

# JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accomplished public servant leveraging a decade-long tenure on the Kaua'i County Council and a distinguished sixteen-year incumbency within the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. A seasoned professional with a rich background spanning the hospitality sector, from grassroots roles in Kaua'i restaurants to adept management of prominent hotels in Hawai'i and across the continental United States, alongside entrepreneurial ventures in restaurant ownership. Recognized proficiency in fostering coalitions and driving collaborative efforts. A proven visionary and catalyst for change, deeply committed to elevating the quality of life for Hawai'i residents.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

Director | Nominated May 5, 2023 - Present

- Leads the department's initiatives aimed at fostering an innovative and globally competitive economy for Hawai'i, fostering dynamism and productivity while ensuring equitable opportunities for all citizens across the state.

### State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation, Airports Division

Deputy Director | January 2023 – May 2023

- Directed the supervision of 15 airports and a workforce of 1,200 employees across the state. Instrumental in the development, management, and upkeep of a high-performing global air transportation entity, prioritizing safety and efficiency.

### Hawai'i State House of Representatives

State Representative, District 15 | Elected November 2006 – December 2022

- Elected in November 2006 and served until December 2022, accumulating over sixteen years of distinguished service marked by dynamic leadership roles. Held pivotal positions including Majority Whip, Chair of the Legislative Management and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Vice Chair of Tourism, and membership on influential committees such as Military and Veteran Affairs, Health and Human Services, Judiciary, and Hawaiian Affairs.

### Oceanic Time Warner Cable

New Business Manager | January 2011 – January 2023

- Directed strategic initiatives to drive substantial growth in hotel sales and spearheaded comprehensive business development efforts statewide. Notably, orchestrated and led the execution of the largest single sales contract for Hawai'i in the company's history with Hilton Hotels and Vacation Clubs. Successfully cultivated new business partnerships with distinguished entities such as AIO Hawai'i, Aqua-Aston Hotels and Resorts, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i, D.R. Horton, Howard Hughes, Marriott Hotels and Vacation Clubs, National Housing Corporation, and Starwood Hotels and Resorts, significantly elevating the company's market presence and fostering sustained expansion.

### **Kaua'i County Council**

County Council Vice Chairman | Elected December 1996 – December 2006

- Successfully secured five consecutive two-year terms from December 1996 to 2006 in an 'at-large' seat for a municipality boasting 64,000 residents. Held pivotal responsibilities, including legislative oversight of a \$102.5 million operating budget and a \$16.8 million capital improvement budget, alongside the influential role of determining property tax rates across all categories. Additionally, contributed expertise as an Executive Committee Member for the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, and served as one of three representatives from Hawai'i on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Counties, actively shaping policy and advocating for regional interests at a national level.

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### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Terrace Restaurant at Kaua'i Lagoons, Līhu'e, HI / Fish Bowl's Restaurant, Waipouli, HI**  
**Partner,** June 1997 – March 2003. 250-seat restaurant and a 130-seat banquet facility.

**Da Box Lunch Place, Līhu'e, HI**

**Owner/Operator,** July 1992 – June 1996. Designed, constructed and opened a local eatery.

**Holiday Inn Corporation, West Coast US**

**General Manager, Special Projects,** January 1987 - September 1991.

**Holiday Inn Civic Center, San Francisco, CA**

**Assistant General Manager,** September 1989 - September 1991. 389 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn, Long Beach, CA**

**Food and Beverage Director,** January 1987 – August 1988. 233 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, UT**

**Food and Beverage Director,** March 1986 – December 1986. 340 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn San Diego Harbor View, San Diego, CA**

**Food and Beverage Director,** January 1985 – February 1986. 203 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn Honolulu Airport, Honolulu, HI**

**Assistant Food and Beverage Director,** August 1983 – December 1984. 310 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, HI**

**Banquet/Room Service Manager,** October 1982 – August 1983. 636 guest rooms.

**Waiohai Resort Hotel, Kaua'i, HI**

**Restaurant Manager,** March 1982 – October 1982. 434 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, HI**

**Banquet Captain,** October 1981 – March 1982. 636 guest rooms.

**Holiday Inn Kauai Beach, Kaua'i, HI**

**Bus Boy to Banquet Captain,** February 1979 – October 1981. 309 guest rooms.

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## MEMBERSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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- Lihu'e Baseball League, Head Coach, 2002 – 2007
- Easter Seals Hawai'i, Board of Directors, 2000 – 2006
- Visitor Aloha Society of Kaua'i, Board Member, 2000 – 2003
- National Association of Counties, **Board Director**, 2001 – 2006
- Hawai'i State Association of Counties, **Executive Committee Member**, 2001 – 2006
- San Francisco Hotel Security Directors' Association, Member, 1989 – 1991

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## EDUCATION

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### **Political Science, State of Hawai'i/County of Kaua'i**

26-year "degree" introducing, passing, and interpreting laws; facilitating public meetings; building coalitions and listening to the citizenry as a responsible and responsive elected official, 1996 – 2022.

### **Holiday University, Olive Branch, MS**

Accelerated Certification in Hotel, Food and Beverage, Guest Services and Security Management, 1985.

### **Kaua'i Community College, Kaua'i, HI**

Studies in Electronics, 1979 – 1980.

### **Kapa'a High and Intermediate School, Kapa'a, HI**

Diploma, 1979.

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## PERSONAL

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