

Jason Masters

Professional Background

Candidate for Hawai'i County Council, District 6

A detailed overview of Jason's education, professional experience, community service, and leadership.

Aloha, I'm Jason Masters, candidate for Hawai'i County Council District 6.

I was born at Kona Hospital in South Kona and raised in Wai'ōhinu in Ka'ū, where my connection to our community and 'āina began. I attended Nā'ālehu Elementary School, Ka'ū High School, and Pāhala schools. During high school, University of Hawai'i summer programs inspired my lifelong interest in environmental stewardship, planning, and public service.

After graduation, I received financial assistance to attend the University of Southern California, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (Public Policy and Management), a Master of Planning, and a Master of Public Administration.

Professional Planning Experience

For 15 years, I served as a City Planner for local governments, helping develop and implement public policies that shaped communities. My work included authoring and/or assisting with local laws, ordinances, and planning policies related to:

- Housing and accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
- Short-term vacation rentals
- Telecommunications facilities
- Animal control regulations
- Medical and commercial cannabis activities
- Housing Element updates
- Local Coastal Programs
- Downtown strategic planning and economic development

I prepared and presented reports and recommendations to Mayors, City Councils, Planning Commissions, and other public agencies. My responsibilities included reviewing land use applications, environmental documents, development proposals, and permit applications while helping ensure compliance with environmental and other regulations.

My work also included managing and enforcing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and assisting with Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plans (SUSMP) and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP).

Government Leadership & Project Management

Throughout my career, I worked closely with federal, state, county, and local agencies while reviewing commercial and residential development projects and coastal development plans.

As Acting Senior Management Analyst, I supervised the City's Traffic Engineer, and oversaw engineering and planning initiatives and managed millions of dollars in federal, state, and local infrastructure funding. These projects included:

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Highway and roadway improvements
- Pedestrian safety projects
- New library construction
- Capital improvement projects

These experiences strengthened my ability to coordinate agencies, manage public resources responsibly, and deliver projects that directly benefit local communities.

Education, Teaching & Community Service

For the past four years, I have enjoyed serving as a substitute teacher at Nā'ālehu Elementary School, and Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School, working with students from Pre-K through Grade 12, including:

- Fully self-contained special education classrooms
- Advanced Placement and Honors courses
- English Language Learners
- Math, Science and Ag classes

Outside the classroom, I have remained connected to Ka'ū through commercial fishing, farming, and volunteer service.

I volunteer with the Nā'ālehu Resilience Hub (The Hub), supporting the Community Kitchen, which serves up to 200 meals during each service three days per week, and Kaukau 4 Keiki food distribution for up to 250 keiki everyweek. I also assist with grant writing to help secure funding for improvements, including a walk-in reefer and kitchen upgrades that strengthen the Hub's ability to serve our community.

Community & Family

Community service has always been part of my family's values. Long before I was born, my family was actively involved in serving Ka'ū, and that tradition continues today.

Looking Ahead

As your councilmember, my priority is to promote the safety and well-being of every member of our community. That includes improving roadway safety, strengthening food security, supporting responsible economic growth, protecting our environment and natural resources, and preserving the cultural and historic traditions that make District 6 unique.

My combination of local roots, professional planning experience, public service, and community involvement has prepared me to serve the people of Hawai'i County Council District 6.

Mahalo for taking the time to learn more about my background. I would be honored to earn your support.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jason Masters
Wai'ōhinu, Ka'ū