

Gregory C. Chun, Ph.D. Professional Biography



Greg Chun was raised in Windward O‘ahu, first in Kualoa where he spent his early years and then later in Kailua where the family relocated. He grew up with ocean activities, particularly surfing and competitive canoe paddling, as strong interests and continues to enjoy these pursuits on a recreational basis today. This upbringing provided him a deep appreciation for the stewardship kuleana that we as a community bear to ensure Hawai‘i’s natural environment is preserved for future generations.

Greg was appointed Executive Director of Maunakea Stewardship at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in July 2019. Previously he was an Associate Specialist at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) where he provided consultation, technical assistance, and training in community-engagement processes, particularly as it relates to bridging complex scientific research, land development, resource management, education, economic development, and policy issues with culture and community. He was a member of the Hui ‘Āina Momona cluster, a group of faculty responsible for developing a program of cross disciplinary scholarship designed to prepare students and working professionals to work at the nexus of these disciplines and processes. Greg maintains his involvement on selected projects in the areas of water resources, sustainable land use, and economic development. In January 2018, Greg accepted an assignment to serve as Senior Advisor the UH Board of Regents and the President on Maunakea.

Greg is a non-traditional academic coming to the University after years in the private sector. Prior to joining UHM in 2013 he was employed at The Kamehameha Schools where he served as President of Bishop Holdings Corporation, the Estate’s for-profit development and investment subsidiary, and later moved to the Education Division as Vice-President of the Keauhou-Kahalu‘u Education Group. He managed a real estate and financial portfolio exceeding \$500M and oversaw a restructuring plan resulting in a return of capital to the parent company of \$30M. He was also responsible for the restoration and stewardship of several significant cultural sites in the ahupua‘a of Kahalu‘u in West Hawai‘i, and for developing a portfolio of innovative ‘āina-based learning programs that broadened KS’ educational reach in the region while contributing to the Estate’s economic interests at the Keauhou Resort.

Greg’s professional experience has spanned numerous industries including electric utilities, land development, ranching, historic preservation, ‘āina-based education, insurance, and health care. In all roles his responsibilities have included leadership and organizational development and strategic planning, with a strong emphasis on engaging community. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the Maunakea Management Board, past President the Hawai‘i Leeward Planning Conference and the Hawai‘i Island Economic Development Board, and is active with several Hawai‘i Island and O‘ahu non-profits. He also maintains a small consulting practice assisting clients with their community engagement and systems development strategy.

Greg is a graduate of The Kamehameha Schools, earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, and his Ph.D. at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in Clinical Psychology. He and his wife Debra are high school sweethearts and have been married for 45 years.