

Juan E. Bauzá Bayrón, Economic Development Administration Economic Development Representative PR & USVI



Juan Bauza is the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) Representative (EDR) for PR & USVI. Currently in (DR4339PR) Hurricane Maria post disaster recovery, he also serves as the Field Coordinator for the Economic Recovery Support Function in Puerto Rico, under the National Disaster Recovery Framework. As EDR, he led the team drafting the Economic Recovery Courses of Action in the PR Economic Recovery Plan. He has actively engaged in transformational economic development initiatives in areas such as promoting the development of an unmanned systems industry, 21st Century Workforce Development, and the Blue Economy (Ocean Economy) as anchors to long term economic vitality for the US Caribbean. These efforts have resulted in over \$114M invested by EDA in strategic recovery projects in PR and USVI.

Prior to working with EDA, Bauzá held the position of Economic Development Specialist (EDS) for the Small Business Administration for the Puerto Rico & USVI Field Office. In this role of EDS, he led the Small Business Innovation and Research program development in PR which resulted in the inclusion of PR in the National SBIR Road Tour. He was also the District Office Technical Resource providing oversight of the Women Business Centers in PR. His private sector experience includes over six years of business development consulting in new business development and specialized in controlled environments. During this time, he acquired international experience while working projects in North Carolina, Canada, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Israel, and Puerto Rico. Served as president of the Agricultural Committee for two years in a row for the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce. He also worked in the manufacturing industry managing the East Coast Region (USA) for Tactical Assault Gear, a tactical gear manufacturer in the west coast soon after becoming the technical consultant for a National Institute for the Blind member (LC Industries, a non-profit organization in Durham, NC). His experience in extreme dynamic environments include leading, as an NCO, Paratrooper fire teams during combat deployments which earned him multiple military distinctions. He holds a bachelor's degree in Science, with concentration in Biology and a double master's degree in Business Administration and Non-Profit Organizations.

Bauzá is recipient of a Bronze Medal Award from the US Department of Commerce, the 2012 Zenith Award in Agriculture bestowed by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, the Edie Klein 2013 Award for Program of Excellence, Army Commendation Medal, 2 Army Achievement Medals, and a Joint Service Achievement medal.