

Robert. W. Parsons

GOAL: Utilize extensive experience in environmental and public service sectors to optimize eco-advocacy and networking, championing sustainability initiatives, and supporting natural resource conservation and restoration efforts.

OPTIMAL SCOPE OF SERVICE: Maui County, Hawaiian Islands, Pacific Island Nations and beyond.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCES & SKILLS: --2011-present

- Serving in ninth year as Maui County Environmental Coordinator, appointed as Executive Assistant to Mayor Alan Arakawa (2003-06, 2011-14)
- Hawaii Green Growth—Maui liaison, Core Team and Measures Team member to statewide sustainability networking organization
- Maui Conservation Alliance—Past chair, 2013 and ongoing County representative to multi-stakeholder conservation group
- UHMC-Sustainable Science Management—Co-chair of Advisory Group, mentor to 4 different students in the degree program
- West Maui Ridge To Reef—County rep on multi-agency watershed planning and protection organization
- Watershed protection—County liaison to East Maui Watershed Protection Partnership, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership, Lanai Watershed Partnership, Pu`u Kukui Watershed Preserve, and The Nature Conservancy
- Invasive Species—Liaison to Maui Invasive Species Committee and Mayor's designee to Hawaii Invasive Species Council
- Marine Protection—Representative to Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, NOAA-Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
- Inter-governmental agencies, Federal, State and County—County partner to State Dept. of Land & Natural Resources and attending monthly division chiefs meeting. Also working with Dept. of Health, Dept. of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corp of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii programs, and various County departments and offices
- Local agriculture—Appointee to Council member Don Guzman's Ag Working Group, and member of Maui Farmers Union United
- International travel—Emissary to World Cultural Forum, Hangzhou, China with Mayor Arakawa (2013). County rep on The Nature Conservancy exchange trip to Palau (2012) with focus on marine and terrestrial conservation and protection.
- Media—Environmental outreach through print (High Street Journal, Maui Time Weekly), radio (Mayor's show, Sustainable Maui show), and AKAKU public access television (Reality Check with Mayor Arakawa). Studio trained at Akaku.

2007—2010

- Freelance eco-journalist, with more than 175 articles written. Three years of weekly column written for Maui Time Weekly and feature cover stories. Also published, including photos, in Maui Weekly, Edible Hawaiian Islands, and Honolulu Weekly. Archive may be found at legacyprojectshawaii.com
- Environmental consultant to Food & Water Watch (based in Washington, D.C.) as outreach specialist on Open Ocean Aquaculture issues in Hawaii (2008-2010). Co-founding member of the Pono Aquaculture Alliance statewide network.
- Spearheaded Maui team in statewide, national, and international campaign to prevent palm oil biodiesel importation from Indonesia and Malaysia to Hawaii.
- Teamed with Rainforest Action Network (California-based) for trip to Decatur, IL to protest harmful ag/biofuel practices at Archer-Daniels-Midland annual meeting
- Launched eco-business as local distributor for SkyPure water humidifier/purifiers.
- Networked as eco-advocate on various local, state and international issues.
- Maui Tomorrow Foundation, board member and Vice-President.
- Sierra Club—Maui, board member and Conservation Chair

2000—2002

- Ran two political campaigns, for County Council (2000) and Mayor (2002), positively impacting the outcome of both elections.
- Served as Haiku Community Association President
- Served on the boards of Maui Tomorrow Foundation and Sierra Club-Maui
- Delegate to Sierra Club national conference on Urban Sprawl, Washington, D.C.

1977—2000

- Various service industry jobs, including management level, food service, catering
- Owner/operator of local business, Grand Wazoo Piano Moving, 1986-2002
- Organic farm worker/partner, Spring Valley Farms, 1978-1983

EDUCATION:

- Denison University, Granville, Ohio; B.A. English, with Minor in Communications, 1975
- PSI Seminars—PSI-1, PSI-5, Personal Leadership Dynamics, 1991-1993
- Various County-sponsored networking and management training workshops

PERSONAL:



REFERENCES: Upon request, I can share 48 letters of support that were offered in December, 2014 while Mayor Arakawa's administration conducted its internal review while transitioning to a second four-year term of elected office. Letters are from County, State and Federal agencies, organizations and individuals which partner with my office.