

**RYAN K. P. KANAKA`OLE**

**EXPERIENCE**

**State of Hawai'i, Department of the Attorney General**

*08/2017 to Present*

*Deputy Attorney General*

- Counsel for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation and the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority. Previously served as the lead counsel for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Served on the Appellate & Opinion Review Committee and Training Committee. Provided advice and counsel to the Hawai'i State Legislature and Executive Branch agencies on the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the Public Land Trust ("Ceded Lands"). Appointed to the Public Land Trust Working Group.

Litigated cases at all levels of the state court system from the district courts to the Hawai'i Supreme Court; the U.S. District Court and Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawai'i; the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; and several administrative bodies, including the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the State Commission on Water Resource Management.

Focus of Practice: Real Property, Land Use, Native Hawaiian Law, Civil Litigation, Trusts, Contracts, and Administrative Law.

**State of Hawai'i, Office of the Auditor**

*08/2013 to 07/2017*

*Associate General Counsel/Analyst (02/2016-07/2017); Analyst (01/2015 to 01/2016); Associate Analyst (08/2013 to 12/2014)*

- Led and performed audits, studies, and evaluations of state agencies and programs; applied established standards and procedures to develop supported, objective findings and recommendations; prepared reports on complex issues for publication and submission to the Governor and State Legislature. Provided legal research and other legal support to the State Auditor, general counsel, and audit personnel. Additional responsibilities included performing sunrise and sunset evaluations for legislatively proposed professional regulations and serving on the editing committee.

**Hawai'i County, Office of the Corporation Counsel**

*05/2012 to 08/2013*

*Deputy Corporation Counsel*

- Counsel for the following Hawai'i County agencies: the Department of Public Works, the Department of Finance - Real Property Tax Division, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Office of Aging. Additionally, provided legal services to the Hawai'i County Mayor's Office and the Hawai'i County Council. Appointed to the Hawai'i Traffic Safety Council and the County of Hawai'i Real Property Tax Task Force.

Represented the County of Hawai'i before the state district and circuit courts, U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the District of Hawai'i, the State Land Use Commission, and several Hawai'i County Boards, including the Windward and Leeward Planning Commissions, and Board of Appeals.

Focus of Practice: Contracts, Real Property Tax, Administrative Law, Construction Law, Land Use, and Civil Litigation.

**The Honorable Steven S. Alm, First Circuit Court of Hawai'i**

*08/2011 to 05/2012*

*Law Clerk*

---

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa – William S. Richardson School of Law** (Honolulu, Hawai‘i)

- ***Juris Doctor and Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law***
  - CALI Award for Academic Excellence in Legal Practice I (Legal Research and Writing)
  - CALI Award for Academic Excellence in Federal Indian Law
  - Best Appellate Brief Finalist - Legal Practice II (Appellate Advocacy)
  - Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal- Executive Comments Editor & Staff Editor

**University of Hawai‘i at Hilo** (Hilo, Hawai‘i)

- ***Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Highest Honors***
  - University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents Presidential Scholar
  - Outstanding Graduating Senior in Political Science Achievement Award
  - Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honors Society

**Kamehameha Schools** (Kapālama, Hawai‘i)

---

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

---

**Nā Mamo o Kāwā** 12/2017 to 1/2020

*Director; Interim Chairman (2019-2020)*

- Served on the board of directors for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides cultural and environmental stewardship for 785 acres of undeveloped shoreline in Ka‘ū District, Hawai‘i Island. Created the group’s coastal and dryland forest revegetation program and secured over \$250,000 in grant funding.

**Hawai‘i State Bar Association**

- O‘ahu Director – Young Lawyers Division (01/2020-12/2021)
- 2019 Leadership Institute Fellow

---

## LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

---

- Licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai‘i (2011), U.S. District Court of Hawai‘i (2011), and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (2020)
- Certified Government Auditing Professional (Inactive)

---

## PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLISHED OPINIONS

---

- *The Indivisible ‘Ohana: Extending Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights to Non-Hawaiian Family Members*, 12:2 ASIAN-PAC. L & POL’Y J. 145 (2011)
- *Novel America*, 16 YELLOW MED. REV. J. OF INDIGENOUS LIT., ART, AND THOUGHT 102 (2014)
- Matter of Contested Case Hrng. on Water Use Permit App. Orig. Filed By Kukui (Molokai), Inc., 143 Hawai‘i 434, 431 P.3d 807 (2018)
- Rosquita v. Hawaiian Homes Comm’n, 2023 WL 8797031 (Hawai‘i and Pacific Reporter citations pending) (2023)