

Roy M. Takumi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Roy Takumi was born and raised in Hawaii. His father worked for the sewer department and his mother worked as a school custodian. A product of the public schools, Roy worked since he was 15 starting off bagging groceries at \$1.25 an hour.

After graduating from McKinley High School, he joined the Hawaii Air National Guard and then attended Leeward Community College while working full-time at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as a laborer. A life-long learner, he eventually received his master's degree in public administration when he was 40.

He moved to Japan when he was 24 to work as an organizer in a Korean community in Osaka. He was to stay for six years and traveled extensively throughout the region – Philippines, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong – working with community-based development projects. He also was a co-coordinator for a Vietnamese refugee project that provided refugees temporarily residing in Japan a basic survival English course to enable them to better cope with their new lives upon resettlement.

He was first elected 1992 to the House of Representatives and re-elected until 2022 from the 35th District (Pearl City-Waipahu). Over the years, he has served as chair of Intergovernmental and International Affairs Committee; Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources Committee; Higher Education Committee; and Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee. He served as chair of the Education Committee for fifteen years (2002-17) and was the primary sponsor of the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 (Act 51). It was also during his chairmanship that the Executive Office on Early Learning was established in 2012.

In recognition of his efforts, Roy has received numerous awards. In 1997, he was awarded the prestigious Flemming Fellowship given to emerging political leaders in the country. In 2001, he received the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowship for his work in connecting local and global issues. He is the first legislator from Hawaii to get both of these nationally recognized awards. He's been recognized as a leader in education reform and received the legislator of the year award in 2004 from the Friends of the Library and the Friend of Education award from the University of Hawaii's College of Education in 2005.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Legislative

Elected to the state House of Representatives in 1992 and served until 2022 from the 35th District (Pearl City-Waipahu).

Labor Advocacy

From 1990-2015 served as communications director for the Hawaii State AFL-CIO, the largest labor federation in the state with over 60 affiliated unions representing 80,000 workers.

Community

From 1984-90, served as the program director of the American Friends Service Committee, Hawaii office. The recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947, AFSC is a peace and justice organization that works on a range of issues around four major areas: indigenous rights, economic justice, militarism, and human rights in Asia and the Pacific.

Worked as a community organizer for six years (1977-83) in a Korean community in Osaka, Japan. Majority of time spent on social issues such as discrimination in housing and the situation of undocumented Korean immigrants. Worked in small family-owned sweatshops to integrate into the community.

Served as co-coordinator for a Vietnamese refugee project that provided refugees temporarily residing in Japan a basic survival English course to enable them to better cope with their new lives upon resettlement. Visited refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Boards and Commissions

Over the years, served on various boards and commissions including:

Vice-chair, Education Committee of the States

Member, American Friends Service Committee, Hawaii Office

Member, Civil Rights Consortium

Commissioner, Commission on Employment and Human Resources

Member, Council on Nontraditional Employment for Women

Member, Hawaii Job Training Coordinating Council

Chair, Inter-Agency Council Immigration Law Task Force

Vice-chair, Labor Education Advisory Council

Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Member, State Council on Vocational Education

MILITARY SERVICE

Served in the Hawaii Air National Guard for seven years (1970-77). Graduated first in technical training class and received Outstanding Honor Graduate Award. Completed four-week course in Leadership Training at McGhee-Tyson Air Force Base, Tennessee. Received Distinguished Graduate Certificate awarded to the top ten per cent in class. Honorably discharged as a staff sergeant.

EDUCATION AND FAMILY BACKGROUND

Graduated from McKinley High School, class of 1970. Attended the University of Hawaii and majored in Ethnic Studies. Graduated from Long Island University, NY, with a B.A. in education. Senior project was developing a cross-cultural educational program for Vietnamese refugees. Graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1992 with a Master's degree in Public Administration (4.0 GPA).

Born on October 13, 1952 and raised in Honolulu. Married to Wanda Kutaka since 1976. Two children and five grandchildren all of whom attended public schools.

AWARDS/HONORS

Award of Excellence, University of Hawaii, College of Education

Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow, Center for Policy Alternatives, Washington, D.C.

Flemming Fellow, Center for Policy Alternatives, Washington, D.C.

Herman S. Doi Fellowship, Public Administration Program, University of Hawaii

Legislator of the Year, Friends of the Library

Outstanding Honor Graduate, Technical School, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

Distinguished Graduate, Leadership Training, McGhee-Tyson Air Force Base, Tennessee

Who's Who in America

Who's Who in American Politics

Who's Who Among Asian Americans

Who's Who in the West