

David Iha

David Iha started his career with the University of Hawai'i at the System Budget Office as an Institutional Analyst and later, as Acting Budget Director. He served as Budget and Accounting Officer for the Community College System before returning to his native Kauai as the Director of Administrative Services at Kauai Community College. He was part of the leadership team that designed and built a new campus in Puhi on 200 acres of land donated by Grove Farm Company. He was appointed Provost of Kauai Community College in 1982 and led the campus for sixteen years. As Provost, he helped rebuild the college after the destruction caused by Hurricane Iwa in 1982 and Hurricane Iniki in 1992. Mr. Iha expanded the curriculum to include: Culinary arts, Hawai'ian Studies, Hospitality and Tourism, Early Childhood Education, and Electronics Technology. He was a strong advocate for the University Center, international education, and establishing exchange programs with educational institutions in Okinawa and mainland Japan.

David Iha served as the Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents from 1998 until his retirement in 2006.

During his tenure at UH, Mr. Iha held several national and regional positions in higher education associations including: The American Council of Education, The American Association of Community Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission for Community Colleges part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Mr. Iha served on a number of governing boards in the state including: the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Public Schools of Hawai'i Foundation, Kauai Visitors Bureau, and a founding director of the Kauai Economic Development Board,

Currently Mr. Iha serves on the Conference Council and the Hawai'i Conference Foundation of the United Church of Christ, Lihue Christian Church, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative Board, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board.

Mr. Iha has received numerous honors, among them the State of Hawai'i's Governor's Award for Employee of the Year, 1986; University of Hawai'i Alumni Association, Distinguished Service Award, 1988; Wheaton College Crusader Club Hall of Honor, 1991; University of Hawai'i Manager of the Year, 1993; University of the Ryukyus (Okinawa), Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, 2003.

Mr. Iha is an active participant in a variety of community activities, including singing with The Kauai Chorale, President of the Chado Urasenke Foundation Tankokai Kauai Association, and playing the Okinawan sanshin with the Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawai'i Shibu.

A graduate of Kauai High School, Mr. Iha received a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Illinois and a master's degree from UH Manoa. He served two years on active duty with the U.S. Army with assignments in Korea and Hawai'i. He and his wife, Shirley, have two sons, Douglas and Derek, four grandchildren and a great grandson.