

Ernest K. Wilson

A seasoned executive with over 58 plus years of experience within the fields of travel, hospitality, food service, military logistics, and higher education. In the civilian arena served in numerous positions (starting as a dishwasher progressing up to executive management and senior staff assignments) for hospitality organizations including Holiday Inns Inc., Embassy Suites, Sheraton Hotels, and Outrigger Hotels and Resorts. The leadership/management positions included Sous-Chef, Restaurant Manager, Assistant F & B Manager, Hotel General Manager, Area Hotel Manager, and Director of Hotel Operations. Senior staff positions included Worldwide Director of Training and Management Education, Director of Human Resources, Director of Holiday Inn University, and Director of Quality Care and Ke Ano Wa'a.

Serving in the military achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel leading several large complex organizations. These included serving two Vietnam tours; the first tour as the staff officer in charge of the US Army Vietnam food service operations, and the second tour as Director US Army Vietnam Club System. Also served as Director of the US Army Hawaii Club System, and Director of the US Military Academy Club System at West Point.

Spent the last 27 years in academia teaching, developing new curriculum/degree programs, and in leadership/management roles. Served as Assistant Dean and Dean of the Hawaii Pacific University TIM program, Program Director for the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Casino Resort Mgmt. program, Director USM Culinary Arts, and as Dean of the School of Hospitality Resort & Culinary Mgmt. at Paul Smith's College in New York. At USM, developed & gained State Board (Regents) approval for a new Casino Resort Mgmt. BSBA degree. At Paul Smith's led the development of and gained NY State DOE approval for a BS degree in Food Service Mgmt. and an Associate of Arts & Science in Baking/Pastry Arts. Currently a member of the University of Hawaii System Board of Regents (BOR) serving as Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) committee and the Liaison to the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs. Previously served as Chair of the Personnel Affairs and Board Governance committee.

As a senior military officer, corporate executive and academic administrator had responsibility for leading and managing both the financial and people resources of organizations to achieve the business or mission objectives. Responsibilities included strategic planning, budgeting, marketing and sales, financial review, program development, operational control, and most importantly customer and employee relations. Served as a principal in a consulting partnership focused on organizational culture and change management.

Held both director and chair positions on the boards and/or committees of national and state industry organizations. These included the American Hotel & Lodging Assn., Hotel Sales & Marketing Assn. Intl., Intl. Food Service Executives Assn., International Military Club Executives Assn., Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach (CA) Hotel/Motel Association, Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association, and Mississippi Tourism Association. Served on the Walt Disney World College Program Advisory Board and the Board of the Pacific Gateway Center (an Oahu non-profit foundation providing health/human services to refugees, immigrants and others needing these services). In addition to being a UH Regent, currently serves the Kula Maui Catholic Community Parish as a Lector and previously as the Chair for the 2014 and 2015 Annual Holy Ghost Feast/Festival (major fundraiser), and the Building and Maintenance committee from 2013 -2016.

Education: Kamehameha Schools, Cornell University (BS), Florida International University (MS), California International Business University (Honorary Doctorate of Business).