



Chris Tatum
President and CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Chris Tatum was appointed as president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) on November 29, 2018. HTA is the agency responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's support of the tourism industry.

Tatum joined HTA after retiring from a 37-year career as a senior executive with Marriott, most recently as the area general manager for Marriott Resorts Hawai'i.

Upon graduating from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in hotel and restaurant management, Tatum joined Marriott and was assigned to help open the new Maui Marriott Resort & Ocean Club at Ka'anapali. He then steadily rose through the ranks of Marriott holding leadership positions on the U.S. mainland, in Asia, Australia and again in Hawai'i.

Tatum's previous executive positions with Marriott included serving as area vice president of Hawai'i, Pacific Northwest, Northern California and Utah, and also as area vice president of North Asia, Hawai'i and the South Pacific. He also served as the opening resident manager of the Kaua'i Marriott Resort and the JW Marriott in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and as the opening general manager for the Brisbane Marriott Hotel in Australia.

From 2001 until his retirement from Marriott, Tatum held executive positions in Hawai'i that were instrumental to the hotel leader expanding its brand. Before overseeing all Marriott hotels in Hawai'i, Tatum previously served as general manager of the Renaissance Wailea Beach Resort on Maui, the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa at Ko 'Olina, and the Waikīkī Beach Marriott Resort, where he also earned Marriott's General Manager of the Year Award.

Throughout his tenure with Marriott in Hawai'i, Tatum has contributed his time and expertise to helping improve the tourism industry. He previously served as chairman of the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau, O'ahu Visitors Bureau and Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association. He also served on the Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Commemorative Committee and the Hawai'i Host Committee for the 2011 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting that featured the heads of state, finance ministers and thousands of delegates from 21 nations.

In 2015, Tatum was presented with the Legacy in Tourism Award by the University of Hawai'i's School of Travel Industry Management in recognition of his tourism leadership.

Tatum moved with his family to Honolulu as a youth and graduated from Admiral Arthur W. Radford High School. His career in the hospitality industry began as a housekeeping houseman in the late 1970s at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Waikīkī during his summers home from college.