

FINALISTS

AT-LARGE SEAT

- **Kim Coco Iwamoto**
- **Benjamin A. Kudo**
- **Luanna H. Meyer**

KIM COCO IWAMOTO

Kim Coco Iwamoto has focused on improving public education in Hawaii since 2004. She most recently joined the John A. Burns School of Medicine Dean's Advisory Council.

Iwamoto first began her service to the University of Hawaii system as a Member, then Chair, of the Career and Technical Education Coordinating Advisory Council (2007-2011). The Council advises the Board of Regents on innovation, compliance and reporting related to Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, which provides the state \$5.5 million in federal funding annually and impacts approximately 37,000 DOE and UH students.

Prior to that, Iwamoto served on the Hawaii Board of Education, elected to that office in 2006 and 2010. During her tenure, Iwamoto committed herself full-time to the duties and responsibilities of that office. She served on most standing committees, including Budget & Fiscal Accountability; Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support; Facilities; and Legislation, Public Charter Schools & Public Libraries.

Iwamoto's other experiences with education policy and accountability include serving as a member of the following: Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force related to early childhood education, and the Department of Education's Safe Schools Community Advisory Committee.

Iwamoto's student-centered advocacy in education started while she served as a certified therapeutic foster parent to teenagers attending public high schools, and continued as they began enrolling into UH system schools. Iwamoto's insights into the DOE and UH system led Civil Beat to contract her to research and write education columns for its online readership.

Iwamoto has been a proud and grateful beneficiary of publicly subsidized higher education: she earned degrees from state university systems in New York, California and New Mexico, where she obtained her juris doctorate degree.

After law school, Iwamoto moved back home to Hawaii and practiced as a public interest lawyer. She started as a volunteer at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. After that, she worked her way up to Managing Attorney at Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii, where she was responsible for recruiting pro bono attorneys and coordinating legal clinics serving low-income, homeless, and elderly clients across the state.

In 2007, American Friends Service Committee honored Iwamoto with the Spirit In Action Award. In 2010, Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights honored her with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends Award. And in 2013, the Obama White House honored Iwamoto as one of the Harvey Milk "Champions of Change" for her advocacy to reduce bullying and harassment in the public schools.

In December 2016, Iwamoto completed a four-year term as Commissioner on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Kim Coco Iwamoto was born on the island of Kauai and now lives in Honolulu with her four year-old daughter. She is President of the Iwamoto Family Foundation and serves the Hawaii Community Foundation as a Scholarship Ambassador, an active member of its Environmental Funders Group, and a Donor Advisor to its Florence Iwamoto Kauai Fund.

BENJAMIN A. KUDO

Benjamin A. Kudo joined Ashford & Wriston, as counsel, in July 2012. Prior to joining Ashford & Wriston, Mr. Kudo was a founding principal of Imanaka Kudo & Fujimoto LLC.

Mr. Kudo specializes in land use, planning, zoning and real estate development, and water law and has vast experience working with the private sector, as well as representing State and County legislative and administrative agencies on a variety of land use, environmental, and natural resources legal issues. He has handled major resort, commercial, industrial, and residential developments throughout Hawaii, representing clients locally, from around the nation, and internationally from the Pacific-Asia region.

Mr. Kudo received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington in 1972; a Masters of Business Administration (emphasis in finance) from the University of Hawaii in 1975; a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 1978; and a Ph.D. in international management from the Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii, with emphasis in international management, cross-cultural studies in 2008.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Kudo served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at The William S. Richardson School of Law teaching in the area of real property, land use and water law from 1990 - 2000. In 1994, Mr. Kudo was honored by the establishment of the Benjamin A. Kudo, Chair of Law (designated in the areas of land use, environmental and administrative law) at The William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii. The Chair of Law is presently held by Professor David L. Callies who has a national reputation in the land use planning and zoning legal area. Mr. Kudo has also served as an adjunct faculty with the Master of Human Resources Management program at the Shidler College of Business in 2008, and University of Hawaii - West Oahu from 2009 - 2012.

He also participates in community activities and currently serves as an Advisory Board member, Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America (former Kamehameha District Chairman); Director, Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii (1996 – 2011); Honorary Director, Temari-Center for Pacific and Asian Art; Director, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific; President (2008 – 2010) and Director, The 200 Club; Director, New City Nissan, Inc.; Director, East-West Center Foundation (2008 – 2014); serves as legal counsel to the Japanese American Citizens League and volunteer advisor to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on the Honouliuli Internment Center Preservation Project. Mr. Kudo's other personal interests include jazz music. He received his Professional Certification in Jazz Guitar from the Berklee College of Music in 2012 and plays locally with the New City Jazz band.

Mr. Kudo is married (Sachiko Kudo) and has three children (Katherine, Robert and Kohki).

Luanna H. Meyer, Ph.D.

Dr. Luanna H. Meyer is Professor Emerita at Victoria University in New Zealand, where she oversaw faculty research development in education. She moved to New Zealand as Dean of Education and then Assistant Vice-Chancellor-Academic at Massey University. Previously, she taught and conducted research at the University of Hawaii, the University of Minnesota, and Syracuse University. She received her BA in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her masters and Ph.D. degrees in education from Indiana University-Bloomington. She and her husband moved back to Hawai'i in 2013.

Luanna has a lifetime of experience in higher education internationally. Her contributions and standing have been recognized through invitations to serve in roles such as Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO) in Education (Oxford University Press, 2011-2017) and Chair of the Education Panel for New Zealand's 2018 Performance-Based Research Fund (one of 13 national panels to evaluate faculty research productivity from 2012-2017). She is on the editorial boards of several international journals (*Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, *Higher Education Quarterly*, and the American Psychological Association's *PsycCRITIQUES*). Her published work in higher education includes international research on fostering world-mindedness in university undergraduates, valid and practical university assessment practices, faculty workloads, faculty research development, academic governance, and quality assurance audit. She has chaired and served on academic audit panels at universities in both Australia and New Zealand, and she has extensive experience serving on grants and program panel reviews in state agencies, school districts, universities, and federal government departments in the United States, Australia, Qatar, Hong Kong, and New Zealand including the selection of Fulbright scholars. She has been an invited speaker in 9 countries and 30 U.S. states, and her 30 Ph.D. graduates currently hold positions in Australia, Gaza, Indonesia, Kenya, New Zealand, South Korea, Tanzania, Vietnam, and the USA.

Luanna's publications include 13 books, 4 journal special issues, 82 international journal articles, and 86 book chapters, government reports, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and assessment tools. In addition to her higher education work, her research and publications have focused on children's social relationships; inclusive special education for students with severe disabilities; multicultural and indigenous education; student assessment; positive interventions for behavior problems; and restorative justice approaches to school discipline. She is a member of two research groups investigating culturally responsive practices and secondary school motivation and achievement.

Currently, she is also writing a series of short stories based on the social histories of extraordinary women leading ordinary lives. She is a Member (Letters) of the Honolulu Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, volunteers for the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and helps to educate the public about our endangered Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles as a Malama na Honu guardian at Laniakea Beach on the North Shore.