HAWAII PSW and PNW SPRING FORUM 2024 **By: Shawna Alvarado**

DATE: MAY 8TH – MAY 10TH

WHERE: ALA MOANA HOTEL, OAHU, HAWAII

12 MEMBERS, 1 NON VOTING MEMBER = 13

Wednesday May 8th, we arrived to beautiful Hawaii! Just going through the airport is full of sunshine and fresh air! I love that we had 13 members in attendance! That is a great number since this was not exactly in our backyard and I think every member thoroughly enjoyed attending this Forum!

We checked into our room, and then headed straight to the registration table to check in for the conference! We also went to the Garden Lanai room which hosted all the tables for chapter sales! This is the time that we all buy our raffle tickets, and items from other chapters. Also a time to thank the forum sponsors who have tables of information.

We had a little bit of free time in between our 1st start of meetings, so we walked next door literally which was the amazing outdoor mall! We grabbed a quick bite to eat and enjoyed a sodapop in the fresh air!

1st Meeting: B.R.A.V.E TALK WITH JULIE SALINAS

She shared her story on being Clean and sober and her struggles that she overcame to become the remarkable women she is today!

Afterwards we then attended the welcome party with yummy food and played some games. A great networking bingo game to get to know other members in attendance.

THURSDAY was Day 2 of a full day of business and speakers!

Started with breakfast and an Oli which is a Hawaiian Chat that opened up our Forum officially! Then a warm welcome speech from the Mayor of Oahu. , which she was very informative about the island and all for the women in construction and applaud all their hard work and breaking barriers.

The keynote morning speaker was phenomenal! As I listened to Christine (Camp) and her overcoming adversity of accomplishing so much.. I was simple in awe! She's developed so many homes and has given so many people the opportunity to live stress free and live in affordable housing all over the island. She is very well known around the island for her work ethics and continues to help people who are less fortunate to have a home. So inspiring and so thankful for all her work on just being such an honest and trustworthy person! I truly wish this was recorded so you all could hear her story!!!

We had a very short business meeting, and then had a break before lunch! I was selling raffle tickets for NFSF so I was very busy in between breaks, etc so I can sell as many as I can!

OMG—Misha was our lunchtime motivation speaker! She was asked kinda on the sport since the other speaker did not show up… but she killed it as always sharing "Her Story".! She always has something inspiring to share and I love seeing her shine!

Afternoon panel called "Isolated Realities: cultural and logistical project challenges". This was focused on Hawaii and Alaska and how weather conditions and imports of material/machines play a big part of the work routine. The rules of sacred grounds being worked on and all the rules they have to follow with that.

We were lucky to have a bunch of national candidates attending our Forum! They all gave a 2 minute info on why they are running and would like our vote! We then ended the day and we went to dinner with Pam who is our sales representative from Action.

DAY 3 – FRIDAY

Started the day with starbucks in the hotel, and then off to sell raffle tickets! We had some joint business matters-- which was a welcome to annual conference, presidents report and a membership report. Tammy gave a national look into the membership and how we need to retain our members. Most member only stay in NAWIC about 5 years.. so the question is "why?".

After we had an excellent panel discussion on "Working mothers and caregivers" how they balance work and motherhood, the obstacles they over came and challenges they face. I was fortunate enough to be asked to be part of this panel.

Our lunchtime speaker was great! What's your "superpower". She had asked that everyone fill out something prior to attending to find what sign you are… I think I was wood and fire.

We then went to our own regions for regional business. I gave out some membership awards, we heard from most of the committees, and heard reports on what is happening on the national level. Director Charis does a great job!!

Banquet was super fun and entertaining! My husband and the rest of my kids showed up as we are spending a few extra days in Hawaii. Everyone was dressed up in aloha attire and we danced the night away!!

The was the 1st joint conference between PSW and PNW and it was GREAT!!! The Honolulu Chapter outdid themselves and everything was perfect!!!

Thank you Chapter 99 for supporting your members to attend this great conference!