

Ethnicity: Filipino

Place of Birth: Kalihi, HI

Party Affiliation: Democratic Highest Elected Position:

Governor of Hawai'i (1994-2002)

## Other Positions:

Lieutenant Governor of Hawai'i (1986-94); Hawai'i State Senate (1979-86); Hawai'i House of Representatives, Pearl City (1975-78)

Maya Enriquez (SFSU 2021)

## Benjamin Jerome Cayetano (b. November 14, 1939)

Ben was raised by his single father in Hawai'i and grew up as a latchkey child. He almost flunked out of high school and later moved to California because of unfair hiring practices. Ben attended UCLA after realizing a college degree would help him in the future. In 1971, he earned a law degree from Loyola Law School. Ben returned to Hawai'i and eventually became the first Filipino American to be elected as both lieutenant governor in 1986 and governor in 1994. During his time in office, he was challenged by many economic problems and made education one of his priorities. A three-week union strike in 2001 halted Hawai'i's educational system. Nevertheless, Ben's administration built thirteen new schools and extended the school year by seven days. Ben is currently retired with his wife and five children.