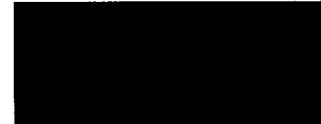




Law Office of  
Lauren M. Akitake LLC



[www.AkitakeLaw.com](http://www.AkitakeLaw.com)

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Josh Green  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: University of Hawaii Board of Regents Maui County Seat

Dear Governor Green,

I am writing to introduce myself, as I am one of the three candidates for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents Maui County Seat on the list presented to you by the Candidate Advisory Council (CAC). I am a private practice attorney and per diem District Court Judge who taught Business Law at the University of Hawaii Maui College. I have enclosed my resume and biography that I submitted to the CAC for your reference.

I was born and raised on Maui by my loving parents Bert and Jane Akitake. My dad is a beloved retired pediatrician after a 35-year career at Maui Medical Group. My mom is a polio survivor, and an amazing Chinese cook. She is famous for her from-scratch manapua.

I am the mother of two sons who are 11 and 9 years old. My older son has a high functioning autism/Asperger's diagnosis; he is a technology nerd and is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Seabury Hall. My younger son is a ray of sunshine and is destined to be a hostage negotiator as he has to deal with his intensely quirky older brother.

I am a proud product of Maui public schools, a lifelong member of Iao United Church of Christ, and a former Wailuku Junior Tennis Club member and now coach. I am a 2020 Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute fellow and a 2020 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow, which is a leadership program for young Maui leaders.

Also, I am a survivor, a sex assault survivor, and I am a board member for Women Helping Women.

I have been an attorney in Hawaii for over 15 years. I was a Circuit Court law clerk on Maui and then moved to Oahu and represented financial institutions in contested case civil litigation for four years, mostly in federal court. I moved back to Maui in 2013 and opened my own practice

seven years ago practicing in areas such as estate planning and probate and trust litigation. My biggest client is Maui Health Systems (MHS); I file MHS's guardianships and conservatorships for incapacitated adults who are patients at Maui Memorial Medical Center or Kula Hospital.

I am an early bird – I wake up at 4:00 am almost every day to workout and work. I am very disciplined with my time so I can spend the most time possible with my boys and be the best lawyer and judge I can be. I am an extrovert and I really enjoy working with my clients, the community, the court staff, and other judges.

I taught Business Law at UH Maui College for five academic years. I learned skills from how to manage a classroom, implement a semester long course, deal with difficult student situations to patience and empathy – these skills directly translated to me being a better lawyer and person and gave me a unique understanding of UH Maui College and the UH System. I stopped teaching to start as a per diem District Court Judge in November of 2021 as I am prohibited from holding another State paid position while a per diem District Court Judge. However, I confirmed with the Judiciary that I may apply for, and, if selected, serve on the UH Board of Regents.

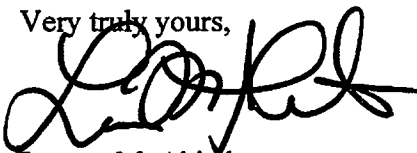
Being a per diem judge has been the most meaningful professional role of my career. Representation is important in all places where decisions are being made - I have felt that over my career as a lawyer and lecturer at UH Maui College, and I feel it every time I sit in Court. I am a Maui girl - born and raised – an Asian American woman, a “doctor’s kid”, mother of a son with special needs, a co-parent, a survivor, an extrovert that believes in the importance of listening, and I have always had a burning desire to serve others, particularly my Maui Nui community that raised me.

I have realized through my Master’s Degree in Applied Social Research, teaching experience, law practice, and work as a per diem judge that I have the ability to sift through a large volume of information and evidence - to evaluate cases, the law, programs, polices, and procedures and make decisions that hold people accountable.

Given the crucial role that UH plays in the State and internationally, I would be honored and, frankly, excited, to apply my education and background to forward the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan of the University of Hawaii System.

I look forward to speaking with you about my application as I am happy to answer any questions you have for me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren M. Akitake', written in a cursive style.

Lauren M. Akitake

Encl.

### **Lauren M. Akitake**

Born and raised on Maui, Lauren Akitake is a private practice attorney and per diem District Court Judge who taught Business Law at the University of Hawaii Maui College. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law. She also obtained a Master of Science degree in Applied Social Research from the University of Stirling, Scotland, while on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy Analysis/Politics from Pomona College in California. She graduated as a Valedictorian from Baldwin High School class of 1999.

Ms. Akitake has over 15 years of experience in diverse areas of law, including estate planning, probate and trust litigation, estate and trust administration, civil litigation, business law, collection law, and representing clients in conservatorship and guardianship proceedings. Prior to starting her law office six years ago, Ms. Akitake practiced in state and federal courts for law firms on Oahu and Maui, served as a law clerk for the Honorable Shackley F. Raffetto, completed the Elder Law Clinical Program at the University of Kansas School of Law, and interned with the office of the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

Ms. Akitake is a 2020 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow, 2020 Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute Fellow, and 2016 Hawaii Emerging Legal Practitioners Access to Justice Fellow. She taught Business Law at the University of Hawaii Maui College from 2015-2021 and is a former Maui County Bar Association board member. Ms. Akitake is a 2022-2024 elected parent representative to the Pomaikai Elementary School Community Council and is a current board member of Women Helping Women and member and co-President nominee of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Maui.

In 2022, Ms. Akitake was awarded an AAUW Career and Leadership Development Grant, which funded her attendance at a National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Women in Law trial training in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Akitake has been appointed by Maui Circuit Court Judges as Kokua Kanawai (a special master) in contested guardianship and conservatorship cases and Special Administrator in contested probate/estate cases.

Appointed in November 2021 and retained in November 2022, Ms. Akitake is a per diem District Court Judge for the Second Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. She has been sitting for criminal, traffic, environmental court, landlord-tenant, small claims, regular claims, civil temporary restraining order, and preliminary hearing calendars in Wailuku, Lahaina, and Lanai. She also reviews judicial determination of probable cause and information charging documents, and meets with Maui Police Department detectives to review and approve search warrants. Recently she had the honor of presiding on Community Outreach Court, which is held at the Kihei Public Library.

Having played tennis for Pomona College and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Ms. Akitake is also a 1998 Hawaii High School Athletics Association tennis doubles champion. She enjoys working out, running, swimming, and spending time with her sons – Scott and Evan, 11 and 9.

# LAUREN MEI-SIANG AKITAKE

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www.akitakelaw.com

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

HAWAII STATE BAR, JD No. 8858, 2007

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII, 2007

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**DISTRICT COURT, SECOND CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF HAWAII**, Maui County, Hawaii

Per Diem Judge, November 2021 – present

- Preside on criminal arraignment and plea, pretrial, restricted license, compliance return day, restitution, and criminal trial and motion calendars.
- Preside on small claims, regular claims, civil temporary restraining orders, and landlord-tenant calendars including related motions, evidentiary hearings, and trials.
- Preside on Mental Health, Environmental Court, and Community Outreach Court calendars.
- Adjudicate preliminary hearings and preside on felony initial appearances.
- Review traffic written statements, judicial determination of probable cause documents, information charging documents, non-hearing motions, stipulations, motions for issuance of garnishee summons, and ex parte motions.
- Meet with Maui Police Department detectives to review and approve search warrants.

**LAW OFFICE OF LAUREN M. AKITAKE, LLLC**, Wailuku, Hawaii

Owner/Member, February 2016 - present

- Represent individuals in probate and trust litigation matters.
- Advise individuals in formulating estate plans.
- Advise trustees regarding trust administration.
- Court appointment as Special Administrator/Personal Representative in probate cases, Kokua Kanawai in guardianship/conservatorship cases, and Commissioner in foreclosure cases.
- Represent Maui Health Systems dba Maui Memorial Medical Center regarding guardianship cases.
- Represent personal representatives in formal and informal probate proceedings.
- Represent conservators and guardians in conservatorship/guardianship proceedings.

**HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**, Honolulu, Hawaii

Fellow, 2020

- Selected as a 2020 Fellow for the HSBA Leadership Institute, an eight-month program that fosters professional growth and enhances leadership skills in future leaders of the Bar.

**THE LAW OFFICE OF ROYA DEYHIM, LLLC**, Kihei, Hawaii

Co-counsel, August 2015 – June 2019; Associate Attorney, April 2014 - July 2015

- Advised individuals in formulating estate plans.
- Represented personal representatives in formal and informal probate proceedings.
- Represented conservators and guardians in conservatorship/guardianship proceedings.
- Represented trustees in trust litigation actions.
- Represented creditors in bankruptcy proceedings.

**HAWAII EMERGING LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM, Manoa, Hawaii**  
Fellow, 2016

- Awarded a scholarship sponsored by the William S. Richardson School of Law, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii that provides financial support and training in starting a law practice that promotes access to justice for low to moderate-income clients.

**CAROLINE PETERS BELSOM, ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC, Lahaina, Hawaii**  
Associate Attorney, December 2015 – May 2016

- Represented boards of directors and individual unit owners regarding litigation, assessment lien enforcement, foreclosure, and insurance claims.
- Represented individuals and businesses regarding business and employment issues.

**STEWART LAW OFFICES, Paia, Hawaii**  
Independent Contract Attorney, August 2014 - August 2015

- Researched and drafted settlement and discovery documents, and civil litigation memoranda.

**THE LAW OFFICE OF DAVID B. ROSEN ALC, Honolulu, Hawaii**  
Associate Attorney, November 2009 – November 2013

- Represented residential and commercial lenders and creditors in federal and state cases.
- Represented landowners in summary possession/eviction actions.
- Represented creditors in Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases involving real property mortgages.
- Represented and advised financial institutions on various collection, bankruptcy, and regulatory matters.
- Drafted real estate conveyance documents, including Land Court petitions.
- Attended hearings in the Hawaii State Circuit Court for the First Circuit, the Hawaii State District Court for the First Circuit, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii, and the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.
- Supervised and managed legal assistants regarding litigation scheduling, procedure, filing pleadings, and communications with court personnel.
- Supervised and directed junior associate attorneys regarding legal research assignments, communications with clients and court personnel, and drafting court pleadings.

**CARLSMITH BALL LLP, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Associate Attorney, April – August 2009

- Researched and wrote pleadings for civil litigation cases including quiet title actions, real property disputes, mechanic's and materialman's liens, and judicial foreclosures.
- Researched affordable housing projects pursuant to HRS §201H.
- Drafted estate planning documents.

**THE HONORABLE SHACKLEY F. RAFFETTO, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Law Clerk, August 2007 – April 2009

- Wrote memoranda that analyzed the pleadings and law for all criminal, civil, and probate cases.
- Directed and organized the jurors of the grand juries and jury trials for Judge Raffetto's courtroom.

**ING, HORIKAWA, JORGENSEN & STEWART LLP, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Legal Extern, July – December 2006

- Assisted attorneys in real estate, probate, and estate planning cases and litigation.

**HINKLE ELKOURI LAW FIRM LLC, Wichita, Kansas**  
Summer Associate, May – June 2006

- Assisted attorneys in oil and gas, securities, estate planning, and litigation projects.

**SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, Topeka, Kansas**

Law Clerk, September 2005 – July 2006

- Drafted pleadings for guardianship and conservatorship cases.
- Attended guardianship hearings and participated in planning meetings with social workers, supervising attorneys, and Kansas Guardianship Program personnel.
- Assisted Adult Protective Service social workers with investigations of abuse and neglect of elders.

**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Lawrence, Kansas**

J.D., May 2007; GPA: 3.30/4.00; top 35%

- Hoeflich/Nordheden, Frank J. Shinkle, and Post Baccalaureate Scholarships.
- Visiting Student, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa, Hawaii, 2006-2007.
- Elder Law Clinical Program, 2005-06.
- Vice President, Public Interest Law Society, 2005-06.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, spring 2006.
- Secretary, Asian Law Students Association, 2004-05.
- Studied Comparative Constitutional Law, Criminal Justice, and Human Rights at the University of Aberdeen School of Law and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, summer 2005.

**UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING, Stirling, Scotland**

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Applied Social Research, October 2004

- Awarded a \$25,000 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for an MScASR; spoke at UK Rotary clubs; attended ambassadorial conferences, local Stirling Rotary events, and service projects.
- Instructed undergraduate students regarding the statistical software program, SPSS, spring 2004.

**POMONA COLLEGE, Claremont, California**

B.A., Public Policy Analysis/Politics, Minor: Women's Studies, May 2003

- Study Abroad: University of Edinburgh, Scotland, fall 2001.
- The Fund for American Studies, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., summer 2001.

**H.P. BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL, Valedictorian, Wailuku, Hawaii, May 1999**

**PROFESSIONAL and COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY (NITA) WOMEN IN TRIAL, Seattle, Washington**

Training Attendee, September 21-24, 2022

- Awarded an American Association of University (AAUW) Career and Leadership Development Grant in 2022 to attend this intensive trial training program.

**POMAIKAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC), Kahului, Hawaii**

Parent Representative, September 2022 – present

- Elected by Pomaikai Elementary School parents to regularly meet with Principal, community, parent, teacher, and staff representatives to review and advise regarding the Academic, Financial, and Strategic Plans for Pomaikai Elementary School.

**WOMEN HELPING WOMEN, Wailuku, Hawaii**

Board Member, March 2021 – present

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, Wailuku, Hawaii**

Member, June 2021 – present

**SEABURY HALL PARENT ORGANIZATION, Makawao, Hawaii**  
Member, August 2022 - present

**MAUI COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Board Treasurer, January 2021 – January 2022; Board Member, March 2019 – January 2022

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE, Kahului, Hawaii**  
Lecturer, Business Law, Fall 2015 – Spring 2021; Hospitality Law, Spring 2018

**KA IPU KUKUI FELLOWSHIP, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Fellow, 2019-2021

- The KIK Fellows Program is a one-year program that develops young leaders in Maui County through a community-based program designed to address planning for Maui County's future.

**MAUI CANCER WELLNESS RETREATS, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Advisory Council Member, August 2019 – March 2020

**SELF-HELP CENTER, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Volunteer, 2016 - 2020

**IAO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Endowment Committee Chairperson, February - July 2016; Member, January 2014 - January 2016

**PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER (PACT), Wailuku, Hawaii**  
Advisory Council Member, June 2009 – September 2010 and January 2015 - January 2016

**OFFICE OF SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE, Washington, D.C.**  
Intern, summer 2001