



RAY JEFFERSON

Fulbright Student Program
(2001-2002)

CITY OF RESIDENCE: Honolulu, HI

HOST COUNTRY: Singapore

PROJECT: Study of leadership practices in Singapore's public sector; survey of the state of social entrepreneurship as it applies to physically challenged people

BACKGROUND: A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Jefferson went on to serve as an officer with three elite military and special forces units – the Presidential Honor Guard, the 3rd Ranger Battalion and 1st Special Forces Group/Green Berets. In 1995, Jefferson was wounded in the line of duty; after his recovery, he enrolled at Harvard, where he subsequently obtained both an MBA and a master's degree in public policy. His activities at Harvard included working with Easter Seals on a campaign to educate amputees about prosthetics and founding the Hawaii-Harvard Initiative, a program that brings Harvard students to Hawaii to cultivate future students and share knowledge and resources.

OCCUPATION: Jefferson is currently pursuing a career in public service as deputy director of Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. Concurrently, he continues to assist the physically challenged in achieving their potential and transforming society's attitudes toward their capabilities.

AWARDS/HONORS: Jefferson has received numerous awards and fellowships, including a White House Fellowship, a Littauer Fellowship (Kennedy School of Government, Harvard), Harvard Business School's Dean's Award and the Bert King Fellow award for leadership, community service and scholarship. Jefferson was also profiled in *BusinessWeek* magazine in 2000 as one of Harvard's top graduates.

QUOTE: "The Fulbright ... has strengthened my desire to engage in public sector leadership with global implications. My long-term career aspiration is to serve our nation and the local community as a leader in a position requiring senior level management ability, an international perspective and an understanding of global imperatives. The Fulbright has been extraordinary preparation for these aspirations."