

RESUME

Margarita Leyson Hopkins

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Professional Experience

Agriculture Disaster Assistance Coordinator - A 90 days hire, started September 2, 2014 to November 30, 2014. Assist in the coordination of recovery efforts for the agriculture industry negatively affected by Hurricane Iselle, i.e. assist in the efforts between multiple agencies, direct outreach to claimants and provide information and assistance where needed, conduct research on new post-disaster tools, methodologies, skills and communicate with project partners and develop agriculture post-disaster preparedness initiative plan.

Economic Development Specialist, Department of Research and Development, County of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii, USA. May 1989 to December 1999, December 2000 to 2012. Duties have included:

- Responsible for preparation and update of Country agricultural development plan;
- Evaluation and funding of agricultural research, education and marketing projects;
- Oversight of Ka'u Agriculture Water and Papaya Ringspot Virus Quarantine Projects
- Revision of agricultural sections in the Hawaii County tax code and General Plan;
- Establishment of a County-based agriculture conservation program in cooperation with Big Island RC&D and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- Establishment of a pilot non-English training program in Pesticide Safety in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture;
- Development of a branded promotional program for Big Island products;
- Coordination and facilitation of dialog between agricultural commodity groups, government and private entities;
- Oversight of the County's participation in eradication of miconia on the Big Island
- Hawaii County representative, Aquaculture Development Program;
- Board member, Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council;
- Advisory Council Member, UH Sea Grant College Program;
- Committee Member, Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
- Board member, Papaya Administrative Committee

Professional Experience (continued)

Director of Research and Development, County of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii, USA. January to December 2000. I was responsible for the management and supervision of the Department and all of its employees, contractors, and grantees. The Department's areas of emphasis were economic development including enterprise zones, agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, enhancement of tourism, film, energy conservation within County government, and provision of information services to other County Departments. With a change in administration after the 2000 election, I returned to my Economic Development Specialist position (see above)

Lecturer, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Natural Resources Management, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii. September 20013 to present. Taught undergraduate courses in Farm Management.

Lecturer, College of Business and Economics, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii. 1989 - to 2008 (but not every semester). Taught undergraduate courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics and the Hawaiian economy.

Marketing Specialist/Economist, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Salmiya, Kuwait. September 1982 to May 1985. Conducted research on the economics of the Kuwait fishing fleet and the feasibility of aquaculture in Kuwait. Particular emphasis was given to development of markets for aquaculture products.

Assistant Professor, Department of Agri-Management, Central Luzon State University, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. April to November 1981. Taught undergraduate courses in agricultural marketing.

Staff Associate, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, MCC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. February 1980 to December 1981. Conducted research on the economics of integrated livestock-fish systems.

Research Associate, Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. January 1976 to August 1979. Designed and conducted research projects on the marketing of aquaculture products, trained international students and Peace Corps volunteers in the economics of aquaculture, and assisted in the supervision of graduate student research on fisheries and aquaculture economics. Developed the first markets for cultured tilapia in the U.S.A.

Agricultural Economist, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. April to August 1975. Designed and conducted a survey of marketing practices of fishermen, fish dealers, processors and fishpond operators. Supervised the activities of five interviewers.

Public/Community Service

Board Member – Language Access Advisory Council – June 2012 – June 2016

East Hawaii Vicariate Representative – Diocesan Planning and Building Commission –
February 2013 – June 30, 2017

Member – Pacific West Area Institutional Biosafety Committee – March 2013 - present

Board Member – Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, 2000 –
present

Member - St. Joseph School Board, January 2010 - present

Member – Hawaii Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, 2004 – 2012

Public Member, Real Estate Appraisers Advisory Committee, 1997- 2000

Public Member, Board of Examiners in Optometry, 1992 - 1997

Board Member, American Lung Association of Hawaii, 1997-1999

Member, Hawaii Sea Grant Advisory Committee, 1999 - 2004

Representative, Hawaii Central Committee, Democratic Party – 2004-2006

Secretary - St. Joseph Parish Finance Committee, 2004- 2007

Treasurer – St. Joseph School Parent and Teachers Guild – 2006-2007

Steward – HGEA BU 13, Hawaii County R&D, 2005 - 2012

President, Congress of Visayan Organizations, 2005-2009

President, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Big Island Chapter, 2000 - 2002

Board of Governors, Congress of Visayan Organizations, 1993 - 2005

President, Big Island Filipino Community Council, 1999 - 2000

1st Vice President, Big Island Filipino Community Council, 1997-1999

President, Hilo Visayan Club, 1992 – 1995, 2000 - 2004

Referee and coach, American Youth Soccer Organization, 1989 - 2008

Education

<u>School</u>	<u>Major Field(s)</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Degree</u>
St. Joseph College	Accounting	1967-71	B.S.
Xavier University	Ag. Economics	1973-75	M.S.
Auburn University	Ag. Econ. & Fisheries	1976-79	-
Oregon St. Univ.	Ag. Economics	1985-88	

All coursework for a Ph.D. from OSU was completed but my family and I moved to Hawaii before I could complete the research.

Specialized Training

Advanced Facilitation Workshop, Seattle, Washington, 1992

Agriculture Leadership Foundation Training, 1992 & 93

Publications and Reports

Author or co-author of six papers in international journals and symposia proceedings, two book chapters, four miscellaneous published articles and four unpublished technical reports.

Awards

UH-Hilo & HCC Filipino Advisory Committee - 2009 Outstanding Community Leaders Award

United Filipino Council of Hawaii 2008 Progress Award – Government Service

Congress of Visayan Organizations 2004 Lapu-Lapu Award - Community Service

Hawaii Export Nursery Association – 2007 Hall of Fame

Hawaii Florists & Shippers Association – Service Award

Hawaii Papaya Industry Association - 2013 HPIA Honoree

Language Proficiencies

English - excellent written and verbal abilities

Cebuano Visayan (a Philippines dialect) - native language

Tagalog (Philippines national language) - excellent written and verbal abilities

Spanish - good written and verbal comprehension



Other information available upon request.