

HAWAI‘I SBDC NETWORK ADVISORY BOARD

The role of the advisory board is to advise, counsel and confer with the State Director of the Hawai‘i Small Business Development Center Network on matters pertaining to the operation, advancement and improvements of its program throughout Hawai‘i. The advisory board also serves to promote communication between the small business community and the Hawai‘i SBDC Network.



Austin Brown, Owner, Nitsua Associates

Austin Brown has a B.A. in communication arts from the University of Denver. His firm specializes in the development of usable technical documents. His affiliations include membership in the Society for Technical Communication and the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Family Community Leadership Project. Brown is the recipient of the Naval Sea Systems Command Medallion and is a Fellow of the Society for Technical Communication.



Paula Z. Helfrich, President, Hawai‘i Island Economic Development Board

Paula Helfrich attended Northwestern University. Her affiliations include a commission on the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, board member of the Hawai‘i High School Rodeo Association and Hawai‘i Horse Owners Association. Helfrich is an honorary member of the Dooley Foundation and won the 1971 “Splendid American Award” as well as an HNG commendation medal from the Army & Navy recognition awards.



Corbett A. K. Kalama, Senior Vice President, First Hawaiian Bank

Corbett Kalama has a B.S. in economics from Oregon College of Education. He also attended the University of Hawai‘i Law School and the Pacific Coast Banking School. Kalama is a banker specializing in community reinvestment and is active in Hawai‘i’s community and government affairs. His affiliations include the American Banker’s Association, Government Relations Council Bankers Roundtable and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Revolving Fund Program.



Thomas Reed, President, Innocatibe Technology Associates

Thomas Reed has a BSEE from the University of Michigan. Reed operates four separate environmental businesses. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Maui Chamber of Commerce and the Maui Economic Development Board. Reed is the recipient of the 1994 Environmentalist of the Year Award and the KITV 1994 Environmental Achievement Award.



Marcia Y. Sakai, Director of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo School of Business and Professor of Economics

Marcia Sakai has a Ph.D. from the University of Hawai‘i in Economics. Her affiliations include Commissioner for the Hawai‘i State Tax Review Commission, Tax Foundation of Hawai‘i Fulbright Fellows, UH Economic Research Organization, Hawai‘i Economic Association, Society of Marketing Advances and the Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce.



Jane A. Sawyer, Assistant District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

Jane Sawyer is the SBA Business Development Officer of the Honolulu SBA office. She works closely with individual small business owners and business assistance organizations across Hawai‘i, Guam and the mainland. Sawyer has been the Executive Director of the Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the SBA Women in Business Committee.



Fred M. Smoot, President, Phoenix Pacific, Inc.

Fred Smoot has a BA from the University of Colorado and a masters degree from Thunderbird. Smoot’s firm distributes electronic based equipment used for traffic signals and building communication systems. His affiliations include membership in the District Export Council and the Institute of Traffic Engineers.



Stacy Sproat, Executive Director and Co Manager, The Waipa Foundation & Hawaiian Farmers of Hanalei, Inc.

Stacy Sproat has a BS in Business Entrepreneurship from the University of Southern California. Sproat is a community advocate and directs a non profit Hawaiian education and agricultural organization on Kaua‘i. Her affiliations include a trusteeship on the Kaua‘i Museum Board of Trustees.