
EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Progression Energy, Portland, OR

December 2017 - Present

Chief Strategy Officer, Executive Vice President – Hawaii and Pacific

Advise Progression Energy on development of utility-scale renewable energy generation projects in Asia, Hawaii, Jamaica, Pacific, and Northeast United States. Responsible for the development of a 400 MW floating offshore wind farm off Oahu in support of joint venture between Progression Energy and EDF Renewables (Electricite de France). Manage team focused on all aspects of project development including: stakeholder engagement, participation in regulatory dockets, utility negotiations, permitting, siting, resource management, monitoring of regulations, statutes, and policies, and financing. Responsible for external affairs, including community and stakeholder engagement at the federal, state, and community levels. Responsible for design and implementation of community co-creation process focused on community partnership/ownership model.

Kalipi Enterprises, LLC, Hilo, HI

December 2013-Present

President

Provide consulting services related to strategic planning with specific emphasis on project development, project management, and community outreach and engagement in food security, energy security, and community empowerment. Curriculum development and facilitation services related to difficult conversations, relationship building, and conflict resolution within businesses, organizations and in grassroots community interactions. Assist clients with successful development of projects and programs in Hawaii based on clear understanding of Hawaii's history, business networks, professional relationships, customs and practices. Assist clients nationally and globally on project development in the areas of innovation, sustainability, economic development, and renewable energy generation.

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

November 2018 – October 2019

Director, Hawaii Partnerships

Served as primary liaison in Hawaii between ASU Office of the President and Hawaii-based entities, including post-secondary institutions, to support ASU in collaborative partnerships and agreements in Hawaii focused on sustainability, innovation, food systems, and in support of indigenous culture, language, and practices. Coordinated outreach between ASU affiliated centers, schools, and departments and Hawaii-based organizations, businesses and individuals to maximize synergies and alignment of goals and outcomes. Staffed and coordinated visits at ASU campuses and Hawaii sites. Supported convenings at multiple sites.

Kohala Institute at 'Iole, Kapaau, HI

June 2014 – November 2018

Executive Director

Directed strategic planning, including project and program development and implementation, for nonprofit organization managing 2400 acres in North Kohala. Designed and implemented innovative place-based learning experiences fostering greater understanding and connection to abundant natural, historical, and cultural resources. Implemented Collaboration for Solutions Program methodology focused on strengthening relationships between stakeholders to better support proactive conflict resolution and community resiliency. Developed and operated social impact enterprises to demonstrate mission, generate revenue, and provide community-based economic development opportunities in the areas of energy, food production, education, land use, and technology. Operated GRACE Center, six-building education and meeting center with 80 beds. Responsible for fundraising, community outreach and engagement, marketing, financial planning and reporting, program development and personnel management.

TiLeaf Group, Inc., Honolulu, HI

March 2010 – May 2014

President

Managed national native advocacy firm focused on policy advocacy, business development, and marketing for clients with programs, services, and projects that contribute to the well-being of native communities. Represented native and non-native clients focused on community-based economic development, clean-tech, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, and food, agricultural, and data security. Participated in policy formation at the national level with federal agencies, coalitions, Congressional offices. Assisted with community outreach and project development.

First Wind, Honolulu, HI

June 2006 – March 2010

Director, Government & Community Relations

Coordinated First Wind's grassroots outreach efforts in Hawaii with specific focus on incorporating Native Hawaiian culture and values into projects. Assisted with project development in Hawaii including planning, budgeting, permitting, and negotiations with utilities. Monitored and participated in regulatory dockets. Constant interaction with communities on Maui, Oahu, Molokai, and Kauai. Implemented First Wind's legislative goals at the federal, state and county levels. Served as First Wind's primary spokesperson for its Hawaii projects, with media coverage in national publications and television networks and Hawaii-based media. Supervised development staff and consultants in Hawaii and managed project budgets.

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate

March 1999 – June 2006

Washington, D.C.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

February 2005 – June 2006

Democratic Staff Director

Managed and supervised Democratic committee staff. Interacted with Republican and Democratic counterparts in U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to enact legislation pertaining to health care and benefits for veterans. Responsible for implementing legislative agenda of Ranking Member (Akaka) and responding to legislative goals set by Democratic members of committee. Responded to inquiries and correspondence from veterans. Interacted frequently with Veteran Service Organizations. Advised Senator Akaka on legislative and administrative matters pertaining to Native Hawaiians, including Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.

Congressional Senate Office

June 2000 – February 2005

Deputy Legislative Director/Counsel

Assisted with the management and supervision of legislative staff. Responsible for assisting Senator Akaka with matters involving indigenous peoples, with focus on Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act. Served as Military Legislative Assistant and liaison to Senate Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, and Indian Affairs. Advised Senator on legislative and administrative matters pertaining to Defense, Veterans, Pacific Islands and Territories, Judiciary, Civil Rights, Homeland Security, Rules, Indian Affairs, and Native Hawaiians.

Congressional Senate Office

March 1999 – June 2000

Legislative Assistant

Responsible for advising Senator Akaka on legislative and administrative matters pertaining to Native Hawaiians, Defense, Veterans, Judiciary, Civil Rights, Homeland Security, Pacific Islands and Territories, Indian Affairs, and Rules. Coordinated federal reconciliation process between U.S. Departments of the Interior and Justice and Native Hawaiian community. Facilitated discussion between federal, state, and community working groups with Hawaii Congressional delegation to draft Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.

United States Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps
Fort Stewart, Georgia

January 1996 – March 1999

United States Army Trial Defense Service

April 1997 – March 1999

Trial Defense Attorney

Fort Stewart Field Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

Represented and advised soldiers at all levels of military judicial system to include courts-martial, adverse administrative actions (non-judicial punishment and separation). Deployed to Kuwait in capacity as sole criminal defense attorney for Army soldiers supporting Operation Desert Thunder from February 1998 – June 1998.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 3ID (M) and Fort Stewart

May 1996 – April 1997

Administrative Law Attorney

Fort Stewart, Georgia

Provided legal advice to command and staff of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and its installation and tenant activities on a wide range of administrative and civil law matters. Assisted the command with responses to Congressional Inquiries. Served as Procurement Fraud Advisor and the secondary labor law attorney. Represented Staff Judge Advocate on Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board and several committees.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army, Hawaii Island, 2021-Present

Blue Planet Foundation, Board Member

Sustainable Energy Hawaii, Board Member, 2020-2021

Hilo High Girls' Softball, Assistant Coach, 2019-Present

First Nations Futures Program, 2018

Hui 'Oihana, Hawaii Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, 2018-Present

Envision Maunakea Hui Ho'olohe, 2017

Hilo Strikers Softball Club, Co-Founder, 2016-Present

Hawaii Island United Way, Board of Directors, 2014- 2019

PBS Hawaii, Board of Directors, 2014- Present

Omidyar Fellows Program, 2012- 2013

Hawaii Leadership Forum of Fellows, 2013-Present

Big Island Community Coalition, Steering Committee, 2012-2019

Hawaii State Bar Association, Member, 1995 – Present

DC Bar Association, Member 1996 - Present

EDUCATION

The George Washington University National Law Center, Washington, DC

J.D. May 1995.

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

B.A. Government & Politics/Economics. Summa Cum Laude. May