

M. NALANI FUJIMORI KAINA

EXPERIENCE

- 5/2009 – present **Executive Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Provides Executive leadership and stability for \$7 million non-profit organization providing direct legal services throughout the state of Hawai'i.
 - Sits as a Commissioner for the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission.
 - Oversaw the development of five of the six Self Help Centers which utilize pro bono attorneys to provide legal advice or legal information to self-represented litigants in the Hawaii courts.
 - Coordinated the merger of the organization with the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center.
 - Participated as member of child welfare task force asked by the Judiciary to help clarify and re-write the law for federal compliance.
- 1/2009 – 5/2009 **Interim Executive Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Acted as Executive Director during period of transition for organization.
- 4/2004 – 5/2009 **Deputy Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Supervised substantive law units and provides guidance on complex litigation issues, including tax-credit rent-to-own housing, birth parent visitation appeal and child welfare issues.
 - Led the effort and was the primary author of the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People in Hawai'i resulting in the creation of the Access to Justice Commission.
 - Wrote and executed complex \$300,000 per year statewide Legal Advocacy for Families and Children grant, negotiated an additional \$170,000 allocation due to effective service delivery.
 - Designed and wrote grants for potential new initiatives in special education, pro se court assistance, and litigation support.
 - Increased Legal Aid's visibility in the legislature through facilitation of and direct testimony upon request on issues affecting social justice for the low-income population.
 - Participates as a member of the Financial Advisory Assistance Council and has participated on the Family Court Interventions and Grandparent Caregivers Task Forces.
 - Directed LSC required priority setting process to provide critical information to the Board through over 100 one-on-one interviews with community partners, and surveys.
 - Increased camaraderie and facilitated team work in Honolulu Office through monthly program manager meetings and on-going mentoring of managers and staff.
 - Facilitated Legal Services Provider Network aimed at increasing communication and partnerships between non-profit legal service agencies in the state.
 - Initiated staff and manager evaluation process to provide feedback.
 - Conducted national trainings on diversification of funding, entrepreneurship and nationally recognized fee-for-service program.
- 12/2005 – 5/2006 **Interim Executive Director**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI
- Provided Executive leadership and stability during time of transition.
 - Secured \$645,000 grant-in-aid to continue state funding of civil legal services and \$25,000, one month contract to provide assistance to Medicaid clients with Medicare Part D enrollment.
 - Initiated bi-weekly "Tidbits and Thoughts" to update staff on program developments and directions, clarify policies and regulations, and deadlines and events.
 - Planned with relevant staff for expansion by building strategic partnerships for innovative grants in food stamp outreach, health law and legal services to foster youth.
 - Worked in partnership with Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii to address detrimental HSBA changes to the definitions of pro bono services.
 - Facilitated evaluation of Center for Equal Justice to expand brief service delivery.

- 8/2001 - 6/2004 **Managing Attorney**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Wailuku, HI
- Managed Maui County offices and provided direct oversight of a \$600,000 budget. Raised over \$100,000 in additional funds.
 - Mentored and coached new attorneys to develop self-confidence, litigation skills and substantive law knowledge to provide quality representation to clients.
 - Directed \$100,000 federally funded Fair Housing Education and Outreach Project that reached over 20,000 individuals through trainings, outreach and creation of a Fair Housing manual.
 - Represented parents and children in CPS cases on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i, including rare overturn resulting in the immediate return of a child to her mother.
 - Provided leadership on elder law issues for County.
 - Assist with the design and finalization of improved pro se divorce forms for the Second Circuit.
 - Helped produce Legal Aid's first Consumer Law Manual.
 - Assisted with design of national MIE Managers in the Middle conference and trained managing attorneys on diversity, fundraising and teamwork.
- 3/1999 - 7/2001 **Staff Attorney**
 Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Kaunakakai, HI
- Represented clients in areas of family, consumer, public benefits, housing, child welfare and elder law. Successfully negotiated settlement in illegal garnishment, maintained custody in heavily litigated divorce, and counseled parents resulting in return of their children from child welfare.
 - Supervised and developed the capacity of paralegal staff to handle supplemental social security income cases, conduct divorce clinic and handle consumer debt collection cases.

EDUCATION

- ██████ **Juris Doctorate**, New York University School of Law, New York, NY
- ██████ **Bachelor of Arts**, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
- ██████ **Honors Diploma**, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- 2016 Hawaii Business News 20 for the Next 20
- 2014 Pacific Business News Business Leadership Hawai'i Award Finalist
- 2014 Where Health Meets Justice Fellow
- 2013 Ho'okele Award from the Hawai'i Community Foundation for non-profit leadership
- 2011 Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation Rhoda Lewis Award for extraordinary public service by a woman attorney.
- 2008 Hawai'i State Bar Association's C. Frederick Shutte Award for outstanding and meritorious service to the legal community and profession.
- 2007 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division National Outstanding Young Lawyer Nominee

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2/2010 – present **Secretary** (2014 – 2016), Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- 9/2005 - present **Chair** (2013 – 2016), Hawai'i State Advisory Council, United States Civil Rights Commission
- 7/2004 - present **Director**, and past President, Hawai'i Women Lawyers
- 7/2004 - present **Member**, Litigation Committee, American Civil Liberties Union
- 2/2004 – 9/2009 **Director** and **Former Chair**, Envision Hawai'i
- 12/2002 - 6/2004 **Director**, Maui County Bar Association
- 2003 **Fellow**, Discovering Leadership, Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute
- 2002 **Member**, Hawaiian Canoe Club
- 1999 - 2001 **Member**, Moana's Hula Halau
- 1999 - 2001 **Director**, Molokai Occupational Center
- 1999 - 2000 **Director**, Hale Ho'okupa'a Outpatient Residential Treatment Center

LICENSES

- 5/1999 Admitted into the Hawaii State Bar