina State University, he moved west to access vast landscapes and abundant public land. He began his firefighting career in 1996 with the U.S. Forest Service on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah before moving to the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. He started working for the National Park Service in California’s Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks before transferring to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. His arrival in Hawai‘i coincided with the breakout of the Kilauea Mother’s Day lava
Greg Funderburk (cont’d)
flow, an event that lasted 15 months and ultimately burned 10,000 acres of native forest during 2002 and 2003. Greg departed Hawai‘i in 2007 to became the prescribed fire specialist at Arizona’s Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. He gained experience as a Fire Management Officer at Oregon’s Crater Lake National Park before returning to Hawai‘i in 2016. When he is not at work, Greg enjoys photography, surfing, snow skiing, and spending time with his wife and four dogs.

Jen Lawson, Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative
• Native Forest Restoration in Degraded, Fire-Prone Landscapes of West Hawaiʻi (Breakout Session A)

Jen Lawson is the Executive Director of the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Botany from Portland State University and has been working in endangered species conservation and natural resources management on Hawai‘i Island for the past nine years.

Jill Wagner, Hawai‘i Island Seed Bank; Future Forests Nursery, LLC
• Saving Seed for Wildfire Mitigation - Targeting Species for Dry Forest Mitigation, Expanding Fire Breaks, and Water Access (Breakout Session A)

Jill Wagner is a forest restorationist and horticulturist who specializes in native Hawaiian ecosystems. She grows plants for restoration projects in her nursery, Future Forests Nursery, LLC, and consults with large landowners on restoration and silviculture. She also specializes in garden design. She is the director of the Hawai‘i Island Seed Bank, HISB, which saves native seeds for future restoration and research. Partner landowners rent storage space to save their seed. The seed bank is currently saving Metrosideros polymorpha, ‘ō‘hia, seed to help mitigate Rapid ‘Ō‘hia Death and build a resource for the future. HISB also coordinates an on-going program with the Kohala Center and the Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative to sell locally adapted and grown vegetable seeds from farmers throughout the state.

Joseph Farias III, Hawai‘i Community College; Retired, Hawai‘i Fire Department
• Succession Planning: Leadership’s Next Step (Breakout Session D)
  • Field Workshop

Joseph Farias III is a recently retired Battalion Chief of Operations with the Hawai‘i Fire Department. He received his Bachelor of Science in Fire Service Administration from Waldorf College. He is currently an instructor for the Fire Science Program at the Hawai‘i Community College, an Adjunct Instructor with Kapiolani Community College and a member of the instructor cadre with the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Joseph lives in Kea‘au where he enjoys woodworking and playing music with his wife and two children.

Joseph Mafnas, Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resources Division
• Agency Updates & Highlights (General Session 2)

Joseph Mafnas serves as the current Chief Forester for Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Soil Resources Division.

Julia Rose, South Kohala Coastal Partnership
• Reducing Coastal Impacts through Collaboration: A Focus on South Kohala (Breakout Session B)
  • Field Workshop

Julia Rose was raised on Maui and holds a degree in marine science from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. She has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Division of Aquatic Resources, and now The Nature Conservancy in monitoring coral reef ecology and building cross-agency partnerships to reduce land-based impacts to our coral reefs. She currently coordinates the South Kohala Coastal Partnership, a collaborative working group focused on increasing the abundance and resilience of South Kohala’s nearshore resources.
Katie Lighthall, National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, Western Region
  • **Cross-Boundary Collaboration and the Co-Management of Risk - An All Lands, All Hands Approach** (General Session 2)

  *Katie Lighthall is the Coordinator for the Western Region of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy. The Western Region focuses specifically on facilitating implementation of the Cohesive Strategy in seventeen states including Hawai‘i and the Pacific Islands. Prior to joining the Cohesive Strategy effort, she spent eight years as the Director for Project Wildfire - a wildland fire mitigation partnership in Deschutes County, Oregon.*

Dr. Kim Falinski, The Nature Conservancy
  • **Tracking Post-Fire Sedimentation** (Breakout Session A)

  *Dr. Kim Falinski is a Marine Science Advisor at The Nature Conservancy. She provides technical and scientific support as a water quality expert for marine conservation initiatives, designs and implements scientific studies to help advance TNC’s threat-abatement and conservation management objectives, and works with communities on water quality objectives — including cess pool mitigation and watershed management for sediment reduction. She is interested in how sediment and erosion processes vary with different land management at the watershed scale and how that sediment is transported into the coastal zone. She is especially interested in how that works in tropical, mountainous places like Hawai‘i with volcanic soils. She received her Ph.D. in Tropical Plant and Soil Science at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.*

Lisa Chu-Thielbar, Kanehoa Firewise Community
  • **Firewise in Hawai‘i - Lessons Learned from Community Leaders** (General Session 2)

  *Lisa studied English and Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. Upon graduation, she moved to Japan where she began a career in teaching English. On her way to Japan via ship, she first set foot on the shores of Waikiki and instantly fell in love with Hawai‘i. After over two years in Japan, she returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue graduate studies in Journalism and Linguistics at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University. She then returned to Japan to teach and again stopped in Hawai‘i on her return, this time visiting the Big Island. In total, she taught English as a second language for twenty-three years in a variety of places including, not only Japan, but Mexico, New York, New Jersey and the California Bay Area. She married, raised two sons, worked privately as a science editor/consultant, principally to Stanford visiting scholars and began work at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California in 1995. She served as Education Outreach Coordinator for NASA's Lunar Prospector Mission to the moon (launch, January 1998), served as Multi-media Communications specialist for the NASA Ames Center Director and was on the Columbia Accident Investigation team in the areas of science communication and imaging. She received a NASA medal for her contribution to the investigation. She retired from NASA and moved to Hawai‘i in early 2012. She served as Board President of the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra for three years stepping down in 2017 to walk 450 miles in northern Spain to pursue a long held goal to walk the Camino de Santiago. She is busy planning her next Camino walk. She is a dedicated gardener. She joined the Kanehoa Firewise committee as soon as it was formed in 2015 and continues to work on that committee. In addition she is Vice President of the Kanehoa Home Owner’s Association.*

Malia Nanbara, State of Hawai‘i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
  • **Get Your Message Out! Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively Workshop** (Breakout Session C)

  *Malia Nanbara is the Statewide Service Forester for the State of Hawai‘i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. She works with the private landowner forestry assistance programs throughout the state including the Forest Stewardship Program, the Hawai‘i Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Forest Legacy Program.*
Mark Wasser, National Park Service

- **Field Workshop**
  
  *Mark Wasser is a Biologist with Natural Resources Management at Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. While working for the Park Service, Mark has served as wildland firefighter and also addressed post-fire management concerns with the Bare Area Restoration of Puʻukoholā National Historic Site. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and a Master of Science (2014) from U.H. Hilo in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science. He has worked at the National Park for six years and in conservation in Hawaiʻi for 10 years.*

Maylan Ackerman, Musician

- **Opening Pule and Aloha E (Opening - Day 1)**
  
  *Maylan Ackerman was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaiʻi. She is interested in sustainable living systems and being involved in environmental protection efforts locally and beyond the islands. She aims to cultivate awareness amongst the youth on the island as a way to influence the next generation of change-makers. Her music is a path into the creative to nourish creative thinking in herself and others and encourage people to see the beauty in life and to think outside of the box.*

Melissa Kunz, Hawaiʻi Wildfire Management Organization; Pacific Fire Exchange

- **Session Chair: Collaboration Strategies to Improve Effectiveness - Local to National Examples (Breakout Session B)**
- **PFX and HWMO Collaboration Lessons Learned (Breakout Session B)**
- **Forum: Next Steps for Hawaiʻi and the Pacific (Breakout Session D)**
  
  *Melissa Kunz works as the Coordination Assistant for the Pacific Fire Exchange. She helps to create and maintain the informational resources provided to PFX stakeholders, including the PFX website, fact sheets, and field trips. Born and raised on the Big Island, Melissa developed a love for nature and a desire to engage others in environmental appreciation and stewardship. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Earth Systems from Stanford University which combined her interests in human and environmental well-being.*

Mike Walker, State of Hawaiʻi, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

- **Agency Updates & Highlights (General Session 2)**
  
  *Mike Walker works for the State of Hawaiʻi, Division of Forestry and Wildlife as the State Fire Protection Forester. In this role he coordinates staff training, oversees grants including State Grant In Aid and the Volunteer Fire Assistant Grant, and serves as a wildland fire responder. He is from Florida, where lightning strikes are frequent and the native ecosystems highly adapted to wildland fire. He first became interested in wildfire while taking a fire ecology course at the University of Florida. Since moving to Hawaiʻi, he has adjusted to the lack of lightning and is continually improving his understanding of wildfire’s role in Hawaiʻi’s ecosystems. In his free time, he enjoys getting outside on both land and sea — surfing, SUPing, hiking and mountain biking.*

Niklas Lollo, UC Berkeley, Energy and Resources Group

- **HWMO WebApp: Building Capacity Through Data Visualization (Breakout Session B)**
  
  *Niklas Lollo is a 3rd year Ph.D. student in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley. He has researched behavior change for ethical consumption, factory worker wages, environmental governance in the clothing industry, product transparency, the social cost of carbon, and assisted citizen science efforts around air pollution from oil refineries. Niklas aims for real-world relevance through academic rigor, and he often works with partners outside academia.*
Pablo Beimler, Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization; Pacific Fire Exchange

- **Boundary Spanning: Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up Approaches** (Breakout Session B)
- **Firewise in Hawai‘i - Lessons Learned from Community Leaders** (General Session 2)
- **Field Workshop**

  Pablo Beimler works as Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization. As coordinator, Pablo focuses on developing outreach materials; managing HWMO’s web and social media presence; organizing and attending site visits; community and youth presentations, and ReadySetGo! workshops; and coordinating the statewide Firewise Communities Recognition Program in conjunction with State of Hawai‘i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. He attended the University of California, Berkeley to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Economics, a Bachelor of Science in Conservation and Resource Studies with a focus on Sustainable Urban Food Policy, and a Minor in Forestry. Prior to working for HWMO, Pablo spent two summers in South Lake Tahoe working as a Forestry Aide for CalFire, conducting defensible space inspections on homes and speaking to homeowners regarding wildfire risk reduction practices.

Pat Durland, Stone Creek Fire, LLC

- **Partnering to Reduce Wildfire Damage - “It’s NOT a Miracle or Luck!”** (Breakout Session B)

  Pat Durland is a nationally respected and internationally known expert in wildfire mitigation with decades of experience. His credits include the development of the Firewise program and the National Fire Protection Association wildfire training. He is dedicated to assisting stakeholders in ‘understanding and acting’ to eliminate wildfire losses.

Peter Hackstedde, Puakō Community Association

- **Field Workshop**

  Peter Hackstedde serves as the Puakō Community Association President and is on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at Hawai‘i Wildfire Management Organization. Peter’s interest and involvement in wildfire prevention resulted from a large fire that threatened the lives and homes of his community in Puakō, Hawai‘i. Peter took the County fire department’s recommendations after the fire seriously and has worked hard to create and maintain the major fuel break that protects Puakō, a community that has recently undergone the certification process to become one of Hawai‘i’s eleven nationally-recognized Firewise Communities.

Porfirio Chavarria, Santa Fe Fire Department

- **Get Action! Communicating Wildfire Hazards** (Breakout Session D)

  Porfirio Chavarria serves the City of Santa Fe Fire Department in Santa Fe, New Mexico as the Wildland Urban Interface Specialist. He began his career in wildland firefighting in 1998 on a Bureau of Indian Affairs handcrew. In 2001, Porfirio began working for the Santa Clara Pueblo tribal forestry as a forestry technician. The tribe was recovering from the devastating Cerro Grande fire which burned over 200 homes in Los Alamos and 8,000 acres on tribal land. In 2005, Porfirio joined the Santa Fe Fire Department and began implementing fuels reduction projects, wildfire assessment rankings, and in 2010 hired a ten person fire and fuels crew. Porfirio is currently involved with the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Fire Department Exchange Steering group, and the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition to create fire-adapted communities in Santa Fe through networking and building personal relationships.

Rhonda Loh, National Park Service

- **Approaches to Fire Management at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park** (Breakout Session A)

  Rhonda Loh, Chief of Natural Resources Management at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, received her Master’s degree in Chemistry from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in Botany from University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Rhonda began her work with the Park Service in 1989 as a volunteer biologist for Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. She currently leads the Division of Natural Resources Management in the Park.
Rhonda Loh (cont’d)

Involvement in wildland fire there started in 1992, where she served as a type II wildland firefighter and fire monitor, and later as a fire ecologist and resources advisor.

Rick Gmirkin, National Park Service

- **Field Workshop**

  Rick Gmirkin is the Community Archeologist for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, where he has worked for the last ten years, and has worked for the National Park Service for over twenty-two years. During his time with NPS, he has worked at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, and assisted National Parks on Maui and Moloka’i. He has served as a Red Card Firefighter, Resource Advisor and Blue Card Scuba Diver for National Parks in Hawai’i. He currently works with Community, State, and County partners to preserve and protect ancient and historic trails as well as the landscapes they pass through. When he is not at work, he enjoys fishing and hiking.

Rob Galbraith, USAA

- **Preparing for Disaster: An Insurance Perspective (Breakout Session D)**

  Rob Galbraith is a Director of Underwriting Research at USAA where he leads a high-performing team of professionals focused on writing profitable risks in catastrophe-prone areas of the U.S. His team uses innovative technology, advanced analytics, the latest in science and social psychology, and a multitude of partnerships to offer property insurance to as many members as possible while maintaining USAA’s capital and financial ratings. His passion involves finding efficient ways to provide insurance products to all who have a need through innovative approaches, building strong relationships with a wide variety of people from a variety of disciplines, and educating customers on the risks they face while inspiring them to take action to strengthen their resilience. Rob has over twenty years of experience in the financial services industry in a variety of positions with USAA, Citigroup, and the Federal Reserve Board. He holds a Master of Science in Insurance Management from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Michigan State University.

Ryan Peralta, State of Hawai’i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

- **Implementation of the Wai’anae Kai Watershed Assessment: Fire, Water & Forest Health Improvement (Breakout Session A)**

  Ryan Peralta started working with State of Hawai’i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife in 1993 when he was a volunteer for the trails crew for two summers in high school. His next work experience was in 1999 when he was an intern for Nā Ala Hele for one summer in college. After graduating from Colorado State University, he became the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai’i Trails Technician and State Civil Servant. He has since served DOFAW as the Service Forester on the Big Island, Protection Forester on O’ahu and the Forest Management Supervisor I on O’ahu, which is his current position. A multi-use strategy is the emphasis for his management of the Forest Reserves on O’ahu. He believes that public recreation, education, native forest and threatened and endangered species protection, fire management, forest products, nursery production, invasive species control and infrastructure maintenance are all important aspects of forest reserve management that need to be addressed and balanced accordingly.

Sheri Mann, State of Hawai’i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

- **Koke’e Timber Management Area Fuel Reduction and Post-Fire Small Scale Eucalyptus/Pine to Koa Restoration Projects (Breakout Session A)**

  Sheri Mann received her Master’s Degree in Forestry at Northern Arizona University and her Bachelor’s Degree in Academic Psychology at the University of Tennessee. She has also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer doing agroforestry and drinking water well installation in West Africa. Since 2004, she has worked for the State of Hawai’i, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. She served her first eight years as the State Cooperative Resource Management Forester followed by two years as the State Forestry Program Manager. She is two years in to her current position as the Kaua’i District Manager.
Dr. Steve Quarles, Institute of Insurance Business and Home Safety

- **Keynote: Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas – Prepare Now (Opening - Day 2)**
  
  Dr. Steve Quarles joined the IBHS Research Center team in 2011. He assists with research using his expertise on building performance with regard to wildfire and moisture exposures. Prior to joining IBHS, he worked for the University of California as a cooperative extension advisor where he addressed durability and in-service performance issues of wood-framed buildings, particularly those subjected to wildfires. During 2007 and 2008, he worked part-time for the California Office of the State Fire Marshal where he developed, coordinated and served as an instructor for the educational program related to the Wildland Urban Interface (wildfire) Building Code and Standards.

Tom Welle, National Fire Protection Association

- **NFPA and Wildfire-National Efforts-Local Results (General Session 2)**
- **NFPA Wildfire Related Codes and Standards (Breakout Session D)**

Tom Welle is the Manager of National Fire Protection Association’s Denver Field Office. NFPA is a global nonprofit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. Firewise USA™ is an NFPA program that teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. He is a former structural and wildland Fire Captain and a former Open Space Ranger Supervisor.