

Graham Builders

WAHINE POWERED

Paving the Way in the Design-Build Field

Client care manager Lenore Smith reflects on Graham Builders' commitment to empowerment.

Describe your company and its role in the construction industry. Founded in 1990 by Danny Graham, our company was one of the first design-build firms on Oahu. For over 34 years, we have been dedicated to guiding homeowners, delivering high-quality design and construction services. Our commitment to integrity has earned us recognition, with many homeowners familiar with the GBI logo and site signage. As a full-service design-build contractor, we specialize in renovations, remodels, and multi-generational homes.

What advice would you give to young women considering a career in construction? Construction is not only for those out

in the field doing hands-on trade work — though there are many *wahine* out in the field and they rock the most — but also covers an array of positions like architect, designer, controller, and sales/marketing. You can find *wahine* in all of these roles. Yes, at times it can be challenging, but embrace the challenge and be confident in your abilities. The best thing you can do is put yourself out there, gain experience, and build your resume.

How do you see the role of women in construction evolving over the next decade? I believe that in the next decade, we'll see an influx of *wahine* in construction. Not only has construction become more diverse, but the *wahine* of today are all about seizing opportunities and proving that we are more than capable of the job. Construction is certainly evolving!

LEFT TO RIGHT: Renee Lee, Office Manager/Purchasing; Malia Yee, Senior Architectural Designer; Marissa Selders, Design Coordinator; Lenore Smith, Client Care Manager

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