

Brandon Marc T. Higa

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<b>Education</b>		

University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law (Honolulu, Hawaii)

- Elected as President for the Student Bar Association; previously served as Senator.
- Anticipated graduation: May 2019.

University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)

**Master's of Arts in International Relations**

August 2005

- Received nationally competitive graduate fellowship from the David L. Boren National Security Education Program to conduct post-graduate research in Tokyo.

**Bachelor's of Arts in International Relations with Honors**

May 2003

Minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures

- Awarded Freeman - ASIA Scholarship to conduct honors thesis research in Tokyo.
- Published honors thesis through the University of Southern California Press.

Stanford University Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies

June 2005

**Advanced Japanese Language Certification**

- Completed language training specialized in Japanese politics and economics.
- Attained advanced proficiency in Japanese speaking, reading and writing.

**Work & Research Experience**

**Grants Development Specialist**

4/2009 - present

University of Hawaii – Kapiolani Community College

- Authored successful Title III grant proposals to secure \$6 million to hire grant support positions, and to provide professional development opportunities.
- Increased extramural revenue by \$60 million in federal grants, state contracts and private awards.
- Developed and implemented formal grant policies and procedures for the campus.

**Lead Consortium Grant Writer**

5/2013 – present

University of Hawaii – Office of the Vice President for Community Colleges

(seasonal work)

- Generated over \$15 million in workforce development grant funds as the lead grant writer on a three-member executive team for all seven UH Community Colleges.
- Assisted the development of memoranda of agreements with state agencies, local employers and industry partners to build capacity within key employment sectors in the local workforce.

**Grant Writer**

3/2011 - 9/2013

Culinary Institute of the Pacific

- Gathered land use, historic preservation and other legal documents required to meet special federal conditions for capital improvement projects.
- Collaborated with UH Foundation to leverage private matching funds to secure additional \$2.5 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

- Program Officer (Alumni Coordinator – Asia)** 11/2007 - 02/2009  
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Administered grant funds to U.S. Embassies and Consulates in Asia & Pacific.
  - Moderated annual grant proposal review panels held in Washington, DC.
  - Analyzed return on investments of grant funding through individual country briefs.
  - Authored internal press releases disseminating grant results (circulation 50,000+ users).
- Clarinetist (Private Contractor – Musician, seasonal)** 8/2007 – 10/2007  
City & County of Honolulu - Royal Hawaiian Band
- Legislative Aide** 1/2007 – 5/2007  
State of Hawaii – Senate, Office of Senator David Y. Ige
- Reported on Senate Health Committee legislative hearings at town hall meetings.
  - Published articles on interviews of constituents and partner offices at the State Capitol.
- Clarinetist (Private Contractor – Musician, full-time)** 12/2005 – 1/2007  
City & County of Honolulu - Royal Hawaiian Band
- Junior Attaché** 6/2005 – 9/2005  
U.S. Embassy, Tokyo - Foreign Agricultural Services
- Analyzed policies pertaining to agricultural and economic issues to prepare senior staff members for meetings with the United Nations and Japanese National Parliament.
  - Published unclassified GAIN Report on Japan's food security education program.
  - Recruited (in Japanese) participants from local Japanese businesses for the annual culinary expo.
  - Translated written documents and interpreted at formal events from Japanese to English.
- Foreign Policy Analyst** 2/2005 – 9/2005  
National Diet of Japan House of Councilors (equivalent of U.S. Senate)
- Researched U.S.-Japan trade policies and summarized findings in Japanese.
  - Translated and edited newspaper and journal articles for publication in Japan Time's Metropolis Magazine and the Far Eastern Economic Review.
- Research Analyst** 5/2004 – 8/2004  
East-West Center - Politics, Security and Governance Section
- Monitored East Asia regional security issues covered in a variety of media outlets.
  - Summarized classified reports for public dissemination.
  - Computed quantitative data on crime statistics in Japan to highlight threats to local communities.
- Research Assistant** 5/2003 – 8/2003  
East-West Center - Politics, Security and Governance Section
- Gathered newspaper articles pertaining to U.S. military base presence in Okinawa Prefecture.
  - Computed quantitative data on crime statistics in Japan to highlight threats to local communities.
  - Edited faculty conference and research papers for publication in East-West Center press.
- Administrative Assistant to Ben Kudo** 5/2000 – 8/2000  
Imanaka, Kudo, Fujimoto LLC (currently Imanaka, Asato)

### Grants Authored (Selected Highlights)

Author, "Phase II: Kauhale Ke Kuleana (the Responsibility of the Whole Village) Strengthening Kapiolani's Campus and Culture for Student Success." Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program (Title III Part A), June 9, 2015. **Awarded: \$3,894,015.**

Co-author, "Lawelawe Po'okela: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Student Success." Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program (Title III Part A), June 9, 2015. **Awarded: \$4,496,726.**

Contributing author, Kauhale Ke Kuleana (the Responsibility of the Whole Village) Strengthening Kapiolani's Campus and Culture for Student Success." Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions Program (Title III Part F). **Awarded: \$9,845,788.**

Author, "Implementing an Island-wide Strategy for Industry Cluster Formation and Community Revitalization in Hawaii." Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (2013). **Awarded: \$2,507,462.**

Author, "King William Charles Lunalilo Scholars Project at Kapiolani Community College." Written and submitted on behalf of the University of Hawaii Foundation (2015). Funded by the Clarence Ching Foundation. **Awarded: \$35,000.**

Contributing author, "Sustaining Health, Strengthening Security in the Aloha State." Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (2014). **Awarded: \$9,999,870.**

Author, "Renovations for Student Success in Developmental, Digital Media/STEM, and Business Education." Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Alaska Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (Title III Part A) supplemental award (2014). **Awarded: \$80,000.**

Author, "The Culinary Innovation Center at Kapiolani Community College." Submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (2013). Pending resubmission.

Author, "Community College Faculty and Administrator Program with Indonesia." Consortium award with the Community Colleges for International Development funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (2012). **Awarded: \$194,048.**

Author, "International Café Advancement." Funded by the Honda International Opportunities Fund Grant (2013). **Awarded: \$5,000.**

Author, "Renovations: Kapiolani Community College Maile Building for Performing Arts." Funded by the University of Hawaii Women's Campus Club (2010). **Awarded: \$4,353.**

Author, "Opening Doors of Opportunity." Funded by the University of Hawaii SEED Office (2009). **Awarded: \$2,084.**

## Leadership Activities, Volunteer Work & Community Involvement

- Chair, Kapiolani Community College Staff Council September 2015 - present
- Revised and wrote bylaws currently under review for ratification.
  - Elected to represent 150+ employees on policy recommendations and budgetary decisions.
  - Raised morale across campus by reinstating staff award nomination process.
  - Provided professional development opportunities through grant, foundation and college funds.
- President, Senator, Student Bar Association September 2015 - present
- Advocated as the official voice of the student body during the 2016 Legislative Session.
  - Liaises with campus administration and faculty on student-led programs and initiatives.
  - Elected to represent 330+ Student Bar Association members.
  - Revitalized alumni mentorship program with the Richardson Alumni Association.
- UH President's Emerging Leaders Program June 2015 - present
- Selected by UH President David Lassner as one of only 25 participants throughout the ten UH campuses to examine strategic goals and current challenges facing the UH System.
  - Works with university administrators and executives to complete project focusing on current challenges in higher education and the University of Hawaii.
- Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council June 2015 – present
- Represents Kapiolani Community College as a subject matter expert on federal grants and Asian American and Pacific Islander programs at planning meetings held in Washington, DC.
- Kalaulani - Native Hawaiian Council March 2015 - present
- Selected as the grant writer to lead campus-wide effort to develop new strategies to close achievement gaps for Native Hawaiian students.
  - Leads campus-wide effort to assess fiscal stability and provide professional development to faculty and staff involved with the grant management process.
- U.S. – Japan Council Tomodachi Initiative October 2014 - present
- Selected as one of only twelve delegates from the U.S. and Japan to represent the Tomodachi Emerging Leaders Program at the annual U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference.
- Hawaii Government Employees Association July 2013 - present
- Elected for two terms (2013-17) to represent 150+ full-time staff members as a union steward.
  - Acts as mediator and liaison between union, employer and members.
  - Improved morale by reaching out the UH Professional Assembly leadership to coordinate joint outreach activities.
- Honolulu Zoo & Honolulu Zoological Society December 2014 - present
- Farmed and donated crickets to supply Reptile & Amphibian Exhibit with live food.
  - Contacted news media outlets to raise awareness of critical food shortage affecting reptile and amphibians due to import restriction laws prohibiting crickets from the mainland.

<b>Professional Memberships, Skills &amp; Interests</b>
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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

President	Student Bar Association, 2015-16
Emerging Leader	UH President's Emerging Leaders Program, 2015-16
Board Member	Staff Council, 2015 - present
Associate member	U.S. – Japan Council, 2014 - present
Steward	Hawaii Government Employee's Association, 2014 – present
Member	Honolulu Zoological Society, 2014 - present
Actor, union member	Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA), 2011 - present
Actor, union member	American Federation of Television & Radio Artists, 2010 - present
Model	Premier Models & Talent, 2010 – present
Member	East-West Center Networking Committee, 2009 - present
Swimmer	University of Hawaii Masters Swim Club, 2010 - 2014
Alumni mentor	Boren Forum Steering Committee; 2008 – present
Alumni Class Agent	Stanford University, 2005 – present
Clarinetist	Honolulu Symphonic Winds, 1999 – 2005
Clarinetist	Uta Matsuri, 1994 – 1999; 2013 - present
Sanshin	Shinsato Shosei Kai (Okinawan Classical Music), 1998 - 2009

**NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AWARDS**

Emerging Leaders Program	U.S. – Japan Council, 2014
Scholarship	U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, 2007
Fellowship	East-West Center Graduate Fellowship, 2004
Graduate Fellowship	National Security Education Program, 2004
Scholarship	Freeman Foundation Freeman - ASIA Award, 2002

<b>Foreign Language Proficiency</b>
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Waseda University (Tokyo, Japan) May 2002

**Advanced Japanese Language Certificate**

- Participated in a semester-long study abroad and homestay program in Tokyo.

Kyung Hee University (Seoul, South Korea)

July 2007

**Korean Language Certificate**

- Selected as a member of the first cohort of 20 from among 700+ applicants nationwide.

Japanese (speaking, advanced; writing, advanced; reading, advanced)

French (speaking, novice; writing, intermediate; reading, intermediate)

Korean (speaking, novice; writing, novice; reading, novice)

**TRANSLATED PUBLICATIONS (JAPANESE – ENGLISH)**

"Opening Up, Reluctantly," in Far Eastern Economic Review. Kenzo Fujisue and Koike Masanari. Vol. 168 No. 4. April 2005 edition.

"Keep Article 9 in Constitution," in Japan Today, Kenzo Fujisue. 2005, May 12 edition.

"Rising Geopolitics in Oil Market." In Japan Today, Masanari Koike. 2005, September 2.

### **Certifications**

Hawaii's Sunshine Law, State of Hawaii Office of Information Practices, October 2015.  
Legal Research, Lexis Advance, October 2015.  
Legal Research, Westlaw Next, September 2015.  
Legal Research, Bloomberg Law, October 2015

### **Publications**

"The US Military Occupation of Okinawa in International Historical Perspective," in Honors Theses in International Relations: Going Beneath and Beyond the News, by Brandon Marc Higa, Dr. Hayward Alker, editor. University of Southern California Press, Los Angeles, California (2003). ISBN1545-2611

Foreign Agricultural Services GAIN Report JA5057 "Japan's Food Education Initiatives: The Building Blocks of the New Japanese Food Pyramid." Published September 9, 2005.

### **Presentations**

#### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

Presenter (in Japanese), "Japan's Free Trade Agreement Policy." Stanford University Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies, Pacifico Yokohama (Japan). June 10, 2005.  
Guest Lecturer, University of Southern California, International Relations 499 Global Civil Society.  
"The Truth Behind Okinawan Public Opinion Toward U.S. Military Bases: carrots, troops or crimes?" April 26, 2004.  
Guest Lecturer, University of Southern California, Studies of Women and Men 305 Feminist Theory.  
"Women's Rights Movement in Okinawa." March 15, 2004.