

AUGUZZTUZ ELLIOTT, PRINCIPAL BROKER HAMAKUA COAST REALTY, INC.



AUGUZZTUZ "GUZ" ELLIOTT WITH HIS WIFE, PRIYA, AND DOG TITANGO.

Auguzztuz "Guz" Elliott first set foot on Hawai'i Island for a reunion event in 1990. "I never thought I'd come back," he says. "But when I ended up moving here from Martha's Vineyard in 1992, I knew before I landed I would do real estate."

So, that same year he got his license. To make a living, he worked real estate along with any other job he could – house painting, odd jobs, substitute teaching. And he learned a lot about the community. In 1995, he got his broker's license.

Elliott has vision, and dreams. For the past six years he has been establishing Hamakua Coast Realty, a domain name he secured years ago thinking he would use it some day.

His clients come from all over the country. "Hawai'i is popular with mainland buyers because it's perceived as being healthier, safer, quieter. A lot of people are coming here for privacy, not necessarily for community." On the Hamakua Coast, he notes, "People are looking for country acreage and a slower pace. Most of my buyers are not looking for a house in town."

He has one agent and one assistant, his sales a mix between residential properties and vacant land. His mission is to preserve the right things for the future. That means staying ecologically-minded and focusing on sustainable development— including affordable housing, and paying attention to what is left behind.

"I am big on bamboo," he adds. His own home in Kalopa is refurbished with bamboo structural and decorative elements. "I plan to do an all-bamboo house on a stream, up in Kukuihaele." He also dreams of building a world-class, eco-friendly conference center, subdivisions close enough to Honoka'a Town so people can walk. He wants to see an environmentally sustainable assisted-living facility.

The facility is something that suits this community, he feels, in terms of job creation, compatibility and sustainability. "I can envision cottage-style living arrangements, open space, a central place for meals, golf cart paths connecting everything – and everything blending with the landscape...I don't want to end up in an ammonia-smelling nursing home," he says, wryly.

His sensitivity to the environment and to people comes from his own grounding in spiritual values and his understanding of inter-connections. He is very concerned for the future.

"The future of the coast will depend on the use of land when water becomes available," he continues. Within the next few years, he notes, the development of the Hamakua lands will set the lifestyle for generations to come. "If you take the stand of opposing change, you lose the opportunity to shape the change," he posits.

As a mainlander, and a man whose father spent years in real estate development, Elliott has an understanding of the challenges that come with real estate development and he has seen what can happen. "Coming from the mainland is like coming from the future. Many people here don't have to think about trash or lack of space yet," he observes.

"I am seeking to align myself with developers with vision," he says. "I don't want to see any more 1950s-style developments, like subdivisions with the house with the garage right in front. I want to see something more sustainable."

He allows his dreams to steer his direction, and those dreams come out of a great love for the Hamakua Coast. "I feel it's my obligation to offer my best efforts so Hawaiian lands are developed in a way that respects this island, our communities, the spirit of the land and future residents."

"I want to help steer the coast into a sustainable housing model that serves the future... while helping people find their dream property."

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Hawai'i Island Board of Realtors
- Hawai'i Association of Realtors
- National Association of Realtors

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

- Former President, Ahualoa Community Association
- Former board member, Hamakua Business Association
- Founding member, Hamakua Music Festival

EDUCATION:

- Coursework at Hampshire College
- Years of training in mind-body-spirit traditions
- Masters of education in management

FAMILY:

- Wife, Priya
- A dog, Titango

PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born and raised in Massachusetts
- Attracted to architecture and has always loved houses
- Transformed a five-bedroom summer home in Martha's Vineyard to a 12-bedroom inn
- Committed to sustainable development
- Enjoys reading and walking

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