

KEONE JOHN NAKOA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attorney and policy expert with 10+ years dedicated to public service work and professional experience in all three branches of government and in the private sector

Proven ability to manage multiple projects in a demanding, fast-paced work environment with strict deadlines

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), Washington, DC

May 2018-present

OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency established through the Hawai'i State Constitution to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians

D.C. Bureau Chief

- Develop OHA's federal priorities and advocacy strategy to accomplish short- and long-term policy goals
- Establish OHA as the primary provider of technical assistance to Congress and federal agencies on all Native Hawaiian policy matters, including proposed bills, resolutions, hearings, regulations, and other federal actions
- Review and revise OHA testimony on proposed legislation, regulations, and appointments affecting Native Hawaiians
- Manage all outreach to and development of professional relationships with Congressional offices and federal agencies
- Engage with Native Hawaiian community leaders to promote new federal programs and gather concerns about existing programs to facilitate better engagement between the Native Hawaiian community and the federal government
- Build coalitions with American Indian and Alaska Native leaders across Indian Country and national Native organizations
- Monitor and report on developments in federal Indian law and international Indigenous legal principles
- Provide oral testimony and written memoranda to OHA's CEO and Board of Trustees on federal issues and Bureau work
- Supervise all work of Bureau staff, including all administrative processes supporting the Bureau's policy work

Adams Miyashiro Krek LLP, Honolulu, HI

Dec 2016-May 2018

Associate

- Areas of practice included insurance defense, non-profit guidance, maritime law, workers' compensation, and subrogation
- Represented clients in complex commercial litigation matters, including questions of first impression; developed and approved legal strategy with clients; executed litigation plans; drafted complaints, briefs, pretrial motions, memoranda, and discovery requests and responses; oversaw discovery and production of confidential documents in multi-million-dollar personal injury cases; directed and defended depositions; and negotiated multi-party settlements
- Counseled non-profit organizations and schools on issues of general corporate governance, drafted and revised guidance and operation documents, and reviewed matters as requested for compliance with federal, state, and local laws

Colleen Hanabusa for Hawai'i Congressional District-1, Honolulu, HI

Aug-Nov 2016

Campaign Manager

- Managed all field and strategic operations of the successful campaign for Congresswoman Hanabusa

Keone Nakoa for Hawai'i State Senate District-13, Honolulu, HI

Mar-Aug 2016

Candidate

- In first run for public office, received 23.3% of votes cast in a three-person race to fill an open seat in primary race

Intermediate Court of Appeals of Hawai'i (ICA), Honolulu, HI

Sep 2015-Mar 2016

Law Clerk to the Honorable Craig H. Nakamura, Chief Judge of the ICA

- Drafted opinions, orders, and bench memoranda
- Reviewed records and conducted legal research to provide recommendations to Chief Judge Nakamura
- Edited and reviewed memos from other clerks and judges for legal accuracy, analysis, and citations

Office of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Washington, DC/Honolulu, HI

Dec 2008-Jan 2013

Speechwriter (2011-2013); Caseworker/Press Assistant (2010-2011); Legislative Correspondent/Press Assistant (2008-2010)

- Advised Senator Akaka on review, delivery, and content of more than 200 speeches, remarks, talking points, and interviews and served as final proofer for all letters issued from his office
- Assigned appropriate speechwriting and social media tasks to junior legislative staff and interns and strategically prioritized speeches, press releases, talking points, and posts on various social media platforms
- Met with constituents regarding issues related to federal agencies and other organizations and corresponded with federal agencies and organizations for constituent casework on Senator's behalf