



Member Dr. Samuel M. 'Ohukani'ōhi'a Gon, III

Term: 5/2/2006 – 6/30/2014

Member Sam Gon is the Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor for the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, where he has worked for over 25 years, bringing his expertise to the organization in a variety of capacities. As the Ecologist for the Hawai'i Natural Heritage Program of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i from 1986 to 1999, he conducted biological inventories and produced biological reports and management recommendations for The Conservancy, which has partnered with federal, state, local agencies, and private organizations. As the coordinator for the Hawai'i Natural Heritage Program from 1992 to 1994, Member Gon managed a staff of 15 and an annual budget of over \$1 million. As Director of Science, he guided the science behind the vision and operations of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i. In his current role as Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor, Member Gon maintains his science guidance, and adds his cultural expertise to enhance the mission of The Conservancy.

Member Gon has over 35 years of experience in Hawaiian ecology. This experience includes biological inventories and research, field ecology, entomology, arachnology, ethology, natural community classification, ecological modeling, and biological database management. He also is versed in Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Member Gon is instrumental in many facets of the Conservancy's work. His knowledge of Hawaiian culture and history is an important asset when working with local communities. He has applied his island conservation expertise in cooperative projects and workshops in the Galapagos Islands, the Philippines, Pohnpei, Palau, Jamaica, Okinawa, Amazonia, and Rapanui. As an excellent public speaker, Member Gon often lends his knowledge to conservation agencies, educational institutions, community groups, donors, and important visitors.

Member Gon has served on panels of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on the topic of traditional management of natural resources, and sits on the Hawaiian leadership committee advising the Hawai'i Life Sciences Consortium. Member Gon served on the Board of Trustees for the Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program (NHCAP), the Bishop Museum Association Council, and as an at-large member of the Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources.

"As a traditionally trained Hawaiian cultural practitioner my duty is first to the land and sea, and the living kupuna manifest in the native plants and animals of Hawai'i Nei. As a scientist I expect our decisions to be supported by rigor and fact and not overly swayed by emotion. Knowledge and aloha combined give us the best legacy for the future of us all."

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