

J. Kawika Riley

[REDACTED]

Professional Experience

Office of Hawaiian Affairs Honolulu, HI
Chief Advocate October 2013 – Present

Direct the Advocacy division of independent state entity established to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians; oversee team of 30 professionals spread across a wide spectrum of policy areas at the local, state, federal, and international level; budget authority for \$3 million-plus in programs and contracts; serve as senior advisor to Chief Executive Officer.

Washington DC Bureau Chief September 2012 – October 2013

Served as agency’s lead federal advocate and liaison to Congress, the White House, federal agencies and DC-based advocacy organizations. Re-established federal advocacy presence for OHA after brief closure of its DC Office including hiring small team of policy professionals and interns, re-aligning quarter-million-dollar annual budget; and establishing new programs, relationships, and advocacy initiatives.

George Washington University Washington, DC
Adjunct Faculty, Graduate School of Political Management January 2009 – January 2014

Taught “Semester in Washington” graduate-level advocacy clinics (topics have included education policy, adoption tax credits, child homelessness, and environmental justice) to diverse groups of visiting students; coached students develop and present advocacy plans in program-wide competition. Courses included Native American Political Leadership; Practicum in Legislative Political Management; and Professional Development.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration,
Office of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Arlington, VA
Spokesperson and Public Affairs Manager November 2010 – September 2012

Managed highly-visible federal agency’s public affairs and crisis communications regionally, nationally and internationally; agency’s public affairs expert for Congressional relations, international media, and indigenous peoples; represent agency on-camera and on-the-record before top national news (including CNN, New York Times and MSNBC) as well as international media based in over 20 countries; held Top Secret Clearance.

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Washington, DC
Various Positions January 2007 – November 2010

Served as Senator Daniel K. Akaka’s chief spokesman, speechwriter and public affairs staffer in his capacity as Committee Chairman. Developed communications strategies for legislative priorities; worked as top legislative aide for various veterans’ issues.

- **Communications Director & Legislative Assistant** May 2009 – November 2010
- **Press Secretary & Director of Constituent Affairs** August 2008 – May 2009
- **Press Secretary** October 2007 – August 2008
- **Staff Assistant** January 2007 – October 2007

Education

George Washington University M.A., Political Management	Washington, DC [REDACTED]
University of Northern Colorado B.A., Political Science (minor in Legal Studies), with Honors Distinction	Greeley, CO [REDACTED]

Community Service

Pacific Islander Access Project CEO, President of the Board and Founder Founded and operate a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation to expand higher educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; ; persuaded 13 underrepresented minority programs to open their eligibility criteria up to Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, representing roughly \$1.1 million in new financial aid opportunities; maintain blog/website to raise public awareness; develop materials to educate scholarships and fellowships regarding the underrepresentation of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders; directed national study on Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander access to underrepresented minority scholarships and fellowships.	Washington, DC & Honolulu, HI November 2010 – Present
---	--

Honors & Affiliations

- Fellow, Omidyar Fellows Program (2014 – Present)
- Board Member, George Washington University Alumni Hawaii Chapter (2014 – Present)
- Member, National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (2013 – Present)
- Member, National Congress of American Indians Native Language Taskforce (2013 – Present)
- University of Northern Colorado Alumni Spirit Award (2013)
- Patriotic Employer Award, Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense (2013)
- Guest Blogger, Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (2012 – Present)
- Mentor, Native American Political Leadership Program (2009 – 2014)
- Member, U.S. Senate Press Secretaries Association (2007 – Present)
- Mentor, National Pacific Islander Educators Network (2011 – Present)
- Volunteer, Surge Capacity Force, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2011 – 2012)
- Recipient, TSA National Honorary Team Award, National Terrorism Advisory System (2011)
- Recipient, Star Award, National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (2010)
- Recipient, Congressional Gold Mouse Award (for official website) (2010)
- Keynote Speaker Award, National Pacific Islander Educator Network (2008)