

## **Conference Report Victor Sehn: HARC 2024**

I had the opportunity of attending the Hawaii Accounting Research Conference in Honolulu from January 3rd to January 5th, 2024. As my first American conference experience, the event held high expectations, especially when comparing it to the European conferences I had previously attended.

After enduring more than 24 hours of flight and grappling with a significant case of jet lag, my conference journey began. The event kicked off with a traditional Hawaiian blessing, setting the tone for a unique and culturally rich experience. One immediate observation was the casual attire of attendees, in stark contrast to my formal suit – I found myself standing out in the laid-back Hawaiian atmosphere.

The conference sessions featured a diverse array of topics that expanded the traditional boundaries of accounting. Discussions ranged from the macroeconomic effects of accounting to the information impact of meme postings. This broader definition of accounting added a layer of excitement, provided a fresh perspective and fostered intellectual curiosity.

My presentation was scheduled for the second day, and I was fortunate to attract the attention of over 30 senior researchers. My project, focused on creating an open-source database containing over 1 million material contracts from the SEC, aimed to facilitate the use of contractual data for accounting researchers. The American audience expressed keen interest in the project, leading to meaningful interactions and potential future collaborations. Their perspectives added depth to my research, and I left the conference with valuable insights, a refined publication strategy, and newfound motivation.

After the conference, I seized the opportunity to extend my stay in Hawaii for an additional two weeks. I explored the natural beauty of Kauai and Hawai'i, engaging in activities such as hiking along the famed Kalalau Trail on the eastern coast of Kauai. The encounters with wild chickens on the island provided an unexpected delight. On Hawai'i, a clear night atop the 4000m Mauna Kea volcano offered a mesmerizing stargazing experience. Lazy days on the beach provided a perfect balance to the intellectual stimulation of the conference.

Overall, the conference visit was a valuable opportunity to advance my research project and provided a platform for networking and potential collaborations. The unique blend of academic engagement and exposure to the breathtaking landscapes of Hawaii left me grateful for the experience, further fuelling my enthusiasm for continued research in this area.





