

Sean McLaughlin
President & CEO, Akaku: Maui Community TV

Sean McLaughlin is the president and CEO of Akaku: Maui Community Television since 1997. Akaku is the nonprofit (501c3) agency providing local programming, production and other noncommercial media services for Maui and Kalawao Counties, State of Hawaii, including the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i.

Educated at Dartmouth College (Class of 1979), McLaughlin has been based in Hawai'i since 1982 and is known there as a community media advocate and educator. He taught "Politics of Media" for several years at the University of Hawai'i (UH-Manoa) and currently serves on the Honolulu Community-Media Council. He also serves on the Board of the Alliance for Community Media Western Region (ACM-West), chairs ACM's national policy work group, and is active with the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), the Alliance for Communications Democracy, and the Hawaii Localism Coalition.

From 1984 to 1996, McLaughlin was president of Ikaika Media, a broadcast and multimedia design, production, and consulting firm based in Honolulu. He also served as director of telecommunications for the Honolulu City Council.

Many of McLaughlin's media projects have received national recognition, including: ACE Awards for Cable Excellence; Broadcast Media Awards; Hometown USA Awards; a 1995 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties - NACo; and, numerous other awards and festival showings.

In 1987, McLaughlin co-authored an educational access TV study and drafted plans for implementing an education channel on cable statewide for the Hawaii Department of Education. He later developed projects as an international news consultant for Hawaii Public Television and the Hawaii based co-production (with NHK-Japan and KCTS-Seattle) Asia Now.

After serving on several non-profit and community boards, including vice chair of Maui County's Charter Commission, McLaughlin was named Maui's outstanding non-profit executive director for 2004.

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