

Kara Chow, HCDC Co-Executive Director

Native Hawaiian



Ms. Kara Chow, employed since 2021 is the Co-Executive Director at the Homestead Community Development Corporation (HCDC) nonprofit, sharing Executive Directorship with Ms. Jordyn Danner. Kara oversees two of the four divisions at HCDC, Corporate Compliance and Capacity Divisions, while her counterpart oversees the remaining two, Placed Based Program and Facilities Divisions.

Kara provides all executive management functions for corporate and regulatory compliance, contract management, financial functions and audits, insurance requirements, and Human Resource administration. She also oversees company strategic planning processes and board governance, along with the HCDC community capacity programming with provisions of fiscal sponsorships, workforce development and internships, as well as expert event coordination and convening and training activities serving HCDC partners and constituents.

Kara is an experienced executive, resulting in consistent year over year unqualified financial audits and successful fund development and fund management at the nonprofit, as well as excellent management of human resources of the 19 individuals working part-time and full-time at HCDC.

Prior to HCDC employment, Kara operated a family business providing marketing services in the private sectors supporting clients with brand management, product placement, organizational communication strategies and social media campaigns. She also enjoyed 8 years with the State of Hawaii, as the Office Manager at the Legislature for Senator Ron Kouchi, coordinating constituent services and staffing the Senator in his duties as Senate President.

Kara is a graduate of Kauai High School and received her Bachelor of Science in Hotel Administration with a concentration in Meeting and Events Management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is married to Ainoa Castaneda, is the mother of four girls, ages ranging from 3 and 10, and resides in her home in Ewa Beach on the island of Oahu.

About HCDC. Homestead Community Development Corporation founded in 2009 by the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is dedicated to affordable housing, economic development and community capacity building on or near tribal trust lands established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.

About SCHHA. The Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations is a tribal organization and coalition of self-governments exercising sovereignty on Hawaiian Home Lands and is registered with the U.S. Department of Interior under 43 CFR Part 48.6.