



## **Travis Chong Trade & Investment Officer Class of 2002**

**By Dean Hosaka**

When Travis Chong was young, he made frequent trips to the emergency room. This made him recognize the need for better provision of medical care in Hawaii. So, upon graduation from Waiakea High in 2002, he chose to study biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California as the first step to medical school. As his studies progressed, it became clear to me that the business of healthcare contained the same competitiveness and dynamic environment as medicine. He earned Bachelors and Masters degrees in biomedical engineering in five years.

Rather than practice medicine, he decided to shift his focus on international trade and foreign direct investment (FDI). He joined UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) in May 2009 as the Vice Consul for Life Sciences where he is responsible for all British trade and foreign investment related to life sciences within the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Fairfield County in Connecticut. The life sciences sector includes healthcare and medical devices, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and nutraceuticals. UKTI is the international business development arm for the United Kingdom and assists overseas companies to expand their business globally. This organization serves as a business-support gateway for United States companies interested in establishing or expanding their operations within the UK. He works with UK companies to provide market information, introductions to key contacts, trade advice and mentoring on how to conduct business in the U.S. His organization also provides these companies access to buyers and supply chains which enable them to establish a supply chain for doing business overseas. His job requires a lot of traveling and can be very demanding.

His office is the British Consulate-General in New York City and he lives in downtown Manhattan's Murray Hill, which he says is a very convenient location to all this big city offers. He walks 20 blocks to work in under 30 minutes!

He has many great memories from high school because of his active participation in sports, school activities, and classes. He enjoyed his time here and still actively keeps in contact with high school friend and teachers. He advises the following to others: "My only recommendation to you is to keep your mind open to all the possibilities of where your life can lead you and the opportunities for you outside of Hawaii!"

