

ABOUT

Joel was born and raised in the Hawaiian islands. His plus 30 year professional career has led him on a journey around the Pacific, from the Pacific Northwest to San Francisco, then to Japan, and ultimately back to Hawai'i. Joel spent eight years in Tokyo, Japan with a leading environmental planning and research firm as head of Studio J, a landscape architecture design studio. While in Japan he led the firm's site master planning for a broad range of project types including regional, community, urban parks, mixed-use developments, school campuses, and residential communities; urban design, resorts, transit and transportation corridors; and wetland and native waterfowl habitat restoration. Joel returned to Hawai'i in 1995 as principal of Hawai'i Design Associates, eventually acquiring the firm's assets in 2007 and establishing Ki Concepts LLC to better align with his vision and core values. 'Our design solutions evolve from a creative synthesis of the intrinsic qualities of a site; its historic, cultural, and community context; a client's program, budget and schedule; and a reverence for landscape and natural processes.'

JOEL KUOKAWA

Principal Landscape Architect

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
University of Oregon

ASLA Merit Award for the Study of
Landscape Architecture

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

36

AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Landscape
Architects

EXPERT ADVISORY ROLES

- CLARB, Director
- Hawaii EASLA Licensing Board, Past Member, Past Chair, 2013-2020
- ASLA Trustee, Hawaii Chap. 2015-17
- AIA Honolulu, Emerging Professionals Mentor
- UHM Sch. of Arch, MLA Program, Search Committee for Professor of LA and Urban Design
- UHM MLA Lecture Series Presentation, (Ex)changing Perspectives in Landscape Architecture in Hawaii
- HI-DOT Complete Streets Task Force, 2009-10
- Friends of UH Lyon Arboretum, Past VP and Member
- The Outdoor Circle, Past President, VP, Board Member
- Smart Trees Pacific (formerly Friends of Hawaii's Urban Forest), Past Board Member
- Kaulunani, Hawaii Urban and Community Forestry Program, DLNR, Past Council Member
- Hawaii Design Associates Inc., Principal

LICENSES

PLA, Hawai'i

Healthcare

- Waimanalo Health Center, Waimanalo, O'ahu
- Nanakuli Health Care Center, Nanakuli, O'ahu
- Kaiser Permanente Clinic, Waipahu, O'ahu
- Naval Station Apra Harbor Medical and Dental Clinic, Guam
- Veteran's Medical Clinic at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu

Other Relevant Projects

- NOAA Daniel K. Inouye Regional Center, Ford Island, O'ahu
- NMCP Visitor Center and Administration Building at Punchbowl, Honolulu
- UH-KCC Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head, Honolulu
- UH-HCC Palamanui Phase 1 and 2, Keahole, Hawai'i
- Kona Judiciary Complex, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i
- West Hawaii Civic Center, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i
- NFL Youth Education Town (Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i, Nanakuli, Hawaii

Community Leadership

Joel serves in leadership positions in national, state, community, and professional organizations that protect public health, safety, and welfare and preserve Hawai'i's natural and cultural environment and quality of life. He currently serves as a director for the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards, board member and past chair of the State's Professional Licensing Board (EASLA) and is Trustee for the ASLA Hawaii Chapter. He recently completed three terms as the president of The Outdoor Circle, and six years on the Advisory Council of Kaulunani, the State's Urban and Community Forestry Program, assisting in the management transition from DLNR-DOFW to an independent non-profit organization. In these capacities and others, Joel has been a strong proponent for raising awareness of landscape as an integral component of the built environment that provides multiple ecosystem services and benefits, human wellbeing, and beauty.