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Jan. 2018: Hawaii's largest tech job fair, AGathon provides solutions, Mana Up selects 10 local companies, and more...

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## From Robbie's Laptop

For the local tech industry, 2017 was an eventful year. The momentum continued up to the year's end, with more than 300 job seekers attending our 18th Annual Holiday Tech Job Fair on Dec. 28 to explore career opportunities with local companies looking to hire local tech and STEM talent. Building off that energy, we're excited about everything planned by HTDC for 2018. January is already off to a great start with events and activities, including Hawaii's first-ever AGathon, where we were thrilled to see 10 teams offer tech solutions to challenges facing the state's agriculture sector. There's certain to be plenty of excitement in 2018!



Stay inspired & keep moving forward,

Robbie Melton  
*Executive Director and CEO*



## Noteworthy

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## Hawaii's first agriculture-tech hackathon provides solutions to challenges facing Hawaii agriculture

The AGathon, Hawaii's first agriculture-tech hackathon, wrapped up over the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, with 10 teams participating to develop tech-based solutions for problems rooted in Hawaii agriculture.

In first place, the Harvest Vision team took home \$3,000 for their high-tech solution for better coffee harvesting using an artificial intelligence camera and real-time data. Kauai Coffee Company General Manager Fred Cowell said he would pursue rapid prototyping to begin system implementation with the fall harvest, which could increase the value of his coffee fruit yield by nearly \$250,000 per year.

Farm Safe took home second place and \$2,000 for their digital app that helps non-English speaking farmers access information and educational resources in their native languages.

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help farmers enter information about their business and production, so any quality problems can be traced to the exact source, improving food safety and avoiding delays in detecting and correcting problems.

## HTDC hosts Hawaii's largest tech job fair to connect talented kamaaina, local tech companies



HTDC's 18th Annual Holiday Tech Job Fair, held on Dec. 28 at the Japanese Cultural Center, was the largest tech job fair in Hawaii. Nearly 50 local tech companies looking to fill positions connected with an estimated 300 talented job seekers, students and recent graduates.

There were free resume evaluations and professional headshots. New this year, Microsoft provided laptops for attendees to do on-the-spot resume updates. The event was sponsored by Bank of Hawaii, Alakai Executive Search, DSA Inc., Ansaldo Honolulu (a Hitachi joint venture), University of Hawaii ITS and the Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association.



## Investing In Hawaii

### Holiday Tech Job Fair leads to career at Ansaldo, opportunity for kamaaina to come home

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Macha recruited for Ansaldo Honolulu Joint Venture at the 2017 Holiday Tech Job Fair. Because of his personal experience, Macha decided to take time out of his holiday vacation and recruit local talent. Two years prior, Macha attended the fair seeking employment that could bring him back to Hawaii after spending nine years away, working for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona.

“There was never a great opportunity for me back home in Hawaii, until now,” Macha said. “Jobs were not available for my skillset and the pay was always low.”

Leaving behind his resume at the 2015 fair, Ansaldo contacted Macha in early 2017 when a position opened that matched his qualifications. Macha now works as a deputy systems manager at Ansaldo.

The job fair opened Macha’s eyes to the opportunities at local tech companies. Macha was eager to man the Ansaldo booth at the 2017 Holiday Tech Job Fair and seek kamaaina to work on the first driverless train in the U.S. on the biggest capital improvement project in state history.

“I felt a personal obligation to give the same type of opportunity to kamaaina who want to come home,” Macha said. “I know how it feels to be away from the Islands.”



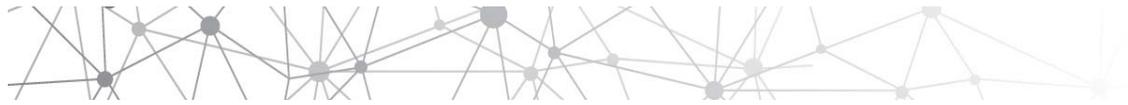
## Did You Know?

Mana Up selected 10 local companies, out of 85 applicants, to participate in the first Hawaii-based product accelerator. These include Hawaiian Pie Company, Hawaiian Rainbow Bees, Hawaiian Vanilla Company, Kunoa Cattle Company, Mamalani, Manoa Chocolate, Manulele Distillers, Monkeypod Jam, The Tea Chest, and Voyaging Foods.

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The Hawaii State Legislature kicked off on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Sign up to receive updates on important tech-related bills by registering [here](#).

Coworking space is available at the Manoa Innovation Center. Interested? Contact [francisco@htdc.org](mailto:francisco@htdc.org).



## In The News

[State invites tech, ag enthusiasts to compete in AGathon](#)

[Hawaii's first AGathon: Agriculture & Technology Hackathon](#)

[Mana Up Aims to Turn Small Local Companies into Global Brands](#)

[Hackathon for Hawaii agriculture yields valuable crop](#)

[Kauai Coffee to implement tech developed from Hawaii's first agriculture hackathon](#)



## Connections

Jan. 24 // [Fireside Chat with Venture Capitalist John Frankel](#)

Jan. 24 // [SBIR & STTR Grant Proposal Workshop](#)

Jan. 31 // [#WetWareWed by Arsenal Venture Partners featuring Mana Up](#)

Jan. 31 // [Starting Your Business: Legal Issues to Consider Seminar](#)

Feb. 1-2 // [East Meets West 2018](#)

Feb. 7 // [Timeless Principles for Exceptional Businesses: Roundtable Discussion](#)

March 1 // [Celebrating 30 Years - HVCA Deal & Entrepreneur of the Year Awards](#)



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