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Top Skills

Start-ups
Marketing
Public Relations

Honors-Awards

Hawaii Business Magazine's 20 for the next 20. Class of 2015
Hawaii Venture Capital Association's Corporate Intrapreneur of the Year 2017
Social Impact Enterprise 2018 from HVCA
Winner of Inaugural 2018 Hawai'i State AgTech Hackathon
Public School Honoree 2018

Patents

Highly flame retardant foam concrete

Ian Kitajima

Co-starter of stuff like Aloha AI, Design Thinking Hawaii, Altino Coding 4 Teachers, Ibis Networks, etc...
Honolulu, Hawaii

Summary

A Tech sherpa, translator, quilt maker, story teller, talent agent, chaos maker, a Jedi-in-Training at Oceanit. My mission: to put more into life than I take...to create value that will outlast me.

Experience

Oceanit
Director / Tech Sherpa
June 2001 - Present (19 years)
Honolulu, Hawaii

(1) Move Oceanit into new areas (energy, nano, robotics, etc.). (2) Attract the superstar engineers and scientist we don't know we need. (3) Implement new ways of thinking like Design Thinking.

Geek Beat on Hawaii News Now
Co-Host
August 2018 - Present (1 year 10 months)
Honolulu, Hawaii

I am Burt's sidekick talking geeky stuff on "Geek Beat" on Hawaii News Now which was created by Burt Lum and Ryan Ozawa.

Hoana Medical
Founding Member
January 2003 - July 2019 (16 years 7 months)
Honolulu, Hawaii

IBIS Networks
Co-Founder / Board Of Directors at Ibis Networks
March 2013 - April 2017 (4 years 2 months)
Honolulu, Hawaii

Co-founder of this "smart socket" energy startup - Oceanit's third venture funded spinoff.

Nanopoint Imaging
Co-Founder Nanopoint
2003 - 2005 (2 years)
Honolulu, HI

Worked closely with Dan O'Connell (the technical genius and heart of Nanopoint) to launch what would become Oceanit's second venture funded spin off - this one was in the medial imaging space. Goal was to bring real-time intracellular imaging at nanometer resolution to the drug discovery market.

MEET Factory Oy
CEO/CMO at MEET Factory Oy
August 2000 - May 2001 (10 months)

Entertainment software that combine SMS text messaging on mobile phones and 3D virtual communities on the Internet

HPK Marketing
Vice President at HPK Marketing
January 1998 - January 2000 (2 years 1 month)
Honolulu, Hawaii

One of three senior leaders supporting a visionary CEO creating a worldwide yoyo crazy in the late 90s. Ninth employee in a hyper growth company - helped the company through rapid growth to millions in sales, 70+ FTE and 200+ part-time child demonstrators and promotional professionals with offices in Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles, and Honolulu in 3 year span. Responsible for overall operations - admin, HR, IT, legal, etc...launched follow-on toy (non-yoyos) with global toy partner Bandai. Made all the mistakes you can make with a high flying startup toy company making lots of money and traveling the world. Led painful company restructuring and turnaround.

Data Capture Systems
Partner at Data Capture Systems
1993 - 1998 (5 years)

Did everything you can do except the programming for a state of the art mission critical wireless warehouse management system. That means living in warehouses documenting the process, interviewing lots of folks up and down the organization, connecting the dots, writing users manual, prototyping and testing the product with users for months at a time. Didn't know I was doing Design Thinking and Lean Startup processes at the time.



Education

University of Hawaii - College of Business Administration
BBA, Dual major: Marketing and International Business

Windward Community College
Associate of Arts (A.A.), General Studies