

Christopher B. Burnett

EDUCATION

Hawaii Pacific University
Master of Business Administration
Honolulu, HI | July 2024

University of Hawai'i - West Oahu
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
Kapolei, HI | May 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hawaii State AFL-CIO
Director, Committee on Political Education
Honolulu, HI | May 2023-Present

- Provide guidance to affiliated labor organizations on political strategy, legislative priorities, and policy-related decision-making.
- Coordinate workshops and trainings on legislative advocacy, leadership development, and community engagement.
- Prepare and present testimony, meet with policymakers, and support coordinated engagement on key labor issues.
- Manage the organization's newsletter, email alerts, official correspondence, and press releases.
- Maintain relationships with community partners, labor organizations, nonprofit leaders, and public officials.
- Present updates and reports to senior leadership and board committees.
- Draft strategic plans, policy recommendations, and operational guidance for executive leadership.

United Public Workers
Statewide Director of Field Services
Honolulu, HI | April 2022-April 2023

- Managed more than 25 employees statewide in the Field Services Department and Business Office, including Union Agents, Division Directors, Accounting, IT, and janitorial staff.
- Improved operations within the Field Services Department and Business Office by refining workflows, strengthening internal coordination, and addressing organization-wide process challenges.
- Reviewed grievance recommendations and determined whether matters advanced toward arbitration.
- Delivered presentations at orientations and member meetings on rights, contract provisions, and procedural guidance.
- Advised senior leadership on organizational structure, staffing needs, and field operations.

United Public Workers
Statewide Director of Field Services (Interim Appointment)
Honolulu, HI | August 2020-April 2021

- Managed staff in the Field Services Department, overseeing daily operations, workflow coordination, and consistent service standards across worksites.

GOV. MSG. NO. 759

- Represented the organization in contract negotiations for multiple private-sector bargaining units, applying policy analysis, issue evaluation, and strategic decision-making.
- Oversaw recruitment, interviews, performance evaluations, and coordination of staff training for the department.

Hawaii Government Employees Association

Union Agent

Honolulu, HI | September 2015-July 2020

- Represented more than 1,800 members across eight bargaining units in investigations, grievances, contract interpretation, and workplace matters.
- Negotiated settlements and remedies with employer representatives on issues including discipline, overtime, and classification disputes.
- Delivered presentations at orientations, member briefings, and HR-related events.
- Collaborated with agencies and departments on workplace and policy issues affecting represented employees.

United Public Workers

Business Agent

Honolulu, HI | April 2011-April 2014

- Represented approximately 1,200 members in administrative investigations, disciplinary proceedings, and formal grievance meetings.
- Worked with employer representatives on policy revisions impacting employee relations.
- Conducted steward elections and new-member outreach across multiple worksites.

Helping Hands Hawaii

Program Coordinator

Honolulu, HI | September 2009-April 2011

- Supervised Program Assistants providing emergency financial assistance to clients experiencing homelessness, job loss, or financial hardship.
- Reviewed referrals and determined eligibility for rent, childcare, and utility assistance.
- Led statewide outreach and delivered presentations promoting community assistance programs.
- Prepared grant applications and monitored compliance with grant requirements.
- Managed volunteer coordination and community services activities.