

## Jayson M. Watts

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### **Mahi Pono, LLC, Kahului, HI**

*Director of External Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, November 2019 – Present*

Serves as Director of External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives for a 41,000-acre diversified agricultural company on the island of Maui. Oversees the company's 100-acre community farm and agriculture park and occupational/Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) program for over 300 employees, including planning, implementing, and enforcing the company's EHS policies and procedures, ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Works closely with senior leaders to develop sustainable program goals, execute comprehensive media and public policy advocacy, and manage relations before key county, state, and federal decision-makers.

#### **Office of the Director, Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), Honolulu, HI**

*Special Assistant to the Director, January 2019 – November 2019*

Served as special assistant to the executive department head and member of the Governor's Cabinet, responsible for Hawaii's economic safety net and ensuring the safety, productivity, and well-being of Hawaii's labor force. Assisted the Director in carrying out his responsibilities by coordinating administrative matters and departmental budget activities, assisted the departmental legislative coordinator and public information officer with matters between the Department, Governor's office, Legislature, members of Congress and the federal government, and the public. Drafted and reviewed legislation and administrative rules, assisted with the development and execution of the department's legislative strategy and other assignments, such as special studies of departmental programs and operations, and made recommendations on policies and procedures, budget, organization and staffing, and personnel activities.

The DLIR enforces Hawaii's labor laws through the direct administration of 6 divisions, including Hawaii's Unemployment Insurance, Disability Compensation, Wage Standards, Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health, Workforce Development, and Research and Statistics Divisions and administratively attached agencies, including the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, Hawaii Labor Relations Board, Employment Security Appeals Referee's Office, Office of Community Services, Workforce Development Council, and State Fire Council.

#### **Office of the Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawaii, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI**

*Senior Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, January 2014 – December 2018*

Primary responsibilities included coordinating and managing the Lieutenant Governor's statewide strategic initiatives. This required the active engagement and coordination of state legislators, members of Congress, and multiple state departments to promote, advance, and secure those initiatives while building public-private partnerships to support the government's work. Two significant initiatives overseen were the creation and program management of (1) the state's 'Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program to increase the purchase and consumption of local agriculture in Hawaii schools and to reform the Hawaii State Department of Education's (HIDOE) \$108 million-plus School Food Services Branch budget including the education and retraining of over 1,000 cafeteria employees statewide and (2) the state's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) Initiative to develop a framework and funding base for state-subsidized high-quality after-school programming in HIDOE middle and intermediate schools throughout the state. Additional duties included drafting Hawaii Administrative Rules and staffing the Lieutenant Governor in his role as Secretary of State.

**Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms, State of Hawaii, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI**

Assistant Senate Sergeant at Arms, January 2007 – January 2014

Appointed by the Hawaii State Senate as the Assistant Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and served from 2007-2014. Assisted the Sergeant at Arms in all duties charged to the Sergeant at Arms. Under the supervision of the President, the Sergeant at Arms is responsible for property control and the custodial, messenger, security, and postal services of the Senate. Coordinates the assignment of office space, purchase of office supplies, and inventory control systems; establishes and maintains an inventory control report; establishes and maintains an operational manual for the Sergeant at Arms office; periodically completes certified law enforcement training provided by the Department of Public Safety or other appropriate organization that is appropriate for the Sergeant at Arms to satisfy his or her duty of maintaining order in the Senate Chamber during session, including training on the arrest and removal of disorderly non-members through non-physical means; seek other educational opportunities to assist in achieving the duties of the Sergeant at Arms; performs other related duties specified in the Rules of the Senate and Administrative and Financial Manual of the Senate; and performs other duties as requested by the President.

**Office of the Senate Majority Caucus Leader, State of Hawaii, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI**

Legislative Director, December 2003 – January 2007

Responsible for the daily management of the Majority Caucus Leaders' legislative agenda and leadership assignments, including his membership on the Senate Ways and Means Committee as the Committee Vice-Chair and Chair of Capital Improvement Projects. Oversaw legislative and project research, data and budget analysis, constituent services and communications with elected, senior executive, and non-governmental leaders, and legislative oversight of Capital Improvement Project planning, budgeting, and execution.

**Office of Congresswoman Patsy T.Mink, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, and Honolulu, HI**

Congressional Intern and Staff Assistant, May 2000 – September 2002

Served as a congressional intern and later staff assistant in the late Congresswoman Mink's Washington, DC, and Honolulu offices. Responsibilities included administrative duties, greeting constituents, Capitol tours, research on issues and legislation, drafting memos and other written documents, assisting on special projects, and other duties as assigned by the Congresswoman, Administrative Assistant, and Legislative Director.

**EDUCATION**

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Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, Hawaii

High School Diploma  
H. P. Baldwin High School  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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2010 Graduate, Legislative Staff Management Institute (LSMI) the  
University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy  
California State University Sacramento School of California Studies

2015 Fellow, Asia-Pacific Orientation Course (APOC 15-2)  
Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies  
Honolulu, Hawaii

2023 Candidate  
Management and Leadership Skills Course for Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Professionals  
Harvard University, Massachusetts

2023 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow  
A Decisions Maui and Focus Maui Nui initiative, the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program is a year-long program  
conceived to promote and develop community-identified future leaders through a non-profit community-based  
program designed to address planning for Maui Nui's future.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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Life Member, National Eagle Scout Association  
National Legislative Services and Security Association, NCSL  
Member, Public Relations Society of America  
Member, American Association of Safety Professionals  
Member, National Safety Council

## CURRENT COMMUNITY BOARD SERVICE

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Member and Secretary, Board of Directors  
**Maui County Farm Bureau, Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation**

Member, Board of Directors  
**The University of Hawaii Alumni Association**

Member, Board of Directors  
**Maui United Way**

Member, Board of Directors  
**Hawaii Food Industry Association**

Member, Board of Directors  
**U.S. Department of Commerce Hawaii-Pacific Export Council**