

VERNON F. L. CHAR  
BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME

GOV. MSG. NO. 682

I was born and raised in Hawaii, attending the public school system. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a BA in Economics and was a member in Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary society.

My professional career commenced after graduation from Harvard Law School in at which time I was a Deputy in the Office of the Attorney General (1959-1961), (1963-1965) in charge of the State Antitrust and Consumer Protection Division. Thereafter, I was engaged with the law firm of Damon Key Char & Bocken (1966-1989) and subsequently a founder in my current law firm Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching (1989-current).

I have served as President of the Hawaii State Bar Association, a recipient of the President's Award (1994) and nationally elected to the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

I have served on the Board of Land and Natural Resources from 2014-2015 and was appointed to serve again on October 2019.

I have served on the Hawaii Tourism Authority (2003 to 2011), serving as Chairman of the Budget and Audit Standing Committee. Other State of Hawaii duties include being the first Chairman and serving on the Hawaii State Ethics Commission for eight years (1968-1975) and Chairman of the State Bicentennial Commission for the U.S. Constitution (1986-1991).

In the late 1980s, I was one of the founders of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association, serving as its first President. I was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991. I was the founder of Manoa Forum, which is in its twenty-fifth year. This is a think tank of selected outstanding scholars and community leaders to discuss and exchange ideas of fundamental importance to humanity.