

November 2021

Diane L. Ley

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

December 2020 – Present **Self-directed development of farm business and operations plan**

December 2016 – December 2020 **Director Department of Research & Development,
County of Hawai`i**

- Provided and manage the department's vision, mission, goals, objectives, benchmarking, and accountability
- Responsible for day-to-day operations of the department, including oversight of programs related to agriculture and food systems, creative economy, economic development, energy, sustainable development, tourism, and immigration assistance
- Responsible for the collection, development, and availability of research driven data necessary for county-wide managerial and legislative decision-making, program, and policy development
- Collaborated with businesses, non-profits and government in the development and funding of initiatives to advance environmental, community and economic sustainability
- Served as the Kilauea Recovery Manager (May 2018 – November 2019) stood-up a recovery team to assure compliance with pre-planning and planning processes required to secure \$300 million in federal program dollars; sought and secured \$60 million in State recovery resources; extensive community engagement included more than 3,000 community touch points; and identification and development of key guiding documents including the Kilauea Recovery Plan, Kilauea Eruption Risk Assessment, and the Kilauea Disaster Economic Recovery Plan; and continue (post-November 2019) to serve in leadership role to the recovery process
- Led the County's COVID-19 economic stabilization and pre-recovery efforts including the delivery of \$44.1 million in CARES Act funding in five (5) months to help families, businesses and non-profits negatively impacted by the pandemic due to loss of jobs, income and illness; continuous communication provided to support businesses' understanding of emergency rules, available resources and funding; and provided a framework to launch recovery efforts
- Represented the department and administration before the County Council, State Legislature, and Hawai`i's Congressional Delegation
- Other responsibilities include management of Department's \$2.6 million budget, personnel, correspondence, contracts, and purchases

- Represented the Mayor on various task forces, meetings, and events; and advises the Mayor and other members of the Cabinet on issues pertaining to business and sustainable development including agriculture, food systems, tourism, transportation, and energy

August 2009 – November 2016 **State Executive Director U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency for Hawai`i and Pacific Basin**

- Responsible for assuring the timely and efficient delivery of programmatic services to agricultural businesses throughout Hawai`i, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau
- Program services included delivery of an average of \$20+ million annually in disaster assistance, support payments and loans to agricultural producers; efforts included comprehensive financial support to producers impacted Hurricane Iselle
- Supported the President's vision, the Secretary of Agriculture's initiatives, the Farm Service Agency Administrator's goals in expanding and enhancing the economic development and wellbeing of rural communities and agriculture in particular
- Oversaw a staff of 36, plus 20 producer-elected County Committee Members.
- Managed positively through the initial federal sequestration, which resulted in 20+% staffing and fiscal cuts with staff empowered to solve challenges and share information and workload across an area the size of the continental United States
- Envisioned, planned, and launched three (3) transition strategies that now allow government employees to virtually support workloads throughout Hawai`i and the Pacific Basin; and participate in and took over the lead of a formal departmental reorganization package for human resources and budget concerns across 10 states and six (6) time zones, and secured the Secretary of Agriculture's and Congressional approval.
- Routinely collaborate with other federal agencies, congressional offices, state administration, non-profit and advocacy groups.

March 2005 – July 2009 **Deputy Director Department of Research and Development,
County of Hawai`i**

- In collaboration with the Director, responsible for the delivery of the department's vision, mission, goals, objectives, benchmarking and accountability; principal responsible for day-to-day operations, including oversight of programs related to agriculture, tourism, economic development, energy and film; operations included management of personnel, correspondence, contracts, budget and purchases
- Acting Energy Coordinator responsible for overall energy program, initiatives and energy emergency preparation and management; initiatives included installation of photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations at the West Hawai`i Civic Center and Hawai`i County Building; and purchase of five prototype hybrid vehicles
- Acting Tourism Program Specialist, with responsibility for oversight and delivery \$1.2 million in program initiatives (March 2005 – November 2006)

- County and Mayor's representative on the Governor's Energy Emergency Preparedness Advisory Group, Hawai'i State Energy Council, and Blue Planet Summit 2008

February 2003 – February 2005 **Deputy to the Chairperson Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, State of Hawai'i**

- In collaboration with the Chairperson, principal responsible for day-to-day operations of the department, including oversight of personnel, programmatic delivery, contracts, and budget
- Legislative coordination, including tracking and analysis of bills, preparation, and delivery of testimony
- Special assignments including implementation of the new Rabies Quarantine rules and development of the Hawai'i Conservation Resource Enhancement Program
- Correspondence oversight of external communications for the Chairperson and Governor, reports and documents, internal and external newsletters
- Review and oversight of Hawai'i Administrative Rule amendments, Environmental Program, and new program implementation including resources and impacts
- Liaison with commodity and community organizations addressing special needs, department, and federal regulatory agency requirements, and speaking engagements
- Department representation to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board Member (March 2003 – February 2005), Hawai'i Rural Development Council, Vice-Chair (June 2003 –February 2005), and Plant and Animal Advisory Committee, Acting Chair (As Required)
- Acting Administrator, Quality Assurance Division for Measurement Standards and Commodities branches including programs, personnel, and budgets (October 2004 – February 2005)

March 1993 – February 2003 **Administrative Assistant, Big Island Farm Bureau and Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, Hawai'i Island and Statewide**

July 1999 – February 2003 **Recorder & Facilitator, Freelance, Glenwood, Hawai'i**

October 1999 – February 2003 **Assistant Coordinator, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Agricultural Leadership Program, Statewide**

April 1994 – June 1998: **Office Administrator, Hilo Main Street Program/Hilo Downtown Improvement Association, Hilo, Hawai'i**

October 1993 – March 1994 **Administrator, Papaya Administrative Committee, Hilo, Hawai'i**

July 1992 – December 1992 **Warehouse, Elections, County of Hawai'i, Hilo, Hawai'i**

January 1991 – June 1992 **Legislative Assistant, Hawai'i County Council, Hilo, Hawai'i**

January 1989 – December 1990 **Council Aide, Hawai'i County Council, Hilo, Hawai'i**

May 1987 – October 1993 **Owner, House Painting Business, Glenwood, Hawai'i**

January 1985 – December 1988 **General Partner, Farm 49, Volcano, Hawai'i**

January 1981 – May 1987 **Labor, Hawai'ian Herb & Spice Company, Glenwood, Hawai'i**

December 1970 – January 1980 **Yard & Garden Maintenance, Glenwood, Hawai'i**

June 1976 – December 1981 **Owner & Operator, Live Christmas Tree Farm, Glenwood, Hawai'i**

June 1974 – December 1977 **Farm Labor, Orchids of Hawai'i, Glenwood & Hilo, Hawai'i**

GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

PRESENT

- **Hawai`i Board of Agriculture, Hawai`i Island Board Member** (April 2006 – July 2009 and May 2018 to Present)
- **Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai`i, Vice-President**
Board Member (February 2000 to Present), Vice President (August 2002 – February 2003 and December 2020 to Present), Secretary (March 2008 – December 2020) and Co-Vice President (December 2004 – February 2006)

PAST

- **Natural Energy Laboratories of Hawai`i Authority, Board Member as Mayor's Designee** (January 2017 – November 2020)
- **Hawai`i State Carbon Farming Task Force**, Act 33, Session Laws of Hawai`i 2017, member representing Hawai`i County Mayor Harry Kim (September 2017 – September 2018)
- **Hawai`i State Dark Night Skies Protection Advisory Committee**, Act 185, Session Laws of Hawai`i 2017, member representing Hawai`i County Mayor Harry Kim (December 2017 to December 2020)
- **Hawai`i Agriculture Conference**, (2002 – 2017, 2019) Leadership role and chair bi-annually
- **Hawai`i State Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board Member Hawai`i Island** (December 1997 – February 2003), Department of Agriculture (March 2003 – February 2005)
- **Hawai`i Rural Development Council, Vice-Chair** (June 2003 –February 2005)
- **Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai`i Alumni Association, Interim President** (February 2000 – February 2003)
- **Hawai`i Florist & Shippers Association, Board Member** (October 1999 – February 2003)
- **Hawai`i Island Economic Development Board, Agriculture Committee**, Big Island Farm Bureau Representative

EDUCATION

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture – Cultural Transformation**, 2009; Washington, D.C.
- **Hawai`i Island Leadership Series - Ulumau**, 2006-2007; Hawai`i Island
- **Hawai`i Leadership Academy**, 2004-2005; Honolulu, Hawai`i
- **Agricultural Leadership Program**, 1998-1999; Honolulu, Hawai`i
- **University of Hawai`i at Hilo**, 1984-86 and 1993-94; Hilo, Hawai`i
- **Palomar Junior College**, San Marcos, California
- **San Dieguito High School**, Encinitas, California
- **Educational Seminars & Workshops:**
 - Pegasus Conference – Systems Thinking Bi-Annual Conferences
 - CTAHR Advanced Facilitation Workshop and Family Leadership Training Program
 - Hawai`i Community Foundation Grant Writing Programs
 - U.S. Small Business Development Center's Business Plan Development Workshops