

Richard (Rich) H. Matsuda

Professional Experience

Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (3rd year)

Authority Member - Maunakea Observatories Representative (Governor-appointed)
Confirmed May 2023, first term completed June 2025, holdover. 2nd Vice-Chair.
Establishing new management and stewardship of the Maunakea lands in accordance with HRS 195H (Act 255, 2022). Served on Mauna Kea Working Group (2021).

W. M. Keck Observatory, Maunakea, HI (32 years)

Observatory Director

Jan 2024 - present

Responsible for the operation, maintenance, and upgrades of the observatory comprised of two 10-meter telescopes performing highly impactful astronomical research on Maunakea. Leads staff of 130. Headquarters in Waimea, Hawai'i.

Interim Observatory Director

May 2023 - December 2023

Associate Director, External Relations

Jan 2022 - May 2023

Led government and community relations and external communications.

Chief of Operations

Oct 2016 - Jan 2022

Ensured organizational functions supported and enabled world-leading science.

Operations and Infrastructure Senior Manager

Oct 2008 - Sep 2016

Managed technical operations to maintain technologically advanced telescopes, instrumentation, and physical infrastructure. Oversaw environmental, health and safety function.

Electronics Engineering Manager

Oct 2000 - Oct 2008

Managed Electronics Engineering Department. Member of senior management.

Electronics Engineer

Dec 1993 - Oct 2000

Installed and integrated Keck II telescope. Participated in upgrades and commissioning of instrumentation.

Boeing Company, Kent, WA (8 years)

Senior Design Engineer

Jan 1986 - Dec 1993

Led development of cabin system management unit for 777 aircraft.

Education

B.S. Electrical Engineering, University of Washington, 1981-1985

Awards and Recognition

2023 Hawaii's Most Admired Leaders, Pacific Business News

2016 Omidyar Fellow, Hawaii Leadership Forum

Community

Born and raised in Hawai'i

Waimea Weaving Hui Member, Richard Smart Fund, Hawaii Community Foundation 2024-2026

Rediscovering Hawaii's Soul Scenario Team, 2022-2023

Hawai'i Community Foundation Hawai'i Island Leadership Council, 2019-2025

Hawai'i Preparatory Academy Board of Trustees, 2013-2019

Akamai Workforce Initiative Mentor, Instructor, 2005-present

Big Island Youth and High School Volunteer Basketball Coach, 2004-2018

YMCA Board of Managers, late-90s

Lifelong volunteer - community and 'āina