



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

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January 31, 2023

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Novelle E. Francis
Senate President
Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Re: Nomination of Aaron Hutchins – Virgin Islands Territorial Park Board of Trustees

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 32, chapter 2(a) of the Virgin Islands Code, I hereby nominate Mr. Aaron Hutchins to the Virgin Islands Territorial Park Board of Trustees for the District of St. Croix. The term of appointment is six (6) years.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to ask the advice and consent of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature on this nomination. A copy of Mr. Hutchins resume is enclosed for your review.

Your prompt and favorable confirmation will enhance the Board's ability to meet its robust agenda and serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Enclosure

Cc: Senator Diane T. Capehart
Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Working hard for a better Caribbean!

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Leatherback Brewing Company, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. 2017 – Present.

Co-Founder/Managing Partner, locally owned regional craft beer production brewery.

- Conceived, co-founded, branded, built and operate a 15,000-barrel production and packaging craft beer brewery with wholesale distribution and retail outlets along with a beer education and tour venue.
- Export market presence in Florida, Puerto Rico and the British Virgin Islands.
- Designed and built St. Thomas Innovation Brewery and Tasting Room.
- VI Economic Development Commission Tax Beneficiary.
- Awarded *Most Likely to Improve the Local Economy* by the *Prior Family Foundation*, U. of Miami, 2018.
- VI Clean Coasts *Certified Eco-Friendly Business*, Since October 2018.
- Recipient of Workforce 180 Workforce Development Grant, 2019.
- Recipient St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, New Business of the Year, 2018.

Island-Life-Adventures, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. 2009 – Present.

Founder, Co-Owner, bicycle and eco-tour and shore excursion company.

- 20,000+ guests, 200,000+ miles ridden on St. Croix with a 5-star participant experience review rating.
- St. Croix Youth Mountain Bike Program for 5th-8th graders. 1,000 miles ridden with 22 kids.
- Hotel Bike Program fleet lease program for St. Croix hotels.
- Trip Advisor *Certificate of Excellence* since 2017.

Freelance consultant. US Virgin Islands. 2016 – Present.

- Lead author on VI CZM's integration of climate change considerations in their *Environmental Assessment Report Guidance and Requirements* for Coastal Zone permit applicants, 2017-2018.
- Designed and performed scientific marine, benthic and terrestrial surveys and assessments.
- Expert Defense Witness for Civil Environmental Proceedings in the US Virgin Islands.
- Environmental Strategic Advisor to St. Croix Energy.
- Team member for the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan update contract.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Virgin Islands. 2008 – 2015.

-Program Director, US and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Program.

- Created capacity and directed operations and conservation strategies across the three jurisdictions.
- Launched new office in Puerto Rico and deployed first field projects in the British Virgin Islands.
- Identified and cultivated private donors and recruited new Trustees and talented staff.
- Networked and worked closely with regional and local leaders to advance sustainability policies.
- Managed inventory of park and conservation lands and collaborated with local land and park trusts to improve cohesion and efficiencies for more comprehensive and regional beneficial impacts.

-Director of Government Relations, US and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Program.

- Developed policy priorities and strategies for improving marine resource management and terrestrial park and private protected areas development.
- Identified and engaged key policy makers and implementors within the local and federal government and national governments and bilateral agencies.

US Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Virgin Islands. 1998 – 2008.

-Environmental Program Administrator, Office of the Commissioner. 2007 – 2008.

- Provided senior technical/policy support and managed multidisciplinary projects across agencies.
- Coordinated the Department's natural resource damage and emergency response and assessments.

-Director, Division of Environmental Protection. 2004 – 2007.

- Directed activities supporting the implementation of all environmental laws applicable to the USVI.
- Managed \$15M annually allocated across two regulatory offices with ~60 employees.
- Led the effort to successfully establish the US' first coral bio-criteria under the Clean Water Act.
- Developed, proposed, presented and defended annual budgets to VI Legislature.
- Provided professional and expert testimony and presentation to numerous and varied audiences.

- Manager/Environmental Engineer, Water Quality and Pollution Control Program. 1998- 2004.

- Lead the growth of the Water Programs, issued TPDES permits and performed facility surveys.
- Created and funded the *VI Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program*.
- Expanded marine and coral monitoring programs.
- Implemented the *DPNR Scientific Diver Program*.
- Pursued regulatory compliance through objective environmental enforcement actions.
- Technical Lead on the government's *VI Rum Treatability Study*.
- Acted as Incident Commander and supported field response to Hazmat Incidents throughout the VI.
- Provided expert witness testimony to civil and criminal environmental proceedings under federal and local law.

EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Management, Duke University, Durham, NC. 2004.

Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering with Minor in Ecology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA. 1997.

K-12 Graduate of The Good Hope School, Frederiksted, VI. 1992.

VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERSHIPS and COMMUNITY SERVICE (current roles)

- **Virgin Islands Trail Alliance, Co-Founder and President of the Board.**
- **St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, Member.**
- **St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce, Member.**
- **VI Hotel and Tourism Association, Member.**

NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS and AWARDS

- **USEPA Environmental Champion Award. 2015.**
- **NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Recognition. 2015.**
- **US Coral Reef Task Force, Significant Contribution Recognition. 2013.**
- **USEPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Award. 2009.**
- **White House, Coastal America Partnership Award. 2003.**

LANGUAGES

Native: English

Proficient: Spanish