AIA HONOLULU ANNOUNCES 2019 OFFICERS OF THE BOARD; FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY IN 2019

Establishes Design for Risk and Resiliency Committee to address the issue of climate change and its impact on the built environment

**MEDIA: Click here for high-res photos of the AIA Honolulu Officers of the Board**

HONOLULU – www.aiahonolulu.org – AIA Honolulu today announced its 2019 Board of Directors Executive Committee as follows:

- **President Joe Ferraro, FAIA, LEED AP**, Principal at Ferraro Choi and Associates;
- **Vice President Purnima McCutcheon, AIA, CDT, LEED AP BD+C**, Senior Project Manager at Oceanwide Resorts;
- **Treasurer Sean Baumes, AIA, LEED AG**, Senior Associate at WCIT Architecture, and
- **Secretary Jen Toba-Davila, AIA, LEED AP**, Senior Architectural Designer at Philpotts Interiors.

“Hawaii is intimately aware that severe weather and sea level rise are impacting our built environment, and therefore it’s critical we establish the Design for Risk and Resiliency committee,” said AIA Honolulu President Joe Ferraro, FAIA, LEED AP, Principal at Ferraro Choi and Associates.

“I’ve worked in Antarctica, so I follow climate change closely; the ice is melting much faster than expected. Global warming and sea level rise are changing at a greater rate than scientists initially projected. We will get through it – but will our kids and grandkids? Last October the AIA national president visited Hawaii, and noted how urgent it is to change our habits immediately... the way we work, teach and, of course, the way we design. We have to act NOW. I’m not overstating this issue. And we as architects need to lead the charge in changing the world. Given our island state is especially vulnerable, Hawaii architects in particular will play a pivotal role in the global response. This committee is one important step.”

The AIA Honolulu Design for Risk and Resiliency Committee (DfRR), led by board member Hale Takazawa, AIA, is tasked with:

- identifying disaster recovery solutions for both the long and short term;
- involving others from the building trade organizations to comprehensive regional planning groups, and
- building programs and partnerships to share these solutions to protect the health, safety, welfare and beauty of our communities.
In addition to this new committee and a formalized sponsorship committee, AIA Honolulu consists of two dozen committees who strive to meet the needs of its members and in doing so to shape the island communities through good design. This industry organization views thoughtful planning and collaborative leadership as critical to shared success for all architects.

“AIA Honolulu has been an integral part of Hawaii design since 1926, and this executive team and new board of directors is planning to tackle some very important issues facing the state with its focus on sustainability,” said AIA Honolulu Executive Vice President Jacy Youn. “In addition, AIA Honolulu plans to expand our community outreach through a new Lego design competition with the Department of Education, continue the annual CANstruction event benefiting the Hawaii Foodbank but in new location this year, continue the AIA downtown walking tours and prepare an amazing Architecture Month experience in April for both industry professionals and the public.”

In addition to the new executive team, the AIA board of directors includes:

- Deirdre Stearns, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Associate with AHL
- Aki Yoshida, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Project Manager with InForm Design, Inc.
- Richard Furst, AIA, Senior Associate with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc
- Todd Hassler, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, Senior Associate/Project Architect with Peter Vincent Architects
- Chretien Macutay, AIA, Associate and Project Architect with G70
- Jennifer Poepoe, AIA, Project Architect with WRNS Studio
- Hale Takazawa, AIA, NCARB, Architect with Hale Takazawa
- Kevin Wilcock, AIA, LEED AP, Principal Architect with RIM Architects
- John Hetherington, AIA, Principal Architect with Hetherington Architecture LLC
- Henry Schneider IV, Assoc. AIA, AIAS, Project Manager with Trinity ERD
- Danielle Yafuso, Assoc. AIA, Vice President and Branch Properties Manager with First Hawaiian Bank
- Larry Heim, President with HONBLUE
- Jennifer Pang, President with Pang Communications

Ex-Officio members
- Geoff Lewis, AIA, Geoffrey Lewis Architects
- Jacy L. Youn, Executive Vice President, AIA Honolulu
- Bill Brizee, AHL

About AIA Honolulu
Since 1926, the AIA Honolulu has served its membership and the community by promoting design excellence in Hawaii’s built environment. Its continuing education programs promote leadership and professionalism among its membership of ~850 architects and allied building professionals, and educate the public about architecture and the value of quality design.

The Center for Architecture is a gathering place to engage both professionals and members of the broader community in dialogue to shape attractive and sustainable public spaces and neighborhoods.

For 160 years, members of The American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their
communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.

Visit www.aiahonolulu.org for more.

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MEDIA: Click here for high-res photos of the AIA Honolulu Officers of the Board. For more information or an interview with any board member, please contact Jennifer Pang at 808.371.2882, jennifer@pangcomm.com.