

Chris Conklin assumed the duties of Executive Director in late 2012. Chris is a retired Coast Guard Captain with extensive service in the Pacific area including over 20 years in Honolulu. He retired from the Coast Guard in 2009 and established an independent consultancy, providing maritime security and disaster readiness and response planning for various government agencies and private sector firms.

Chris has a degree in naval architecture from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and a master's degree in engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. He has also completed various military service schools and, late in his military career, various Incident Command Center (ICS) course levels. Highlights from his Coast Guard career include command of two cutters in over 10 years sea service, and command of two shore installations including Coast Guard Base Honolulu at Sand Island, the largest Coast Guard facility in Hawaii. As Base Commander, he led over 200 military, civil service and contracting personnel in providing premier support to operational forces in the Central and Western Pacific. This included managing over 300 family and single housing units, and initiating and negotiating the Coast Guard's first public-private venture – resulting in full re-capitalization of the 1960's vintage inventory with modern, sustainable housing. Chris also completed a tour at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as the national program manager for Coast Guard short range aids to navigation, one of the service's largest operational programs, and which included managing the nationwide inventory of historic lighthouses.

Chris' notable senior Coast Guard staff assignments include serving as the Chief of Operations and Chief of Force Readiness and Planning for the Fourteenth Coast Guard District in Honolulu; both assignments requiring extensive interaction and coordination with other federal and state and local agencies.

Chris is a native of Orlando, Florida and is married to the former Jennifer Cook of Phoenix, Arizona. Jennifer is a civil service employee and Coast Guard Reserve officer, and they have two children, Juliette (7) and Hannah (5). Chris also has an older daughter Kelsey, who is a 2012 Williams College graduate, and a resident of Washington, DC. Chris, Jen and children reside in Niu Valley, east of Honolulu.