

Karen S. Mukai is a business owner, consultant, and executive with an extensive career in startups and management.

Earning a Master Degree in Education, Karen applied her teaching skills to business. She owned and operated one of the largest Kumon franchises in Honolulu, Hawaii. Needing to focus on her family's tuxedo rental business, she sold her Kumon franchise and started TK Wedding Services, a Japanese-Hawaii wedding company, to increase tuxedo sales.

In 1999, Karen co-founded Best Bridal Hawaii and served as its only American officer and director. She was responsible for the company's continuous growth by finding new markets, developing new niches in the current market, expanding product lines and establishing strategic alliances. Karen was also responsible for the management of the company, including maintaining corporate governance, negotiating and executing contracts, supervising operations, accounting and human resources, preparing the annual budget and forecast projections, participating in quarterly audits with internal and statutory auditors from Japan, construction project management and community relations. In 2004, Karen assisted in getting its parent company's stock listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Today, Best Bridal Hawaii is a subsidiary of Tsukada Global Holdings, a publicly traded company in Japan.

In 2015, Karen left Best Bridal Hawaii to work as a Japanese wedding consultant to better serve the Japan-Hawaii wedding industry, and to focus on serving the community through non-profit organizations.

Karen's business development and corporate experiences called her to work with non-profit organizations. In 2008, Karen was elected as president and chief operating officer of Winners at Work, Inc., (dba Abilities Unlimited), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides job training and employment services to people with disabilities. The Board of Trustees hired her to implement for-profit strategies to ensure the organization's long-term viability.

Karen serves other missions as a board member of the March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter, Positive Coaching Alliance Hawaii, Manoa Valley Theatre, Women's Fund Hawaii, Susan G Komen, and Seagull Schools.

She chaired the Manoa Valley Theatre's 2020 Manoa Marquee (Virtual), Susan G. Komen Hawaii's 2021 Pink Tie Lei Day Celebration (Hybrid), and the Women's Fund Hawaii's 2021 Tea & Champagne Fundraiser (Virtual) that has captured the heart of Oprah Winfrey to deliver her message of support for women and girls.