

During Women's History Month in March, we would like to celebrate women's contribution to history, culture, and society. At Grace Pacific, we are a proud supporter of organizations like NAWIC – National Association of Women in Construction, WofA – Women of Asphalt and GP Diversity and Inclusion Group. Organizations that recognize women as an essential component of the construction industry and emphasize the growing role of women in the industry.

In celebration, we want to recognize and applaud all women throughout the field and spotlight a few women who have a successful career in the Grace Pacific family of companies.



**Evelyn Kitchens**  
Quality Control Technicians for Grace Pacific for 1.5 years.

**Manager's comment:**

Evelyn has been an asset to the quality control department in her short time here. She is a hard and dedicated worker who learns very quickly. She can perform a variety of QA / QC testing at the quarry, asphalt plant, and in the field. She is very organized, detail orientated, and most of all dependable. She will be greatly missed when she and her husband are redeployed back to the mainland at the end of the year.

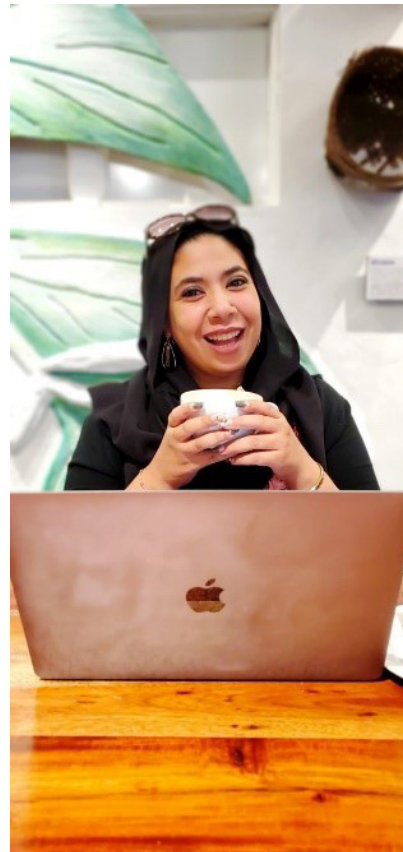
**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** I was a bagpiper for hire. I wore traditional highland attire and booked gigs at weddings, festivals, funerals, pubs, and St. Patty's day parties.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace Pacific?** Margaret D'Entremont. She does it all!

**How do you balance your career and family?** At work, I give every task at hand my full attention. When I am home, I'm intentional about being present.

**If you could meet anyone who would it be?** Elon Musk. Elon is one of the most revolutionary innovators of our time and I would like to pick his brain about his vision for the future. I'd like to think some of his imagination might rub off on me. I'm particularly interested in his pursuits in artificial intelligence and the colonization of Mars.

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?** I would love to learn more languages, especially Spanish and French. My husband and I want to travel internationally, and we would like to be able to integrate with local communities. There's a lot of music, books, and culture that is best experienced in their native language.



**Shereen El-Kadi**  
contracts Administrator for GPRS for 1.5 years

**Manager's comment:** Shereen has been under my supervision for only 8 months of her 1.5 years with GPRS, prior to that we were colleagues working together in the same department.

During the 8 months since, Shereen has grown and taken on majority of the tasks required of her position, she does it well with high quality work and teamwork.

**Most interesting job before Grace Pacific?** Owning my own business. I make

handmade jewelry, and probably the most unusual/interesting thing was having a photographer feature my zodiac charm necklaces in zodiac-themed boudoir photo shoots. No, I didn't participate lol.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace Pacific?** I would probably want to be a project engineer. It's nice being able to blend field work with office work, and see projects come to fruition.

**How do you balance your career and family?** Although I take my laptop home with me every day, I refuse to touch it unless it's during work hours (I'll admit it's tempting to work at odd hours though). That's the boundary I've create d between work life and home life.

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?** Metalsmithing.

**What would you do if you weren't doing this?** I would be running my jewelry business full time.





## Lani Fukunaga

Contract Administrator for Grace Pacific for 18 years.

**Manager's comment:** Lani Fukunaga started in the GP paving department assisting with billings and timecards and later with contract administration. Very approachable, she quickly became the go-to person for the office and field workers. Everybody knows they can count on Lani to get the job

done.

**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** While working for a Japanese travel agency for 17 years in the arrangements department, we needed to prepare an itinerary for all our customers from arrival until departure in Hawaii. It made me push myself to use my Japanese speaking background to have a conversation with our customers. One day while we were going to lunch across the street and had to take the elevator to the place where we were going to have lunch, there were a bunch of ladies in the elevator, and they were speaking Japanese. We were dressed in casual tops, slacks, and sandals. They had said in Japanese “konno shito no kakko hazukashiku nai?” which means “Aren't these people embarrassed by how they are dressed?” Little did they know we understood what they said. I replied “Hawaii no shito doresu kajuaru. Nudo ga hazukashi desu”. Which means “In Hawaii people dress casual, if we were nude then it will be embarrassing”. The look on their faces were “priceless”.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace?** I would decline that offer. I enjoy where I am at, still a lot more things to learn.

**How do you balance career and family?** With the support of my Mom, Dad, and my sister Val. You do what you got to do – somehow it will work out.

**If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?** My Dad - Retired CMSGT Air Force & US Postal Service he was strong, stern, and to me “scary”! He would call my name & I would start crying! Nothing happened yet and I would be sobbing. He was very sharp & organized. In his Air Force days, during the holidays, some service members didn't have family where we were stationed. He would invite them over to our house to celebrate. Our house has always been the gathering place. He made sure my sister and I were very independent. If it's difficult, solve it – don't give up –

give it all you got.

**What would you do if you weren't doing this?** Veterinarian. I love all animals (especially dogs).



## Jennifer Garma

Contracts Administration Supervisor GPRS for 3 years.

**Manager's comment:** Jennifer Garma started with GPRS as a fencing coordinator in April 2019. In February 2020, she transferred to the Contracts Administration Department and by April 2021 and through commitment and a strong work ethic, she was promoted to Supervisor.

### Most interesting job before

**Grace Pacific?** Before Grace Pacific, I would have to say that the most interesting job I've had was running our own Soft Tip Dart business for almost 7 years. We were the first operators in Hawaii to bring the Phoenix online dart boards to the islands of Oahu & Maui to various bars on the islands.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace Pacific?** Personally, I wouldn't want to 'switch' my job with anyone else as I actually love what I do. But what I would be interested in doing is having a program where we would be allowed to 'Live a day in the life of...' and experience what some of our field workers do.

### How do you balance your career and family?

Balancing career and family have always been challenging for me. My family consists of 6 children, our oldest is 24 and our youngest are 15-year-old twins. I call it 'organized chaos' in dealing with the ever-changing schedules, demands and challenges but I am grateful for parents that were always there to help where they can and somehow, we manage the chaos.

**If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?** Early on in my career, my mentor was my service operations manager at Pacific Machinery now Hawthorne Pacific where I worked in the heavy equipment & engine departments, my time in the construction industry goes back 20+ years. Had it not been for him, I would have become a high school teacher, he is the reason I stayed on this path and his actions as a manager guided me into becoming the worker I am today.

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?** Honestly, operate heavy machinery. During my time with Pacific Machinery/Hawthorne Pacific I got to see a lot of the equipment that we serviced; in and out of the field

and I was always intrigued by these huge machines and what they did.



### **Lori Tamayose**

Traffic Control Supervisor GPRS for 5 years.

#### **Manager's**

**comment:** Lori has been an accountable employee, assisting both myself and customers. She has excelled from a flagger to a traffic control supervisor.

She has gone above and beyond her job description to assist in all areas.

**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** Crane Eye Care as a dispensing optician.

**If you could switch your job with anyone else within Grace?** Nobody's, I love being a traffic technician - keeping everyone safe.

**How do you balance your career and family?** Day by day. I'm lucky to have a better half that picks up the slack when we are extremely busy.

**If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?** I already have the pleasure of having Leticia Saio as my boss and mentor.

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?** Heavy equipment operator.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace Pacific?** I think what Ann Boughen does is really interesting, working part admin and part IT, and interacting with other departments.

**How do you balance your career and family?** I try to stay within the working hours because I should be spending time with my kiddo, and with my current role I have been able to have that career/life balance. And coffee...lots of it!

**If you could meet anyone, who would it be?** Patrick Stuart, he's an actor and my introduction to him was through Star Trek, in case you didn't know, he is the captain of the Enterprise.

**What would you do if you weren't doing this?** I would probably go into IT because its interesting!



### **Leticia (Lei) Saio**

Operations Supervisor GPRS for 17 years.

**Manager's Comment:** I don't work directly with Lei, but I wanted to highlight her exemplary care for her co-workers and the community on Kauai. In March 2021, Hanalei Hill had a major landslide and collapsed due to the heavy rain in the area, access to Kuhio Highway

(Route 560) past Mile Marker 1 leading to Hanalei Bridge was cut off. When the hills collapsed, 3 of the traffic control men of GPRS got stuck on the other side of the town with no food, clothes, or shelter. Lei leaped into action, she called the employees families and began to coordinate with vendors she knew and the community (including calling the radio station) to make sure that the GPRS crew were cared for and had the means to remain safe in place for 2 weeks.

**Most interesting job before Grace Pacific?** I was a librarian; it was quiet!

**If you could switch jobs with anyone within Grace Pacific?** I would switch with a traffic control tech personnel. I like the physical aspect of the work.

**How do you balance your career and family?** This is a moving target for me, but I'm learning to balance my career and family. My family would probably say hurry up and figure this out because it seems my career tends to override them.

**If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?** Jesus and my son, Mason. My son passed



### **Ki'i Futrell**

Human Resources Coordinator Grace Pacific for 2 years.

#### **Manager's comment:**

Ki'i plays an integral part of the Grace Pacific family of companies in recruiting and attracting top talent, she has filled

multiple key positions and has built a strong repertoire within the organization with her delightful personality that shines through to everyone she comes in to contact with.

**Most interesting job before Grace Pacific?** Tennessee Retina, the job that I had there was so interesting learning everything about the eyeball.

away in 2013, I would love to see him again and see his smile and hear his voice.

**What would you be doing if you weren't doing this?** I would be a drug abuse counselor.



**Liana Bisch**  
Outside Sales  
Representative Unistrut  
Hawaii for 3.2 years.

**Manager's comment:**  
Liana has contributed to the success of the department through her position as Outside

Sales Representative with her follow through in meeting customer requirements in all phases of the sales process from defining/refining customer needs, product research and sourcing, quotations, delivery, billing, and collections in a professional and timely manner that brings results to customers and the company alike. She is willing to be a team member by sharing knowledge and experience with staff as well as being able to learn and incorporate into her performance the experience and knowledge of others.

**Interesting job before Grace?** When I was self-employed as a business consultant and had several clients on Guam in which I grew their businesses over 400% in profit. The challenge was the limited resources I had for immediate use in Guam, so it was about getting creative with whatever was available for immediate use for store displays, fixtures, and general store design. I'd often have to look at second-hand shops, garage sales, etc. and re-create existing items with paint and alterations to make them work...but to see everything come together and sales/businesses flourish and clients happy was truly rewarding.

I enjoy my job at Grace Pacific as an outside sales rep for Unistrut Hawaii very much. However, if I could perhaps "SHADOW" anyone in the company – it would be Jerrod Schreck. I'd like to observe and learn from a leader that carries the responsibility of the entire company on his shoulders. His solution-based leadership and his compassion for the employees especially during times of uncertainty makes him a great mentor to me.

Balancing career and family have been a struggle for me in all my professions – especially when I was a high-level manager, and the demands of the job were grand. The best thing I found helpful is to REALLY take the time to listen to my kids and stay engaged with whatever they were sharing with me or involved in. Staying organized

and penciling in important family events, kids' sports, or one-on-one time was another helpful tool – and as dated as it may seem to many today (most taking advantage of new apps and the technology today at our fingertips!), for myself, using a physical calendar / planner that I write in really helps me to carve out time for the family and to keep priorities in order.

If I could learn to do anything, it would be to read sheet music and play the piano as I did when I was a kid. Growing up, I played the piano for years reading sheet music and was able to pick up a piece and play it – but it's been long forgotten, and I want to get it back!

If I could do any career that is not my current job, it would be to design workspaces and closets. Through the pandemic, with so many people working remote, many people did not have the proper workspaces for their entire family to be working from home, attending virtual school, and such. Although we are almost all back to pre-pandemic activities, I think it would be fun to use my design background to help families to still carve out spaces in their homes to create functional and beautiful workstations that can aid in inspiration and emotional growth! In addition, it would also be fun to design closets and pantries to maximize anyone's current space!



**Amy Yamasaki**  
Lead Graphic Designer,  
GPRS for 2 years.

**Manager's comment:** As the lead graphic designer, Amy has been an integral part of all the projects from Peterson Sign Company and the many construction orders that the sign shop does. Her attention to detail

has helped to ensure our signs are made efficiently, accurately and our customers are satisfied with the final product.

**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** I animated characters in indie movies and games when I was living in Los Angeles.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone else within Grace?** I work alongside many skilled professionals. But I personally enjoy art the most, so I wouldn't want to hypothetically switch jobs. I even got to edit a few videos for our social media.

**How do you balance your career and family?** I always

eat dinner with my parents on Friday. We each take turns choosing where to takeout and are often surprised with tasty foods we wouldn't normally order.

**If you could learn to do anything what would it be?**

I'd want to be able to skateboard. I have terrible balance and can't even bicycle.

**What would you do if you weren't doing this?** I play a lot of video games in my spare time, so it would be cool to be a video game developer.



**Margaret D'Entremont**

Quarry Administration Supervisor, Grace Pacific for 14 years.

**Manager's comment:**

Margaret does it all in the quarry and what makes her special is that she does it well! Payroll, Inventory, Production, MSHA Compliance, ATF, Sales, Permitting (clean air/storm water),

Licensing, PO's, Trucking agreements, Notary, the list goes on forever. Her leadership and management skills keep our scale house running smoothly. Her ability to understand operations along with her experiences in different departments makes her special. Margaret is the Queen of the Quarry and we all love her! And was also nicknamed by a customer as the "Jewel of Grace Pacific".

**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** I worked a dairy farm in Wisconsin. We brought the cows to the milking barn, attached the milking cluster to their udders and saved the milk in a stainless-steel vat until it was shipped out. We raised corn and other veggies as well.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone else within Grace?** A shop/ PM foreman/manager. I'd love to have their mechanical and engineering knowledge!

**How do you balance your career and family?** I balanced my family and career by a VERY thin thread of control. I was dedicated to both and truly loved my family and working. I believe that is why both thrived! **If you could learn to do anything what would it be?** I'd love to learn how to fly a helicopter!

**If you could meet anyone living or dead, who would you meet?** I'd love to meet Queen Lilioukalani. I'd love to experience her grace, strength, and stoicism in person. Her depth of love for Hawai'i is legendary and I'd be humbled to hear her story first-hand.



**Valerie Sato**

Estimating Administrator, Grace Pacific for 37 years.

**Manager's comment:**

Val has been an integral part of the Estimating Department for the past 10+ years. Val's meticulous attention to detail has directly resulted in Grace

Pacific winning millions of dollars in contracts, where other bidders were disqualified due to paperwork issues. Val also helps put bids together for other divisions and is a major contributor to any success the Estimating Department enjoys. It is a pleasure working with her.

**Interesting job before Grace Pacific?** (The most interesting job) I've ever had was working as a Contracts Assistant/Paving Operation Scheduler, formerly known as Hawaiian Bitumuls & Paving Co. It was an ideal position yet a challenging one, especially in the construction/ paving industry. I was able to work with a variety of people.

One of the many tasks, I'll remember, was scheduling our lowboy/escort driver to move an equipment from a jobsite to another location and it didn't get there on time. Low and behold - the foreman was unhappy and vocally going off on two-way radio. It pretty much thickened my skin.

**If you could switch jobs with anyone else within Grace?** Any position on the paving crew. I was always interested in working on the paving crew.

**How do you balance your career and family?** A lot has to do with my family's love and support. This is why I can continue my career in this industry and Grace Pacific.

**If you could choose anyone who would be your mentor?** I would pick Janet Ishimine and Randall Matsumoto, both former employees with Hawaiian Bitumuls and Grace Pacific. Both perfectionist and knowledgeable people that were key personnel in the estimating dept.

**What would you do if you weren't doing this?** I would have furthered my career in physical education or parks & recreation.

**Great People.  
Great Projects.  
Grace Pacific**