




Moderator:
Marie Kumabe
Principal
KumabeHR

Principal and Owner, Marie oversees the Executive Recruitment and Human Resource Consulting Division for Kumabe HR for the past 12 years with 12 Search Consultants.

Marie comes with 30 years of experience in business, with 25 years specifically dedicated to executive search, human resource consulting and staffing. Her impressive credentials, exceptional skill and commitment to the success of her clients have resulted in a loyal and growing base of clients who trust her to execute their human resources and executive search needs discreetly and effectively. Marie has further held operations executive positions in the airline, education and cruise industry as well as been a professional career counselor. Marie is a recognized leader in Hawaii in the field of executive search and human resources as is demonstrated by her thriving firm and her appointment as the current Faculty Director for the Executive Masters of Human Resources Management program at the Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii.

Marie is highly recognized for her expertise in executive recruiting and assessment, human resources consulting, staffing, training, succession planning, relocation and executive coaching. She is consistently called upon to assist Hawaii's top organizations in tourism, telecommunications, engineering, non-profit and education.

In addition, Marie is highly sought after on an international level for her expertise in Human Resources and Executive Recruitment, indicative of her selection to provide seminars on Executive Assessment, Executive Recruitment, Trends, and Sustainability in HR Executive Team for the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Chinese National Petroleum, the sixth largest company in the world.

	<p>Throughout her career, Marie has always made giving back to community a top priority, serving on the board of directors of several community organizations. She has supported Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii’s Travel Industry Management Alumni Association, Nuuanu YMCA and as an advisor for Girl Scouts of Hawai`i. Marie’s expertise in succession planning and mentorship programs have contributed to transforming many local organizations.</p> <p>Recently, Kumabe HR was awarded by the SBA as the Women Owned Business of the Year for Honolulu. Marie Kumabe has been recognized by Pacific Business News for many awards, including owning the 5th fastest growing business in the state and has been consistently listed as maintaining one of the top women-owned businesses in Hawaii. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California Los Angeles in International Relations with an emphasis in Business, and her Master’s in Human Resources Management was obtained through Hawaii Pacific University.</p>
	<p>Panelist:</p> <p>Mark Tsuda Executive Director ‘Ilima at Leihano</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born on Oahu moving to Guam while in elementary school. Returned to Oahu after high school and graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in Travel Industry Management (TIM) • Hospitality industry management positions in Hawaii, Guam including corporate positions overseeing hotel spa operations in North America, Hawaii, Micronesia, Japan, the Caribbean, Fiji, and French Polynesia • Transitioned to the Long Term Care Industry (senior living) • Board Member for the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and on the ALF/ARCH Leadership and Advocacy Committees. • Board Member for the University of Hawaii at Manoa TIM Alumni Association

• Former government and private Board positions include the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation of the State of Hawaii, Executive Board of Governors member for the Hawaii Employers Council and Executive Board of Directors member for the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

Current Employer

‘Ilima at Leihano senior Living, Kapolei, Hawaii
March 2016 to present
Executive Director
\$38 million senior living community which opened in 2016 and is the master developer for the 40-acre Leihano Master Community Association. Resort-style community with a population of 180+ residents and employees. Current resident occupancy is 100% with a 9-month+ waitlist.
• Privately held company in the senior living industry for 30+ years with 22-communities nationwide.



Panelist:

Taylor Ledgerwood
Manager of the Kahala Initiative for Sustainability, Culture, and the Arts, Kahala Resort

I was born on O‘ahu and raised in Hawai‘i Kai and a graduate of Henry J Kaiser High School. I'm a recent graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa - Shidler College of Business, School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) with a focus on hospitality management. I chose to pursue a degree in TIM because of my love and commitment to Hawai‘i as my home, its land, culture, and future. I would like to help the visitor industry understand the beauty of Hawai‘i and encourage sustainable efforts across the tourism industry, which I am doing in my leadership roles as the chair of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA - Student Chapter) and more recently as the Manager of The Kalaha Initiative for Sustainability, Culture, and the Arts (KISCA). My main goal post-graduation is to continue to work in sustainable management in the hospitality industry here in Hawai‘i.



Hailing from Virginia, Melissa's journey in the world of private clubs began at a young age at Loudoun Golf & Country Club. Her experiences as both a member and an employee laid the foundation for her future in clubs. After high school she pursued her degree in Travel Industry Management (TIM) at the University of Hawaii Manoa.

During her tenure at UH, Melissa's passion for leadership shone brightly through her involvement in the UH CMAA student chapter. She immersed herself in various leadership roles, activities, networking and furthered education by attending World Conferences and a student conference.

Upon graduating, Melissa's journey continued at The Plaza Club Honolulu before her role as the Executive Assistant at Oahu Country Club. In 2015, she joined the executive team as the Director of Membership. Her dedication and expertise in club management were further affirmed in 2019 when she achieved her Certified Club Manager accreditation.

Further committing to the industry, Melissa taught the Contemporary Club Management class at the TIM School at the University of Hawaii at Manoa from 2016 to 2022.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Melissa is an avid explorer. She finds solace in traveling, enjoys golf, loves a good book, and spending time at the beach. Most importantly, she cherishes moments with her 4-year-old son, Hank.



Alison Tomisato Alves is Director of Marketing at Marriott International, responsible for leading the marketing and communications strategy on behalf of a legendary portfolio of Hawaii resorts, including The Royal Hawaiian, A Luxury Collection Resort, Sheraton Waikiki, Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, and Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa. She drives demands for over 4600 hotel rooms, 250,000 square feet of event space, and dozens of outlets across Hawaii.

Alison has 20 years of experience in sales, marketing, public relations, and operations, and has held a variety of leadership positions with Marriott International, Starwood, The Howard Hughes Corporation, and Culinary Concepts by Jean-Georges. Her expertise in project launches and brand positioning, digital innovation, and buzz marketing have resulted in award-winning, revenue-driving marketing and communications campaigns for luxury and lifestyle brands and properties.

Passionate about the Hawaii community, Alison is the Vice President of the GIFT Foundation of Hawaii board, sits on the marketing committee for the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, and is a cohort member for the Emerging Leaders Program and Pacific Century Fellows. In 2023, she was recognized by Hawaii Business Magazine as a 20 for the Next 20 leader for Hawaii's future, and by Marriott International as the top performing marketing director in the US & Canada.

Alison is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Boston University with a degree in Public Relations. Born and raised on Oahu, she attended Iolani School and currently resides in Aiea with her husband and four year old daughter.



BIO Pending

Mathew “Manakō” Tanaka – Sr Specialist,
Community and Cultural Relations

Manako currently is a Senior Specialist for Community and Cultural Relations with Hawaiian Airlines. Previously he also worked at the Hawaii Visitor and Convention Bureau. Manako is a proud alumnus of the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and serves as a board member of the Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation.

