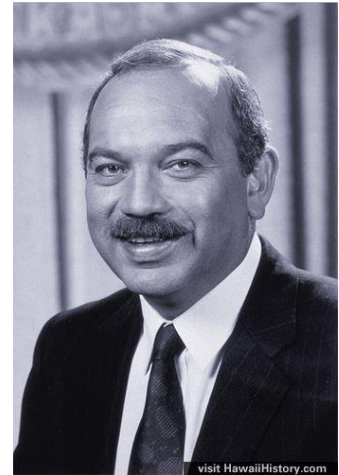


Governor John David Waihee III

(b. 1946)

Born in Honoka`a on the island of Hawai`i, John Waihee became part of a new generation of activist Hawaiians who fought for political and cultural recognition in the [1970s](#) and [80s](#). Waihee was educated at Andrews University and Central Michigan University, later earning his law degree as a member of the first graduating class of the University of Hawaii's Law School in [1976](#).



In [1978](#), Waihee was a delegate to the Hawai`i State Constitutional Convention and helped establish the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). In [1980](#), he won office as a state representative and in [1982](#), he became lieutenant governor. In [1986](#), he followed [Ariyoshi](#) as governor, serving two terms. Waihee was the first state governor of Hawaiian ancestry; Samuel King had been the only Hawaiian territorial governor. During Waihee's time in office, Hawai`i enjoyed economic boom years and Waihee established a friendly and productive relationship with Governor (then President) Bill Clinton.

Since the end of his governorship in [1994](#), Waihee has worked as a lobbyist for Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand in Washington, D.C. In [1999](#), he was also appointed head of the American Samoa Economic Advisory Commission.