

**Have you worked in the private sector? If so, in what field, and for how long? What was the title of your highest position?**

As the only gubernatorial candidate with extensive public, private and nonprofit sector executive leadership experience, I have the proven ability to grapple with difficult issues and am able to find community-based solutions that bring people together, transcend party politics and years later continue to yield economic benefits.

**Specific to the private and nonprofit sector leadership positions held in both large and small businesses, it is as follows:**

Principal of MFH Enterprises – a privately held international consulting firm that performs business in Pacific-Asian region and in Hawaii as a MidWeek columnist and Radio Host for 107.9 Hawaii's Kool Gold (2012 – present);

Founder and Chair of Pacific Century Fellows Program – a non-profit, statewide leadership program (1999-present)

President and CEO of the Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association – a nonprofit, statewide trade organization of lodging properties, lodging owners and management firms, suppliers, and related firms and individuals (2010-2012)

President and General Manager of Punaluu Sweetbread Shop and Visitor Center and C. Brewer Hawaiian Juices – established and managed a bakeshop and oversaw operations for juice company (1986-1991); and Vice President for Corporate Marketing and Public Affairs of C. Brewer and Company, Ltd – a Hawaii Big Five company with most of its businesses in agriculture (1984-1991).

**The business community of Hawaii often feels that it is overregulated and over-taxed. Do you agree with this perception? Why or why not?**

The data shows that Hawaii is one of the most taxed states in the nation. So it's not a matter of perception, it is a reality. A similar argument can be made about regulations with some industries being more regulated than others.

Large businesses with global ties are leaving the Hawaii market because it is difficult to be profitable given the size of the market, costs of doing business, taxes and regulations, and tort exposure that potentially jeopardizes their company-wide assets.

Small businesses suffer the most since they disproportionately shoulder the tax burden given they comprise close to 90% of all businesses. Due to the nature of their enterprises, many cannot take advantage of tax credits. They are getting squeezed with inflation, a slew of taxes particularly excise and property, and

rising employee, energy, leasing and other costs. Understandably, many feel that when various governments work to balance budgets, it is being done at their expense.

Finally, being mindful of the environment, I will ensure that state agencies do not place unwarranted obstacles in the way of development, in particular TOD commercial and residential development surrounding the rail line. This development will help drive Hawaii's economy for the next decades.

**What are your priorities as governor or lieutenant governor for helping the private sector business community succeed and for growing the economy?**

We know the economy must be transformed if we are to lower the costs of doing business, raise the standard of living and improve our quality of life. From day one, we will provide the leadership, governance and accountability needed to grow the economy. Fostering lifelong learning through a network of public-private educational partnerships is critical to this effort.

We envision a knowledge-based economy that is service oriented, whose high-quality goods and services are known as the best in the global markets we compete in and Hawaii is recognized for its business, investments, learning and leisure opportunities. (see platform at [votemufi.com](http://votemufi.com))

A first step towards this vision is a management audit of the Department of Taxation. Taking action on the findings as well as expanding the tax base through a growing economy will alleviate the need to raise rates and impose new taxes and fees.

Our infrastructure needs strengthening. One option is to bring back a statewide ferry system, following a community-based process that includes an EIS. For small businesses and farmers, a ferry system will reduce their costs of doing business and lead to an increase in commerce.

Whatever we do, the bottom line is it must bolster our economy.