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**PBX Hawai'i was launched in 2020 by CSI Honolulu Chapter with a vision to build an annual expo into an all-inclusive event that brings together professionals from all AECO sectors, from architects and engineers to contractors and owners. In 2024, CSI Honolulu, AIA Honolulu, and GCA of Hawaii formed a joint venture, combining the strengths of these three leading organizations to produce PBX Hawai'i, the state's premier trade show for the construction and design industries.**



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# TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

## Reducing Our Carbon Footprint with Tile: Part 2 Introduction to Material Transparency

by **Scott Conwell**, FAIA, FCSI, LEED AP, Director of Industry Development  
International Masonry Institute

One way building product manufacturers demonstrate the environmental impacts of their products is to report what goes into their materials and how toxic those ingredients are. This reporting must be transparent, it must be accurate, and it should follow a standardized format so specifiers can make well-informed decisions on material selection. Because the ingredients that go into ceramic tiles are natural and environmentally friendly, material ingredient reports typically favor tile over other materials.

TCAH tile contractors should have a basic understanding of material ingredient reporting and the importance of transparency so they can communicate the sustainable benefits of tile to their customers, clients, and stakeholders. This article is the second in a 6-part series about the many ways ceramic tile contributes to sustainable project goals by... just being tile.

Click here for a short video clip about building material transparency: <https://youtu.be/NmvrCapMfmQ>

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has a good definition of building material transparency on their website: “Manufacturers disclosing the environmental, health, and social impacts of their products.” When design professionals really understand what goes into a particular building material, they can make educated decisions about what materials to specify.

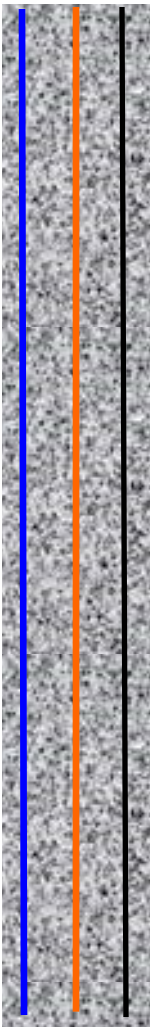
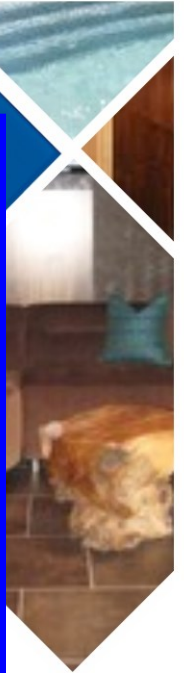
Material transparency is the foundation of a new document published by the Tile Council of North America (TCNA), the Material Ingredient Guide. The Material Ingredient Guide lists four steps to transparency: inventory, screening & assessing, disclosing, and optimizing. In producing this guide, TCNA collaborated with seventeen manufacturers of tile, setting materials, and grouts, gathering detailed information about the makeup of their products. The guide can be downloaded at <https://whytile.com/library/material-ingredient-guide/>



Transparency in disclosing building ingredients keeps manufacturers accountable. Tools like the Material Ingredient Guide help unify and standardize the reporting process required in sustainable rating systems like LEED. LEED v4's Building Product Disclosure and Optimization (BPDO) credits provide incentives for material ingredient reporting, acknowledging that such reporting can ultimately lead to carbon reduction.

Click here for a short video clip introducing the Material Ingredient Guide and showing an example of how material ingredient reporting contributes to LEED credits, and ultimately to the carbon reduction that goes along with using natural materials like tile and stone: <https://youtu.be/nlO9mKc1XYE>

Next issue's column will examine the four parts to building material transparency: Inventory, screen & assess, disclose, and optimize, and how a greater level of transparency gives tile a competitive edge.



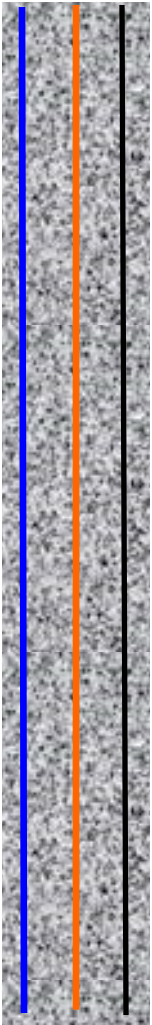


## TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

### Makena Kao Resort HydroFlo 100% Permeable Pavers from Evergreen by Debra

Here are some photos showcasing the project completed at the Makena Kao Resort on Maui, featuring HydroFlo 100% Permeable Pavers supplied by Evergreen by Debra. Please see additional photos at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/i6sylvmdq77frd0iopm40a/Makena-Photos-Resort-HydroFlo-Pavers-2023.pdf?rlkey=1c3m9elbs5jlf4s7rm9fgn7&dl=0>





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Probably the most important national discussion for construction, and construction materials, is reducing embodied carbon (EC). The Tile Council of North America (TCNA) continues their efforts to make sure that ceramic tile is shown to be an outstanding product that really does compete well with other building products. In fact, TCNA is gathering with all stakeholders in the flooring industry, nationwide, for a Sustainability Summit in Washington, DC July 17-18. TCAA, along with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC).



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# TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

## 2024 Legislative Report

**During the 2024 Hawaii Legislative Session, 23 bills have been signed into law by the Governor to date and 237 more of 2,722 bills passed. Governor Green's veto deadline is July 11, 2024.**

### **Bills that passed pertaining to the construction industry:**

HB1633 Removes restriction on the Owner - builder provision in the license law to allow an unlicensed contractor builder to construct a home even if he intends to lease it. Current law is that the exemption from a license is only applied if they are going to use the home for their own family. Based on the housing shortage, this law passed.

SB3202 Multi-family on one lot and can allow two additional units.

HB2090 Allows developers to convert commercial buildings to residential such as the Davies Pacific Building.

SB2919 Vacation rentals will be phasing out.

SB2715 Political Speech - employees are not required to listen to an employer's political views and cannot say anything regarding joining a union.

A GCA bill did finally pass this year to reform the protest bond law to allow for a refund of the bond, minus administrative costs, if you win your protest.

Governor Green made an Executive Order after July 1<sup>st</sup> whereby a state job over \$1.5 million must be done by a union company.

Please go to <https://www.tilehawaii.com/> for the full legislative report.

### **Did Not Pass:**

Unlicensed contractors. A bill was in to increase the penalty for unlicensed activity to \$10,000 for unlicensed actions in disaster areas. Current penalty is maxed at \$5000 but can go higher if the customer is elderly.

Right to Repair. All residential contract must have the Right to Repair language in the contract. Apparently, some projects are being held up over the provisions of this law and accompanying law suits.

Construction Waste. Bill to require recycling and another to give bidders a preference if they used recyclable materials.

County Labor Standards. Would have allowed the county to enforce state labor law including suspending or canceling a building permit. The bill made no reference to the severity of the labor law violation.

Family leave. Versions include one to have the employee and employer pay and another for only the employer to pick up the expense. If this were law, employers with a collectively bargained pension plan for some or all of its employees, should be exempt.

State Retirement Plan. Passed in 2023 but the error on the part of AARP was to require the employee to opt in. This would have said if the employee is not covered by a plan, then they are automatically in unless they opt out.

Estate tax relief for family owned business. Lessen the tax load for transfer of the assets.

Bill to increase the small purchase threshold for applying the Code from the current \$25,000 to \$50,000. Even small purchases should be treated fairly.

Building Code. A bill to increase the adoption cycle to every 6 years instead of 3. Further, to allow the Counties to adopt their own version (four county codes). FEMA money would not get distributed with a 6 year code as they said it would not be current.