

JOHN DE FRIES

Executive Director Candidate for the
Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

Professional Experience

- 35+ Years of Executive Leadership
- Business Startups & Team Building
- Developing Organizational Cultures
- Land Management & Development
- Cultural Sites & Burial Sites Protection
- Hawaii State Procurement Processes
- 3 Years of Operating a State Authority
- Legislative and Congressional Hearings
- Media Relations & Public Spokesperson
- Community Engagement & Project Collaboration
- Board Leadership of Non-Profit Orgs.

Chronology of Executive Roles

- 09/2020 – 09/2023: **President & CEO, Hawaii Tourism Authority** (attached agency to DBEDT)
- 04/2018 – 08/2020: **Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association**
- 01/2017 – 03/2018: **President, Native Sun Business Group** (project management and consulting)
- 04/2016 – 12/2016: **Director, Department of Research and Development, County of Hawaii**
- 04/2012 – 03/2016: **President, Native Sun Business Group** (project management and consulting)
- 03/2008 – 03/2012: **President & CEO, 1250 Oceanside Partners** (1500-acre real estate development)
- 06/2001 -- 02/2008: **President/GM, 1250 Oceanside Partners** (04/2006: 5.5-year lawsuit settled)
- 09/2000 – 05/2001: **President, Native Sun Business Group** (consultant to 1250 Oceanside Partners)
- 03/1993 – 08/2000: **President, Native Sun Business Group** (Est. in 1993: clients in hospitality & real estate)
- 08/1988 – 01/1993: **Assistant to the Chairman, Sweeney Development and VP, Landmark Hotels**
(Companies acquired the land parcels, developed, & operated: Embassy Suites Maui, Fairmont Kea Lani Resort Wailea, Maui, and Embassy Vacation Resort, Poipu, Kauai)

Board Directorships

- Kualoa Ranch, Island of Oahu • www.kualoa.com
- Friends of the Future, Island of Hawaii • www.fofhawaii.org
- Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee, Island of Hawaii

Education

- Graduate, Punahou School, Class of 1969
- No College Degree Earned

Military Service

- 1970 – 1976: Hawaii Army National Guard, Honorable Discharge

Recent Awards and Honors

- 2022 INTRAPRENEUR OF THE YEAR, awarded by the Hawaii Venture Capital Association
- 2022 O'Ō AWARD, presented by the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
- 2023 KILOHANA AWARD, presented by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

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