



Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Shidler College of Business
Honolulu, HI

THE SEARCH

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa invites nominations and applications for the next Dean of the Shidler College of Business.

As the flagship campus of the University of Hawai'i system, UH Mānoa is a globally recognized center of academic excellence, cultural stewardship, and environmental insight that is guided by its identity as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning. The Shidler College of Business reflects this mission through a globally engaged, locally rooted approach to business education and leadership.

The Shidler College of Business is Hawai'i's premier institution for business education, a strategic hub for the Asia Pacific region, and a vital contributor to the global conversation on commerce, sustainability, and innovation. The next Dean will be called to steward these relationships and responsibilities with care as a grounded, community-centered leader attuned to the region's needs and possibilities.

This is a moment of momentum and promise, and Shidler enjoys a formidable foundation that is built on academic excellence, deep community trust, and a legacy of philanthropic vision. Its programs and partnerships reflect the richness of Hawai'i itself – a place where centuries of cultural wisdom meet the urgency of modern challenges, and where business education is not just about markets, but about mission and resilience.

The next Dean will join a university that is a living microcosm of the world, where the effects of climate change, resource scarcity, and social transformation are felt first, and where responses are shaped by prudence, ingenuity, and aloha. In Hawai'i, leadership is not performative but accountable, relational, and rooted in place. The Shidler community seeks a Dean who will listen deeply, act with integrity, and lead with clarity and care.

The work ahead for the next Dean reflects a shared commitment to equity, innovation, long-term sustainability, and a belief that business education rooted in place and purpose can add to the construction of a more resilient and just future for all. This is more than a leadership role – it is a chance to shape the future of business education in a region that is defining the future of our planet. To be successful in these endeavors, the Dean will address the following set of key opportunities and challenges, outlined below and discussed in further detail on page 8 of this document:

- Leading with humility and sense of place, articulate and execute on a bold, strategic vision
- Foster faculty and staff excellence
- Advance program innovation and market responsiveness
- Champion student success and expand access
- Deepen and expand industry engagement and community impact
- Grow and steward resources and strengthen operational capacity
- Amplify Shidler’s global brand and Asia-Pacific leadership

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics may be found at the conclusion of this document, which was produced with the support of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the end of this document.

ABOUT UH MĀNOA

Located in the lush Mānoa Valley of Honolulu, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) is the flagship campus of the University of Hawai‘i System and a globally recognized center of learning, discovery, and service. Established in 1907, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is the largest and oldest of the 10 UH campuses, enrolling over 20,000 students in Fall 2025, including a record 3,294 degree-seeking first-year students. The university offers hundreds of undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees across a wide range of disciplines, supported by a faculty of over 1,600 instructional staff.

As a Carnegie R1 institution, UH Mānoa is designated for “very high research activity,” with research expenditures of over \$734 million in FY 2025. The university is one of only a handful of institutions to hold Land, Sea, Space, and Sun Grant designations, reflecting its broad commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and scientific innovation.

The university is home to world-renowned research programs in oceanography, astronomy, volcanology, tropical medicine, evolutionary biology, and climate science. It also leads in Hawaiian, Pacific Islands, and Asian studies, and is the only U.S. institution outside the Department of State to offer instruction in such a wide array of languages. The university’s research enterprise includes more than 50 interdisciplinary centers and institutes, such as the Hawai‘i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, the Pacific Biosciences Research Center, and the Water Resources Research Center.

UH Mānoa’s diverse student body benefits from a dynamic academic environment that integrates rigorous scholarship with a deep respect for place, culture, and community. All 50 states and more than 120 countries are represented in the student body. As a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning (NHPoL), the university is actively transforming its campus to reflect Indigenous knowledge systems and values. Led by the [Hawai‘i Papa o Ke Ao Native Hawaiian Place of Learning Advancement Office](#), UH Mānoa’s NHPoL efforts are guided by four strategic focus areas:

- Native Hawaiian student success
- Staff and faculty development

- Native Hawaiian environments
- Native Hawaiian community engagement

These priorities are rooted in the values of [aloha ‘āina](#) and [kuleana](#), and supported by the [Kuali‘i Council](#). The Council is a body of Native Hawaiian faculty, staff, and administrators that provides cultural and strategic guidance to ensure that institutional transformation is grounded in Indigenous values, community accountability, and Sense of Place.

Sense of Place at UH Mānoa is about more than geography – it is a lived ethic of accountability, humility, and care. Leadership here is highly relational and grounded in place: when you make a promise, you follow through. In Hawai‘i, the realities of climate change, resource scarcity, and cultural resilience are felt first and responded to with ingenuity, frugality, and collective stewardship. This Sense of Place shapes how the university teaches, leads, and serves, offering a model of education that is both globally relevant and deeply rooted.

The NHPoL initiative is not only reshaping physical spaces and academic programs, but also fostering a campus culture that is inclusive, reflective, and responsive to Native Hawaiian wellbeing. Through efforts such as the [Beyond Wayfinding](#) project and co-location of the [Kawaihuelani Hale](#) (School of Hawaiian Knowledge), UH Mānoa is embedding Indigenous values into the fabric of its institutional identity.

As a public institution, UH Mānoa maintains a close, ongoing relationship with the Hawai‘i State Legislature, which provides approximately 42% of the University’s operating budget. This level of support places UH among the top third of public universities nationally in terms of state funding. Legislative partnership and oversight is robust, with the University regularly submitting reports and updates on budget execution, program outcomes, and strategic initiatives. While the system navigates complex regulatory and bureaucratic processes, UH Mānoa continues to work productively with elected officials to advocate for resources that advance its academic mission, research excellence, and service to the people of Hawai‘i.

As the University of Hawai‘i system and the Mānoa flagship continue to advance under the leadership of University of Hawai‘i President Wendy Hensel, who began her tenure on January 1, 2025, the university community is energized by a renewed sense of purpose and possibility. Hensel’s arrival has brought a clear focus on student success, digital transformation, and inclusive excellence. Supporting President Hensel’s transition is the newly appointed Chancellor of UH Mānoa Vassilis Syrmos, who recently served the campus as Vice President for Research and Innovation and Interim Provost. Longtime UH Mānoa Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Denise Eby Konan, assumed the Interim Provost role in August 2026 while a national search is conducted. Together, their leadership marks a pivotal moment for UH Mānoa, as the institution deepens its commitment to serving Hawai‘i and the region through academic excellence, research innovation, and responsive public service. UH Mānoa is not only a vital academic institution for the region, but a living microcosm of the world – where the realities of climate change, resource scarcity, and cultural resilience are felt first and responded to with collective care and ingenuity.

For more information on the leadership of UH Mānoa, please see **Appendix I**.

About the Shidler College of Business

Founded in 1949 the Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is Hawai'i's premier institution for global business education and the only AACSB-accredited MBA program in the state. Shidler is consistently ranked among the top 20 U.S. business schools for international business by *U.S. News & World Report*. Shidler is home to approximately 1,605 students (1,408 undergraduates and 197 graduate students), 63 full-time faculty members, and 53 staff. Shidler graduates join a community of over 45,000 alumni globally, and Shidler's chapter of the [UH Alumni Association](#) is one of the largest and most active.

The College is named in honor of alumnus [Jay H. Shidler](#) (BBA '68), a Honolulu-based real estate investor and entrepreneur, whose transformative philanthropy began with a \$25 million naming gift in 2006. Since then, Shidler has committed more than \$238 million in cash, land leases, and in-kind donations which collectively amount to the largest individual gift in UH history and one of the largest to any U.S. public business school. His innovative financial model is projected to yield billions over the life of ground lease commitments, ensuring the College's long-term financial health and strategic flexibility.

Academics

Shidler's academic programs are deeply rooted in the Asia-Pacific region, offering a globally integrated curriculum that emphasizes cross-cultural fluency, emerging technologies, and international best practices. The College's [mission](#), as defined in its 2022 strategic planning process, is to be an academic community achieving international excellence in business education, research, and practice by leveraging Hawai'i's unique multicultural and geographic advantages. The plan emphasizes sustainability, innovation, and global engagement, positioning Shidler as a business school of choice with an Asia-Pacific focus.

The College offers a comprehensive [portfolio](#) of undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and executive education programs, including specialized degrees in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, information systems, international business, human resource management, management, marketing, and travel industry management. In 2019, the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) rejoined Shidler under a school-within-a-college model, preserving its distinct identity while integrating its strengths into the broader business curriculum. This merger was supported by a \$1.55 million gift from Jay Shidler for faculty research and endowments, along with additional alumni contributions to support leadership and faculty development. As a center of excellence in tourism and hospitality education, the TIM School plays a pivotal role in preparing students to lead in one of Hawai'i's most economically and culturally significant sectors, providing graduates to the biggest economic driver of the state: the tourism and hospitality industry. The industry contributed approximately \$25.8 billion to the state's GDP according to 2023 statistics, which equates to 17.1% of the state's GDP. TIM's integration within Shidler enhances the College's ability to address regional workforce needs, promote sustainable destination management, and serve as a model for culturally grounded business education.

Undergraduate students enter Shidler through two primary pathways. High-achieving incoming first-year students may be invited to join the Direct Admit Program (DAP), which allows them to begin their business

curriculum in their first year. Students not selected for DAP typically enter UH Mānoa as “Exploratory Business” majors and apply to Shidler as upper-level students, typically in their junior year, after completing pre-business core requirements and earning junior standing. This dual-entry model supports both early engagement and academic preparation for business studies at all levels.

Shidler is comprised of the following academic units:

- School of Accountancy
- School of Travel Industry Management
- Department of Finance
- Department of Information Technology Management
- Department of Management & Industrial Relations
- Department of Marketing

At the undergraduate level, Shidler offers a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) as well as a Bachelor of Science in Travel Industry Management. For highly motivated students, the College offers Bachelors and Masters (BAM) pathways that allow undergraduates the chance to begin graduate coursework while completing their bachelor’s degrees.

At the graduate level, programs include the AACSB-accredited Global MBA and Distance Learning EMBA – each designed to accommodate working professionals through flexible scheduling and cohort-based learning. Specialized master’s degrees are available in Accounting (MAcc), Finance (MSFIN), Human Resource Management (MHRM), Information Systems (MSIS), Marketing Management (MSMM), and Travel Industry Management (MSTIM), alongside PhD programs in Business Administration and in Travel Industry Management. A Juris Doctor/MBA dual degree is also offered in partnership with the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Shidler’s suite of global programs reflects the College’s longstanding commitment to international excellence and Asia-Pacific leadership. The [Global MBA](#) program offers students a rigorous foundation in business fundamentals with specialized tracks focused on China and Japan, integrating language study, cultural immersion, and international internships. The [Vietnam Executive MBA](#) (VEMBA), delivered in partnership with the Van Lang University, is a longstanding program that has educated nearly 1,000 professionals across Southeast Asia and beyond. The [Asian Field Study](#) program provides hands-on exposure to business environments across the Pacific Rim, with site visits to companies, government agencies, and economic institutions in countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam. Shidler also maintains active international exchange agreements with leading universities worldwide, enabling students to study abroad and engage with diverse business practices. These programs not only prepare students to lead in global contexts but also contribute meaningfully to business communities across the region – fostering cross-border collaboration, innovation, and economic development.

Research and Innovation

Shidler [faculty](#) are internationally recognized scholars, educators, and consultants who actively contribute to both academic and professional communities in Hawai'i and beyond. The College ranks among the top 25 globally for research productivity in international business and management information systems, and many faculty members hold endowed chairs in recognition of their scholarly impact. Their research spans disciplines including finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, information systems and sustainable business, hospitality, tourism, and transportation management, and is regularly published in top-tier journals such as *Management Science*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, and *MIS Quarterly*. Continued growth in these activities will be critical to Shidler's continued success and reputational strength.

Shidler is home to several renowned centers and institutes that foster innovation, leadership, and applied research, including but not limited to the following:

- [Family Business Center of Hawaii](#) (FBCH): Established in 1995, the Family Business Center is a nonprofit forum supporting family-owned businesses in the state through education, peer learning, and student collaboration.
- [Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship](#) (PACE): Established in 2000, PACE serves all 10 UH campuses, offering hands-on programs in entrepreneurship, innovation, and commercialization. It supports students through mentorship, training, and direct resources. PACE is now housed in the state-of-the-art [Walter Dods, Jr. RISE Center](#), which opened in 2023 and is a live-learn-work innovation community. Pace has earned global recognition for excellence in student engagement and leadership.

The College plays a vital role in Hawai'i's economic ecosystem. Its graduates lead and contribute to key sectors including tourism, finance, real estate, technology, and entrepreneurship. Shidler's strong ties to local industry are reflected in its advisory boards, internship pipelines, and executive education offerings, which are designed to meet the evolving needs of Hawai'i's business community. The College serves as a bridge between academic insight and industry innovation, helping to shape the future of the state's economy.

Current Context

After two decades of leadership, incumbent [Dean V. Vance Roley](#) plans to step down in 2026. Roley, who has served as dean since 2005 and holds the title of First Hawaiian Bank Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Management, will return to teaching as part of the Shidler faculty. His tenure has been marked by transformative growth in academic reputation, philanthropic support, and international recognition. Among his many contributions, Roley helped secure Jay Shidler's historic gift, oversaw the reintegration of the TIM School, and expanded the Vietnam Executive MBA and other global programs. Dean Roley is leading the College in preparations for its upcoming AACSB reaccreditation, ensuring continued excellence in academic standards and institutional integrity.

Undergraduate enrollment has been consistently growing in recent years, whereas increased competition in graduate education presents an opportunity to nurture signature programs (e.g. VEMBA) and cultivate new offerings that align with emerging industry demands and economic development goals. While Shidler benefits from a culture of entrepreneurial problem-solving and long-standing philanthropic support, its physical spaces and facilities may warrant future attention to ensure they continue to meet the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff. Administrative systems and staffing structures have served the College well, and the next Dean will have the opportunity to assess how best to support continued growth and innovation. This includes sustaining a dynamic academic environment that supports faculty in advancing research, teaching, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

As UH Mānoa continues to prioritize interdisciplinary learning and innovation, Shidler is developing a new certificate program in innovation and entrepreneurship that will benefit from collaboration across campus. This initiative reflects a broader opportunity for the College to engage with other academic units in creating cross-disciplinary programs that respond to emerging industry needs and student interests. The next Dean will be expected to champion these efforts and foster a culture of partnership and shared innovation. As part of a unionized university system, the College operates within a complex personnel environment that requires thoughtful engagement with collective bargaining agreements and workload equity. The Dean will also serve as the principal advocate for the College within the broader UH System and to external stakeholders, including state legislators and policymakers, helping to advance strategic priorities and resource alignment. These considerations reflect the broader context in which the next Dean will lead – one that blends institutional momentum with a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

With a sterling reputation in international business, deep ties to local industry, and a forward-looking commitment to innovation, Shidler is uniquely positioned to shape the future of business education in Hawai'i and beyond. Its programs, partnerships, and people reflect the complexity, diversity, and opportunity of the region, and its leadership in the Asia-Pacific continues to grow in relevance and impact.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean of the Shidler College of Business serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the College, responsible for advancing its mission of excellence in global business education and research. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean oversees an operating budget of approximately \$21 million and leads the College's portfolio of academic departments, centers, and programs.

The Dean provides strategic direction, manages resources, and supports the success and wellbeing of faculty, staff, and students. They serve as the College's principal advocate within the University and to external stakeholders, including alumni, donors, and industry partners. The Dean plays a key role in fundraising and external engagement, and ensures alignment with UH Mānoa's strategic priorities and Native Hawaiian values. The Dean will also play a critical role in fostering cross-unit collaboration, working with other colleges and departments to develop interdisciplinary programs that reflect UH Mānoa's strategic priorities and Shidler's commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship.

The College is currently completing its AACSB reaccreditation process, and the next Dean will inherit a strong institutional foundation and be well-positioned to build on Shidler's reputation for innovation, international reach, and impact across Hawai'i's and the region's business ecosystem.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

The UH Mānoa and Shidler communities seek an exceptional leader who has the vision, judgment, and values to meet and advance several key opportunities and challenges, outlined below.

Leading with humility and sense of place, articulate and execute on a bold, strategic vision

The next Dean will join Shidler at a moment of strength and momentum, building on a legacy of academic excellence, community trust, and global reach. They will be expected to articulate and execute on an inclusive vision that honors the College's and University's unique cultural context as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning and its role as a microcosm of the world. This vision must reflect the values and aspirations of Hawai'i's diverse communities, while positioning Shidler as a model for Business education that is globally relevant and locally grounded.

Shidler's international positioning offers a rare platform for impact. Success will require humility, deep listening, and the ability to navigate a dynamic institutional and political landscape with clarity, confidence, and cultural fluency. The Dean must also foster trust across all stakeholders – including faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, university colleagues, and state legislators – and lead with a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose.

In addition to leading Shidler, the Dean will be expected to serve as a strong campus citizen who engages with the rich assets across UH Mānoa, including world-class programs, interdisciplinary initiatives, and centers of excellence. These institutional strengths offer powerful opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and shared impact. The next Dean will be called to tap into them not only to advance Shidler's success, but to contribute meaningfully to the broader university community.

Foster faculty and staff excellence

Shidler has built a strong foundation of scholarly achievement, with faculty who are nationally and internationally recognized. The Dean will champion continued investment in faculty success — supporting research productivity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and PhD program growth — while fostering a collegial, inclusive environment that attracts and retains top talent. Equally important, the Dean will recognize and support the essential contributions of Shidler's dedicated staff, whose expertise and institutional knowledge are critical to the College's operations, student experience, and overall effectiveness.

This work will include sustaining internal research support, advocating for infrastructure and grant facilitation, and addressing workload equity across departments. The Dean must also navigate union dynamics and ensure that teaching, research, service, and staff roles are valued equitably across the

College. As Shidler seeks to expand its research enterprise, the Dean will play a critical role in cultivating external partnerships, increasing the visibility of faculty scholarship, and aligning academic priorities with the College's strategic goals. A commitment to shared governance, transparent communication, and professional development will be essential to sustaining faculty morale and momentum for faculty and staff alike.

Advance program innovation and market responsiveness

The next Dean will be expected to lead a dynamic, continuous assessment of Shidler's academic portfolio to ensure that its programs remain relevant, competitive, and aligned with employer needs across Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. This includes working collaboratively with faculty and staff to evaluate program demand, reform offerings as appropriate, and launch new initiatives that reflect emerging industry trends and student interests. With increasing competition in both undergraduate and graduate management education — including from online and nontraditional providers — the Dean must ensure that Shidler's programs are differentiated, mission-aligned, and responsive to the evolving landscape. This work will be essential to sustaining enrollment, enhancing career outcomes, and reinforcing Shidler's role as a strategic contributor to workforce development and economic vitality in Hawai'i and beyond.

Champion student success and expand access

With strong undergraduate enrollment and reputation for career outcomes, Shidler is well-positioned to deepen its commitment to student success. The Dean will have the opportunity to enhance advising, expand graduate and professional offerings, and strengthen pathways for local, Native Hawaiian, and international students. Undergraduate programs serve a largely local population, while graduate programs are a strategic lever for retaining talent and serving the broader Asia-Pacific region. The Dean will be expected to grow graduate enrollment, improve financial support, and ensure that Shidler becomes the first-choice institution for students across Hawai'i and beyond. This includes leading a continuous evaluation of the College's academic portfolio to ensure that programs are responsive to market demand, employer needs, and competitive pressures. This work advancing student success will include continued investment in student services, career development, and experiential learning opportunities that prepare graduates to lead in a rapidly changing global economy. In addressing these priorities, the Dean will also work to address barriers to access and success, particularly for Native Hawaiian and other historically underserved communities, ensuring Shidler's programmatic alignment with UH values of equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Deepen and expand industry engagement and community impact

Shidler's close ties to Hawai'i's business community, including its robust alumni network and long-standing partnerships with family-owned enterprises, are a defining strength. The Dean will be expected to expand these relationships, elevate the visibility of centers like PACE and the Family Business Center, and ensure that the College remains a trusted partner in advancing the state's economic vitality. There is significant opportunity to further integrate industry into the student experience — through mentorship,

internships, applied projects, and executive education — while also amplifying Shidler’s role as a convener of thought leadership across the region. The Dean will be expected to steward existing and cultivate new partnerships with critical sectors, including technology, sustainability, tourism and hospitality, and entrepreneurship, ensuring the College remains responsive to the evolving needs of Hawai’i’s economy. A strategic approach to community engagement will be essential to sustaining Shidler’s relevance and impact, reflecting the values of reciprocity and long-term relationship-building.

Grow and steward resources and strengthen operational capacity

With a strong foundation of philanthropic support and a culture of entrepreneurial problem-solving, the College is poised to invest in its future. The Dean will lead efforts to align resources with strategic priorities, advocate effectively within a complex university and state government environment, and support infrastructure improvements that enhance the student, faculty, and staff experience. This includes addressing long-term space and facilities needs, strengthening administrative capacity, and ensuring that the College remains agile and responsive. The next Dean will also be expected to reinforce and expand the College’s philanthropic pipeline — building on the legacy of transformational donors like Jay Shidler, whose innovative financial model has provided long-term strategic flexibility. This moment presents a unique opportunity to deepen engagement with existing supporters while cultivating new partnerships that align with Shidler’s evolving priorities.

Working in close collaboration with the UH Foundation, the Dean will inspire confidence among donors, advance a compelling case for investment, and champion a culture of philanthropy that fuels innovation, access, and impact. This growth and stewardship will require transparency, strategic planning, and the ability to inspire confidence among donors and stakeholders. The Dean must also ensure that operational systems and staffing structures are aligned to support expansion, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Amplify Shidler’s global brand and Asia-Pacific leadership

Shidler’s international reputation, particularly across the Asia-Pacific region, is a powerful differentiator. As the leading R1 business school in the region and a key gateway between North America and Asia, Shidler prepares globally minded leaders who understand the strategic, cultural, and economic dynamics of the region. The next Dean will have the opportunity to elevate this global brand, expand international partnerships, and position the College as the premier hub for business education and innovation. This includes stewarding high-impact programs and exploring new markets in Japan, South Korea, and Oceania. The Dean must also ensure that global engagement is integrated across the curriculum, research, and student experience, preparing graduates to lead with cultural intelligence and regional fluency. As geopolitical and economic shifts continue to reshape the Asia-Pacific landscape, Shidler has a unique opportunity to further establish itself as a thought leader and connector across borders.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa seeks a visionary, collaborative, and culturally attuned leader to serve as the next Dean of the Shidler College of Business. The successful candidate will bring a record of academic and administrative distinction, a deep appreciation for Shidler's unique role in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region, and the ability to lead with humility, integrity, and strategic foresight.

Candidates must hold a PhD or equivalent terminal degree in Business Administration or a closely related field and possess a record commensurate with appointment as a full professor at the University. While no single candidate will embody all desired qualifications, the Search Advisory Committee will prioritize individuals with many of the following attributes:

- Demonstrated success in academic leadership, with at least five years of experience leading complex organizations or comparable professional environments.
- Proven ability to recruit, retain, and support a diverse and high-performing faculty and staff, with a commitment to shared governance and inclusive leadership.
- A compelling record of external engagement, including fundraising, alumni relations, and partnership development, with the ability to reinforce and expand the College's philanthropic pipeline.
- Deep appreciation for Hawai'i's cultural context and demonstrated ability to engage respectfully and meaningfully with Indigenous communities and the full spectrum of Hawai'i's cultural diversity.
- Experience navigating public university systems, including familiarity with legislative processes, public policy, and state-level advocacy.
- Strategic and operational acumen, including experience in budget management, long-term planning, and aligning resources with institutional priorities.
- A student-centered orientation, with a commitment to advancing student success, wellness, and outcomes across undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.
- National or international recognition in business education, research, or industry, with the ability to elevate Shidler's global brand and Asia-Pacific leadership.
- Experience developing innovative academic or industry programs that respond to emerging trends and regional economic needs.
- Experience working in a unionized higher education environment and navigating collective bargaining agreements, workload equity, and complex personnel structures.
- Demonstrated commitment to equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership in multicultural and multiethnic environments.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa offers a competitive compensation package commensurate with experience and qualifications. The minimum salary is \$345,696. The Dean of the Shidler College of Business is a senior leadership role within Hawai'i's flagship public research university and includes a comprehensive benefits package through the State of Hawai'i.

The position is based in Honolulu, the capital city of Hawai'i, located on the island of O'ahu. Honolulu is a vibrant, multicultural urban center known for its tropical climate, lush landscapes, and strong sense of community. It is consistently ranked among the safest and most livable cities in the United States and offers a unique blend of cosmopolitan energy and island lifestyle.

Living and working in Hawai'i offers newcomers the opportunity to engage deeply with a diverse population and a rich cultural heritage. The state's two official languages — Hawaiian and English — reflect its commitment to honoring Indigenous traditions while welcoming global perspectives. Honolulu is home to America's only royal palace, more than 130 beaches, and a thriving arts, culinary, and innovation scene. The city's location in the heart of the Pacific positions it as a strategic hub between Asia and North America, with direct access to international markets and thought leadership across the region.

While the cost of living in Hawai'i is higher than many mainland locations, newcomers will find a strong Sense of Place and a community that values connection, stewardship, and reciprocity. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is deeply committed to its role as a Native Hawaiian Place of Learning, and the next Dean will have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the campus's mission of serving Hawai'i and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications, which consist of a cover letter and CV and/or resume, should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller [website](#). Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process.

Courtney Wilk-Mandel, Evan Layne, Cara Meyers, and David Bellshaw
Isaacson, Miller

The University of Hawai'i is an equal opportunity institution and is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, income assignment for child support, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, national guard absence, status as a covered veteran, pregnancy, and domestic or sexual violence victim status.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Hawai'i. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of Hawai'i would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

Appendix I

University of Hawai'i Leadership

Wendy F. Hensel, President

Wendy Hensel assumed the role of President of the University of Hawai'i System on January 1, 2025. As President, she provides strategic leadership for Hawai'i's sole public higher education system, which includes 10 campuses and serves more than 49,000 students and nearly 7,500 faculty and staff statewide.

Hensel joined UH following her tenure as Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost at the City University of New York (CUNY), where she led academic and operational strategies across a 25-campus system. Prior to CUNY, she spent more than two decades at Georgia State University (GSU), serving as Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dean of the College of Law.

A legal scholar specializing in disability law, policy, and ethics, Hensel has published widely and served on national boards promoting inclusive employment. She holds a bachelor's degree with highest honors from Michigan State University, where she was a Harry S. Truman Scholar and Supreme Court clerk, and earned her J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School.

At UH, Hensel is committed to advancing the university's mission as a Native Hawaiian place of learning, strengthening its role as a research and innovation leader, and preparing students for a rapidly evolving global landscape. Her leadership blends pragmatism and optimism, emphasizing human-centered learning, digital transformation, and community engagement.

Dr. Vassilis L. Syrmos, Chancellor

Dr. Vassilis Syrmos assumed the role of Chancellor of the flagship University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus on July 1, 2026. Dr. Syrmos previously served the campus as Interim Provost since July 2025, following more than a decade as Vice President for Research and Innovation for the UH System. A longtime faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Syrmos has held numerous leadership roles at UH Mānoa, including Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering. As Chancellor, he oversees the UH Mānoa campus, guiding its academic, research, and community engagement missions.

His academic career spans over 30 years, with research interests in linear system theory, signal and image processing, medical imaging, and diagnostics. He is the author of more than 100 journal and conference papers and the book *Optimal Control*. His work has been funded by agencies such as NSF, DARPA, ONR, and the Air Force Research Labs, and he has served as a consultant to organizations including the Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope and Science Technology International. He brings a deep understanding of the campus and its mission, and is committed to fostering excellence, innovation, and collaboration. His

leadership is grounded in a lifelong connection to Hawai'i and a profound sense of kuleana to serve the university and its communities.

Dr. Denise Eby Konan, Interim Provost

Dr. Denise Eby Konan began serving as Interim Provost of UH Mānoa in August 2026, following more than a decade of service as Dean of the College of Social Sciences. As Interim Provost, Konan oversees academic affairs, strategic planning, budgeting, and student success at UH Mānoa. As Dean of Social Sciences since 2012, she provides leadership to 11 academic departments that deliver nearly a fifth of the degrees offered on campus.

A longtime member of the Department of Economics, Dr. Konan is a noted international trade economist, having worked extensively in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. She has consulted for the World Bank, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Arab League, and several national governments, and has published on regional economic integration, trade in services, intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment, and energy. She also serves as President of the Hawai'i Asia Pacific Institute and the Northeast Asian Economic Forum, and as a research fellow with the UH Economic Research Organization. Konan brings deep institutional experience to the role, having previously served as Interim Chancellor and Assistant Vice Chancellor of UH Mānoa.