

M. NALANI FUJIMORI KAINA

EXPERIENCE

- 5/2009 – present **Executive Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Provides executive leadership to \$6.5 million non-profit organization providing direct civil legal services throughout the state of Hawai'i with 100 staff and ten offices.
 - Increased overall organization revenue from \$5.5 million to \$6.5 million.
 - Participates in national presentations and conferences, including the 2016 White House Forum on Access to Justice. Co-Chaired 2018 American Bar Association's annual Equal Justice Conference and Chaired the 2018 and 2019 National Legal Aid and Defender Association annual Conference.
 - Leading effort to develop a national model for a legal services portal in partnership with Microsoft, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Legal Services Corporation. Also expanded utilization of technology to increase efficiency and access to legal services through projects, including the development of on-line interactive interviews to create court forms, and the transition to a new case management platform.
 - Developed trainings to increase diversity among executive leadership of legal services programs, including the creation of a national training for Emerging Leaders.
 - Co-leading historic collaboration with Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i to create more seamless service delivery and decrease duplication in order to serve more clients.
 - Developed with the assistance of the Young Lawyers Division and organization staff attorneys, a Disaster Relief Legal Assistance manual and conducted training for pro bono attorneys for mobilization in case of a disaster.
 - Oversaw the development of five of the six Self Help Centers which utilize pro bono attorneys to provide legal advice or information to self-represented litigants.
 - Coordinated the merger of the organization with the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center.
 - Participated as member of child welfare task force asked by the Judiciary to help clarify and re-write the law for federal compliance.
 - Facilitated change in compensation structure aimed at increasing overall compensation.
 - Member of the Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Advisory Committee and the Hawai'i State Bar Association's Delivery of Legal Services Committee to the Public.
- 1/2009 – 5/2009 **Interim Executive Director**
 12/2005 – 5/2006 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Acted as Executive Director during two periods of transition for organization.
 - Secured grant-in-aid during both terms to continue state funding of civil legal services.
- 4/2004 – 5/2009 **Deputy Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Supervised substantive law units and provided guidance on complex litigation issues, including tax-credit rent-to-own housing, birth parent visitation appeal and child welfare.
 - Led the effort and was the primary author of the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People in Hawai'i resulting in the creation of the Access to Justice Commission.
 - Wrote and executed new programs, including statewide Legal Advocacy for Families and Children and Fair Housing Enforcement.
 - Increased Legal Aid's visibility in the legislature through facilitation of and direct testimony upon request on issues affecting social justice for the low-income population.

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- 8/2001 - 6/2004 **Managing Attorney**
Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Wailuku, HI
- Managed Maui County offices and provided direct oversight of a \$600,000 budget.
 - Mentored and coached new attorneys to develop self-confidence, litigation skills and substantive law knowledge to provide quality representation to clients.
 - Directed \$100,000 federally funded Fair Housing Education and Outreach Project that reached over 20,000 through trainings, outreach and creation of a Fair Housing manual.
 - Represented parents and children in CPS cases on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i, including rare overturn resulting in the immediate return of a child to her mother.

- 3/1999 - 7/2001 **Staff Attorney**
Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Kaunakakai, HI
- Represented clients in family, consumer, public benefits, housing, child welfare and elder law. Successfully negotiated settlement in illegal garnishment, maintained custody in heavily litigated divorce, and counseled parents resulting in return of their children.
 - Supervised and developed the capacity of paralegal staff to handle supplemental social security income cases, conduct divorce clinic and handle consumer debt collection cases.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 11/2017 – present **Director**, National Legal Aid and Defender Association
7/2004 - present **Director**, and **past President** (2012 – 2013), Hawai'i Women Lawyers
5/1999 - present **Member**, Hawai'i State Bar Association

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, New York University School of Law, New York, NY
Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
Honors Diploma, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2016 – 2018 **Cohort V Fellow**, Omidyar Fellows Program
2014 **Where Health Meets Justice Fellow**, National Center for Medical Legal Partnership
2011-2012 **PONO Fellow**, Hawai'i Community Foundation
2003 - 2004 **Discovering Leadership Fellow**, Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- 2016 **20 for the Next 20**, Hawai'i Business News
2014 **Business Leaders of the Year Finalist**, Pacific Business News
2013 **Ho'okele Award** for non-profit leadership, Hawai'i Community Foundation
2011 **Rhoda Lewis Award** for extraordinary public service by a woman attorney, Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation
2008 **C. Frederick Shutte Award** for outstanding and meritorious service to the legal community and profession, Hawai'i State Bar Association
2007 **Young Lawyers Division National Outstanding Young Lawyer Nominee**, American Bar Association

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COMMUNITY/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

5/2016 – 2/2018 **Commissioner**, Tax Review Commission, State of Hawai'i
2/2010 – present **President** (2018 – present), Rural Community Assistance Corporation
1/2009 – present **Commissioner**, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission
7/2004 - present **Member**, Litigation Committee, American Civil Liberties Union
9/2005 – present **Chair** (2013 – present), Hawai'i State Advisory Committee, United States Civil Rights Commission
2/2004 – 9/2009 **Director** and **former Chair**, Envision Hawai'i
12/2002 - 6/2004 **Director**, Maui County Bar Association
2002 **Campaign Coordinator**, Rouse for House, House of Representatives 13th District
2002 **Member**, Hawaiian Canoe Club
1999 - 2001 **Member**, Moana's Hula Halau
1999 - 2001 **Director**, Molokai Occupational Center
1999 - 2000 **Director**, Hale Ho'okupa'a Outpatient Residential Treatment Center