

Christian Wong  
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GOV. MSG. NO. 672

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Mathematics

#### EDUCATION

BA in Natural Science, minor in Earth and Space Sciences, 2000 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-HILO

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Hawaii Science and Technology Museum 2015 – Present

As the founding director of HSTM, a local nonprofit, provides meaningful STEM education experiences across Hawaii Island through science camps, after school programs, tutoring, cultural programs, special events, robotics education, science fairs through HSTM affiliate Hawaii District Science and Engineering Fair, workforce development, research and development, and exhibits promoting STEM literacy. Through HSTM annually serves 20,000 Hawaii Island youth with impactful programs creating meaningful opportunities and promoting research and STEM industries in Hawaii. As HSTM's lead grant writer has been awarded over \$1.4 million to support HSTM's mission within the community. Built three community robotics and technology centers and served as chair for the Hawaii State VEX Robotics Planning Committee bringing robotics education and competition to students K-12 around the state and working to encourage more women to pursue STEM careers through Girl Powered events and targeted science camps such as the Women's STARS program, the Women in Space Exploration talk series in collaboration with the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems and the Young Women's Physics Camp in partnership with the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Led the creation of Hawaii STEM Community Care, a coalition of STEM industry organizations to help fight COVID-19 in the Hawaii Island Community through interventions, PSAs, and research and development.

Fire Captain, Hawaii Fire Department 1995 – Retired 2020

Served as Fire Captain and Station Commander for Engine Company 8, overseeing HFD emergency response for the district of Hamakua. Served as co-author and program coordinator for the Hawaii Fire Department Continuity of Operations Plan preparing Hawaii Island for large scale disasters, HFD Respiratory Protection Program coordinator, and Critical Incident Stress Management Team leader helping HFD employees cope with job related stressors; Served as Operations Section Chief for the Hawaii Island Incident Management Team leading field operations during the 2018 Kilauea Eruption, and instructor for the HFD Recruit Training and Fireground Survival programs. Led development of the

Hawaii Fire Department Officer Training Program and Rapid Intervention Teams to develop future leaders of the organization and improve safety across HFD operations. Served on the Hawaii County COVID-19 Training and Education Task Force helping Hawaii Island businesses and organizations overcome the pandemic through interventions, PPE, and research and development.

## **RESEARCH / FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE**

Principal Investigator for the joint Hawaii Science and Technology Museum and Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory "Hiapo" CubeSat mission launched in 2021 aboard the Firefly Aerospace Alpha Launch Vehicle maiden flight. Principal Investigator for the Hiapo 2.0 mission scheduled for launch in 2026 to conduct research to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms of energy input of the solar wind into the thermosphere to explore if this transfer of energy is occurring via hydrodynamic dynamo processes and its effect on climate models. Currently working with USDA through HSTM R&D to modify COTS agricultural robots for the unique demands of Hawaii farmers. Currently partnering with Iolani School, Kealahou HS, and San Diego Zoo to obtain genetic sequencing of critically endangered Hawaiian species.

## **HONORS / AWARDS**

Aloha Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year 2010  
Hawaii County Government Supervisor of the Year 2015  
VEX Robotics Community Service Award 2020  
International Society for Technology in Education Making IT Happen Award 2020  
Hawaii Children's Action Network Champions for Children Innovator Award 2021

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Brennan Morioka, Dean UH Manoa College of Engineering [REDACTED]  
Dr. Douglas Simons, Director UH Manoa Institute for Astronomy [REDACTED]  
Dr. Simon Kattenhorn, Dean UH Hilo College of Natural and Health Sciences [REDACTED]  
Dr. Sylvia Yuen, Executive Director Research Corporation University of Hawaii (retired) Current Executive Director, American Judicature Society [REDACTED]