



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS 2021-2022**

*(rev. 7-1-21)*

**Cheryl Matsumura (President)** currently serves as President of American Trading Co. She has over 20 years of experience in investment management and was most recently a Vice President at Goldman Sachs in the Investment Management Division. During her 17 years with Goldman Sachs, Cheryl worked with private clients, foundations, and endowments, helping to execute financial instruments and enable goals within investment guidelines and objectives. She served as Chief of Staff to her team and focused on team operations and management, portfolio management, and the implementation of compliance and regulatory requirements. Cheryl was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i, and in 2018 relocated back to raise her family and to be closer to her parents. She is focused on reconnecting and engaging with the community and currently serves on the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) board of Ha'aheo Elementary School and volunteers with Junior Achievement of Hawai'i Island and Vibrant Hawaii. Cheryl can often be found on the bayfront soccer fields cheering on her two sons or in Hilo bay learning to sail. She enjoys traveling the world with her husband, who is a pilot with Hawaiian Airlines, and experiencing new cultures and regional cuisine.

**Sandra Tokouke (Vice President)** was born and raised in Paukaa, right outside Hilo, Hawai'i. A proud graduate of Hilo High School, she went on to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo before transferring to University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to earn her B.A. in Education in 1973. Having graduated at a time when teaching positions were scarce, Sandy instead entered the world of business and finance. She is a Vice President and Senior Consultant at Merrill Lynch, where her background in education is constantly utilized as she learns about and helps clients manage their wealth and achieve their financial goals. She is married to Dale Tokouke, Vice President of his family business, Paul's Enterprises, Ltd., and she has one grown daughter, Erin. Sandy and Dale both believe in doing what they can to help the community in which they live. She currently serves as the Vice President of the UH Hilo Alumni & Friends Association, as the Chairperson of the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center Advisory Committee, and on the board of directors of the YWCA of Hawai'i Island and the Aloha Exchange Club of East Hawai'i.

**Twylla Baptiste (Treasurer)** is a small town country girl, born and raised in beautiful Waimanalo, O'ahu. She represented Hawai'i as the Hawai'i High School Rodeo Queen in Shawnee, Oklahoma. After graduating from Kaiser High School, she got married and had three children. Twylla worked in the retail and customer service industries at J.C. Penny and Robert's Hawaii before moving to Hawai'i Island in 1997. After completing a tax preparation course offered by H&R Block, she was hired as a tax professional for the following tax season. Twylla received her A.A.S. in Accounting from Hawai'i Community College and her B.B.A. in Business Administration from University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She was hired in 2007 by Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates in their tax department as a Small Business Specialist, preparing tax returns for entities and individuals as well as financial compilations for various types of businesses. In 2016, Twylla joined Central Pacific Bank and currently holds the position of Commercial Loan Underwriter. She says, "I have enjoyed my journey thus far and look forward to new adventures and experiences."

**Rebecca Choi (Secretary)** was born in South Korea, immigrated to the U.S. when she was seven years old, and grew up in Southern California. After receiving a B.A. in Political Economy from Princeton University, she worked in investment banking and private equity in New York and San Francisco. She and her husband moved to Hilo in 2006. Rebecca then owned and operated a local restaurant while raising two young children. She also ran a graduate university in Silicon Valley and led a national non-profit that provided entrepreneurship training to people with criminal histories. Rebecca cares deeply about empowering people through education and economic opportunities as well as celebrating diversity and strengthening connections in our community. She

currently contributes as a volunteer for Keiki Heroes, The Success Factory - NexTech, Vibrant Hawai'i, Hilo Missionary Church, and Princeton Alumni Schools Committee. Rebecca and her husband, who is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i, have three daughters. Rebecca enjoys reading, swimming, feeding people, and having dance parties with her children.

**Haidee Abe (Director)** is the Chief Financial Officer for W.H. Shipman Limited, a real estate holding company established since 1882. W.H. Shipman is one of the largest real estate holding companies in Hawai'i with a long history of community involvement. Haidee brings administrative, finance, and managerial expertise with over two decades of experience as Vice President of D. Buyers Enterprises and First Hawaiian Bank. She currently serves as Board Chair of Bay Clinic and on the Advisory Board of Hawai'i Care Choices and has served on numerous community boards, including as President of The Food Basket and Treasurer of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce.

**Rev. Eric S. Anderson (Director)** has served as Pastor of Church of the Holy Cross United Church of Christ (UCC) since 2016. A native of Rockville, Connecticut, he is a graduate of Rockville High School, Cornell University (A.B. in Theatre Arts), and Andover Newton Theological School (M.Div.). Ordained in 1988, Eric served churches in Maine and Connecticut. Prior to being called to Hilo, he spent 17 years on the staff of the Connecticut Conference UCC in communications and technology, honing his skills in writing, editing, photography, and video production. Eric joined the Steering Committee of Interfaith Communities in Action (ICIA) in Hilo just in time to help share information within the interfaith hui as it responded to the 2018 Puna eruption. He is now President of ICIA. Last year he was elected Chair of the Conference Council, the governing board of the Hawai'i Conference UCC. As a member of the Rotary Club of Hilo, he serves on the East Hawai'i Rotary Peace Committee. A singer/songwriter, Eric has performed in Hilo both solo and in the folk/acoustic duo Boys in Hats.

**Jeri Gertz (Director)** has been happy to call Hilo home since 1978, when she moved to sea level from the Rocky Mountain high of Boulder Colorado. Jeri worked as a crisis intervention counselor for the YWCA of Hawai'i Island Sexual Assault Support Services, victim advocate for the Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, and educational advocate for special education students in foster care. She served on the boards of Turning Point for Families, National Organization for Women Hawai'i Island Chapter, Hawai'i Island Writers Association, and Hilo Community Players. She was a member of the Mayor's Committee on the Status of Women and the Hawai'i County Domestic Violence Task Force, and is currently a volunteer for the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i (VASH). Jeri is an invited conference presenter in the fields of criminal justice, women's issues, and communication techniques. Jeri takes her work seriously and herself lightly. She owns and operates Hilo's only singing telegram service, Singin' In The Rain. For nine years, Jeri authored a monthly humor column as "The Empress of Everything" for *Ka'u Landing* and *Hawaii Island Journal*. She is the director of Harmony On Tap (HOT), a women's chorus that performs benefit concerts for local charities and social service agencies.

**Jill M. Hasegawa (Director)** is an attorney with the law firm of Raymond K. Hasegawa AAL ALC and a per diem judge in the District Court and the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. Prior to returning to Hilo, Jill practiced with the firm Ashford & Wriston in Honolulu for 13 years, specializing in family law, and was a partner for six years. She is a proud graduate of Hilo High School and received her B.A. from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and her J.D. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. Jill is the former vice-chair of the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission and continues to serve as a member of the Commission's Administrative Committee and Pro Bono Initiatives Task Force. She is a past president of the Hawai'i State Bar Association's (HSBA) Young Lawyers Division, and continues to be active with HSBA's Leadership Institute Program as a coordinator/facilitator for the "And Justice for All" program. Jill currently serves on the board of directors of Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and Hawaii Women Lawyers, and previously served on the board of the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association and as a volunteer with the Hawai'i State Judiciary's Volunteers in Public Service Kid's First Program. She is a volunteer attorney with Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, a CAAP (Court Annexed Arbitration Program) arbitrator, and a volunteer settlement master with the Family Court of the First Circuit's Volunteer Settlement Master program.

**Julie Hugo (Director)** is a REALTOR® who is currently Broker in Charge for Venture Sotheby's International Realty - Hilo Office. Julie was previously Vice President, Sales for Clark Realty. She spent about a dozen years in project management and marketing for resort developments on both Hawai'i Island and Moloka'i. With over 30 years of active participation in community organizations under her belt, Julie has served as President of the YWCA of Hawai'i Island, Habitat For Humanity Hilo, Hilo Toastmasters Club, and Rotary Club of Hilo Bay. She currently serves on the board of directors of Hawai'i Information Service, the MLS owned by Hawai'i Island REALTORS® and Kauai Board of REALTORS®. Julie is also a director on the Hawai'i County Water Board.

**Ha'aheo M. Kaho'ohalahala (Director)** was born and raised on the island of Lāna'i and is a proud graduate of Lahainaluna High School where she attended as a boarder. She received a B.A. in Communications from California State University, Long Beach. Upon returning to Hawai'i, she obtained a J.D. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law, with a certificate in Native Hawaiian Rights and Environmental Law. Ha'a currently works as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the County of Hawai'i and is the Supervisor of the specialized, vertical Sexual Assault Unit. She also works closely with several agencies to provide a trauma informed and victim centered approach to responding to crimes in order to improve the safety of victims and the community. Prior to moving to Hawai'i Island, Ha'a clerked for the Honorable Dexter D. Del Rosario at the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i, and also worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the City and County of Honolulu. She serves on the board of directors of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association and the Government Lawyers Section, East Hawai'i. She also enjoys traveling and being outdoors, especially at the beach.

**James "Jimi" Kunimura (Director & Assistant Treasurer)** was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i and is a Hilo High School graduate. From Oregon State University, he holds a B.S. in Business Administration emphasizing in management information systems and a minor in sociology. From Willamette University in Oregon, he holds an M.B.A. specializing in marketing and international business and a J.D. with an emphasis in business and international law. After residing in Oregon for over 12 years, Jimi moved back to Hilo to begin his career as an attorney and be with his family. He currently works for Nakamoto, Okamoto & Yamamoto AAL, ALC as an Associate Attorney specializing in business, real estate law, and estate planning. Jimi serves on the board of directors of the Hawai'i County Bar Association. His interests outside of his professional career include spending time with his family, camping, spearfishing, and archery hunting with his father and friends.

**Cathy M. Lowder, ACSW (Director)** arrived in Hawai'i with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) assigned to the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. She continued community youth outreach work under Moiliili Community Center and then moved to the Hawai'i State Judiciary, where she worked for 35 years as a social worker. At the Judiciary, Cathy held various positions including Probation Officer, Program Director for the East Hawai'i Children's Advocacy Center (now Children's Justice Center of East Hawai'i), and Public Guardian. Her involvement in the community has included serving on several non-profit boards including The ARC of Hilo, when they were developing community residential programs, and forming the Friends of the Children's Justice Center of East Hawai'i in the 1980s. Cathy has also been active in environmental organizations, enjoying hiking and learning about our endangered flora and fauna. Currently, she is on the Endowment Committee of the Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge and is a professionally trained volunteer mediator with Ku'ikahi, as she knows how important and empowering mediation is in helping people reach their own resolutions. As an active retiree, Cathy continues to volunteer and travel when she can.

**Shaunda A.K. Liu Makaimoku (Director)** is a Compliance Office for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Office of Equal Opportunity, where she investigates complaints of discrimination that are alleged to violate the university's policies on equal employment/affirmative action and Title IX. Prior to working for UH-Hilo, Shaunda was a solo practitioner at the Law Office of Shaunda A. K. Liu, LLLC, where the focus of her practice was on cases involving child welfare, juvenile and adult criminal defense, and civil foreclosure cases. Shaunda served as Grand Jury Counsel for the Third Circuit from 2017 to 2018 and was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 2004 to 2017 at the Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, where she worked in the District/Family, Screening, and Circuit Court units handling violations, traffic offenses, and petty misdemeanor to felony cases. From 2003 to 2004, she served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Greg K. Nakamura. Shaunda is a

graduate of Kamehameha Schools and holds a B.S. in Sociology and Economics from Santa Clara University and a J.D. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. She serves on the board of directors for the YWCA of Hawai'i Island and the Hawai'i County Bar Association. Shaunda and her husband have twin daughters and a son.

#### **DIRECTORS EMERITI**

**Andrew P. Wilson (Director Emeritus)** was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. He holds a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law and a B.S. in Business Administration from California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. He has served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i and was one of the founding partners of the law firm Roehrig, Roehrig & Wilson. Andy obtained his initial mediation training at the Mediation Center of the Pacific, and completed an advanced mediation course at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law. He has been a CAAP (Court Annexed Arbitration Program) arbitrator since 1987, a selected neutral arbitrator, a mediator for the Hawai'i Appellate Mediation Program, and a member of Dispute Prevention & Resolution, Inc. in Honolulu. Andy served on the board of the Hawai'i State Bar Association, and has held numerous offices for the Hawai'i County Bar Association, including President. He completed three years of Hawaiian language classes at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and is actively involved in community organizations, including on the board of directors of the Hilo Lagoon Centre Association of Apartment Owners and as a Trustee for Lyman Museum. For over ten years, Andy was a volunteer judge with the YWCA's Hawai'i Island Teen Court and a board member of the Mediation Centers of Hawaii. He is a retired Per Diem Judge in the District and Family Courts of the Third Circuit.

**Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter (Director Emeritus)** was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. She received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and her J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law. Jennifer is the Director of Government and Community Relations at Hawaiian Electric. Previously, she worked as an associate attorney for the law firm of Torkildson, Katz, Moore, Hetherington & Harris. Jennifer serves on the board of directors of HFS Federal Credit Union, Nā Leo O Hawai'i Community Television, Lyman House Museum, and Historic Hawai'i Foundation. She serves as a CAAP (Court Annexed Arbitration Program) arbitrator and is a volunteer at the legal Self-Help Center at the Hilo Judiciary Complex.