



NAME: Richard Velasquez

ISLAND: Oahu

BIO: Richard Velasquez , is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker he has a Bachelors of Science from Ball State University ,and attended Instituto Tecnológico y Estudios Superiores-Monterrey Mexico. he then completed his Masters of Social Work, (MSW) Indiana University after his Internship at the Camden Borough of Social Services, London, England He has lived in Hawaii since 1992, and worked for the US Department of Veterans Affairs where he held a number of positions including serving as the Executive Director of the former VA Research Corporation of the Pacific , the Homeless Veterans Program Manager for Hawaii , Guam and Saipan and Director - National Veterans Golden Age Games. While at the VA he started the first VA LGBT Employees Program and previously had served as the VA Hispanic Employees Program Manager. While he was running the VA Homeless Veterans Program he served as an Officer of Partners in Care Honolulu , Homeless Continuum of Care.

After more than 30 years working at the VA he went to work as a Social Worker at Castle Medical Center-, working in the Medical unit Behavioral Health, ICU, Birth Center and Emergency Room.

Currently he is a Military Family Life Counselor at Marine Corps Base Hawaii -Kaneohe Bay

Volunteer activities over the years include Life Foundation, Miss Hawaii, Miss Latina Hawaii, Miss Hawaii Volunteer, Rainbow Film Festival, Honolulu Film Festival and Board of Directors of the Friends of Judiciary History Center

Currently, Rick is a member on the National Committee on Race and Diversity for the National Association of Social Workers in Washington DC and is a Commissioned Kentucky Colonel,

Priorities: My focus will be to help establish this inaugural Commission to serve as an ongoing advisory and advocacy vehicle and a conduit of information from the LGBTQ+ Community to decision makers and from the elected officials to stakeholders in our Ohana