

# Voice Of Business



THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII  
[www.cochawaii.org](http://www.cochawaii.org)

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THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII | THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN HAWAII

## Your voice is the "voice of business"

**Jim Tollefson**, President & CEO, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii

Our role at the legislature is one of our most important functions as the States Chamber. Each year we work to advance business legislation and advocate on behalf of our members and the business community to promote a healthy business climate. We work hard to ensure that Hawaii has a business-friendly environment where all businesses can grow and prosper. We represent the interests of business, protecting employers from increasing business costs. Additionally, we pay close attention to quality of life issues that impact our members, their employees and families, as well as continually consider the future growth and health of the entire state and its citizens.

With the 2007 legislative session opening its doors this month, the Chamber and its committees are actively researching and monitoring numerous bills in addition to preparing testimony on many of those directly impacting business. We continue to direct our efforts in areas such as workers' compensation, education, and transportation along with unemployment insurance, employment practices, workforce development, the harbor shortage and bills that increase the cost of doing business.

We are prepared to address any issue that arises during the session.

But to be successful in this endeavor and to be the most effective voice for business, takes the active involvement of Chamber members. As business leaders, your active participation, input, and support provides the Chamber with the necessary resources to get the job done. Your involvement in the legislative process truly makes a difference as was seen by the success of the Chamber's last letter writing campaign in 2006, defeating three onerous bills.

Therefore, to make participating in the legislative process easy, we have incorporated tools such as our VoteForHawaiiBusiness website and our Survey System on the Chamber website at [www.cochawaii.org](http://www.cochawaii.org). Both make it simple for members to use their voice and be heard. You can read more about both in this issue of the "Voice of Business".

I want to encourage our members and all of Hawaii's businesses to get involved. Positive change can only happen through the active participation of Hawaii's business community. Use your voice and make a difference! For more information, call 545-4300 ext 394.



Jim Tollefson, President & CEO and Sherry Menor the Chamber's Director of Business Advocacy discuss the Chamber's agenda before a meeting at the Hawaii State Capitol.

Hawaii's business community. Use your voice and make a difference! For more information, call 545-4300 ext 394.

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# Making it easy for you to get involved in Hawaii's Legislative process

Sherry Menor, Director of Business Advocacy



Director of Business Advocacy Sherry Menor gives a Legislative Training to provide members the material and information to help them get involved in the Legislative process.

**“The key to successfully passing or defeating legislation that impacts the business community is the membership’s involvement in the legislative process. Legislators are interested in hearing directly from you. When we call for your support during the upcoming session, be sure your voice is heard and help your business succeed by submitting testimony, or simply writing or calling your Legislators. Together, we are the VOICE OF BUSINESS and CAN make a difference.”**

## ADVOCATING FOR BUSINESS

The Business Advocacy Department coordinates advocacy efforts on behalf of members and the business community in Hawaii. The goals are to improve the business climate and build a stronger economy through participation in legislative activities, such as maintaining open communication between state, government and county officials on business issues; building relationships with other organizations to create support for the business community, and working directly with members to determine what issues are of concern to the business community in the State of Hawaii.

The primary duties of the Business Advocacy Department are to advocate and facilitate the implementation of the Chamber’s legislative agenda, and to provide research, logistical and drafting assistance to the Chamber’s committees.

## THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Advocating continually, the Chamber’s position to legislators and public officials, both on the federal, state and county level, on key legislation that impacts the business community.
- Maintaining an active voice at the Capitol, such as opposing legislation that would negatively impact the business community and supporting legislation that would foster a healthy business climate.
- Keeping membership apprised of legislative developments and bills that impact the business community.
- Mobilizing members’ support and participation in legislative advocacy activities, such as walk-arounds and letter-writing campaigns.
- Assisting Chamber’s committees in the preparation and submittal of written testimony and delivery of oral testimony to the Hawaii State Legislature.
- Researching, analyzing, and disseminating information on key legislation and providing status reports on prospective legislation to the Chamber’s committees.

Get involved! Contact your Director of Business Advocacy Sherry Menor at 545-4300 x 394 or smenor@cochawaii.org.

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# Your One Stop Political Action, Education, and Involvement Tool

Chamber's new legislative website at: [www.cochawaii.org](http://www.cochawaii.org)



## HAWAII VOTES FOR BUSINESS

[HawaiiVotesForBusiness.com](http://HawaiiVotesForBusiness.com) is the Chamber's new tool for advocacy, information, and involvement. The Chamber, its Business Advocates and committees will provide up to the minute happenings, news and information to keep members and the business community informed on the important Legislative issues impacting the business community.

**Learn about the issues that are impacting business.** Find out the Chamber's position and the testimony given on the business bills they are actively addressing. Find out the current status of these important bills.



### Write a personal letter to your elected officials.

Elected representatives can be undecided or unfamiliar with the details of an issue, which gives much more weight to each informed letter or phone call they receive. Through the click of your mouse you can contact your Legislators.

### THE SITE INCLUDES:

#### E-Advocates Action Center

Find out about Hawaii's current priorities and in just a few mouse clicks, contact your elected officials to let them know your opinion.

#### Legislative News

Current status of bills and issues raised during each legislative session will be listed in the news section.

#### Campaigns and Elections

Get everything you need to vote, including forms and early voting information; find out more about the candidates running to represent you; locate your polling place; and much more.

### CHAMBER SURVEY

The Chamber is the largest "Voice For Business" in the state!  
*Learn The Issues & Take The Chamber Survey.*  
 As a member, YOUR input will help determine the direction of YOUR Chamber.





# Tips on how to participate in the legislative process

## Legislators want to hear from you!

Legislators are interested in hearing from constituents not just lobbyists. As a business leader you are passionate about your business and know best what is important to your success. In addition you have all the facts on your business to provide knowledgeable and powerful testimony. Participate and take this opportunity to make an impact in your community!

Here are a few tips on how to participate in the legislative process:

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Testify in a committee hearing
- Write a letter or email – go to HawaiiVotesForBusiness.com at [www.cochawaii.org](http://www.cochawaii.org)
- Make a phone call
- Visit in person

### Get Hearing Notices Sent Directly To You

Go to [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) to sign up  
Click on bill status and then hearing notices by email.

### Find Contact Information On Elected Officials

Go to the “Directory of Elected Officials” from The Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs at [www.hipaonline.com](http://www.hipaonline.com).

### TIPS ON PREPARING TESTIMONY

- Written testimony must be turned in 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- Prepare oral testimony in advance and be very brief
- Do not read your written testimony
- Be specific and to the point
- Be prepared for questions. If you don’t know the answer say so and provide the information to committee members later.



### WHERE DO YOU TURN YOUR TESTIMONY IN?

- Senate: Committee Clerk of specific committee
- House: Vice Chair of the specific committee (Check map in Legislative directory)
- Fax testimony to 586-6501 (House) or 536-6659 (Senate)

### A Complete Guide On How You Can Participate In The Legislative Process

Download a copy of “*The Legislative Process—A Process of the People An Abridged Citizens’ Guide*”, prepared by the House Majority Staff Office State House of Representatives at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov).



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## Chamber Committees

# Get involved and join a Chamber Committee!

### COUNCIL OF CHAIRS

**Chair: Clint Arnoldus**, Chairman, President & CEO, Bank of Hawaii

Composed of the chairs of all other Chamber committees, councils, and affiliates, coordinates the Chamber's review and revision of positions on public issues and the implementation of the Chamber's legislative program.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Chair: John Morton**, Interim Vice President - Community Colleges, University of Hawaii

Promotes excellence in all sectors of Hawaii's education system: public, private, primary, secondary, and postsecondary. The Committee advocates for meaningful, long-term educational reform, encourages public/private partnerships, and embraces the creative use of resources to enhance student learning and achievement.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Chair: James Maskrey**, Manager State Accounts, Hawaiian Electric Company

Identifies environmental issues that are of concern to Chamber members; promotes awareness of these issues among The Chamber, the community, and government; and articulates and advocates positions that represent the interests of members while serving to protect Hawaii's environment.

### HEALTH ISSUES COMMITTEE

**Chair: Shelley Wilson**, President & CEO, Wilson Homecare

Identifies healthcare issues that are of concern to member organizations, analyzes

healthcare legislation as it affects business, and develops and articulates positions on these issues.

### HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Chair: John Knorek**, Attorney, **Torkildson, Katz, Fonseca, Moore & Hetherington**

Comprised of individuals from the public and private sectors who are committed to working with government to promote sound human resources management. To that end, the Committee is dedicated to the following tasks: 1) Educating lawmakers and the media with regard to problems facing Hawaii employers in human resource management; 2) Promoting legislation which strikes a balance between the need for fairness to employees and the employer's need to run its business efficiently and effectively; and 3) Advocating against government initiatives which undermine employers' legitimate needs to manage and run their businesses and institutions.

### LAND USE AND LAND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Chair: Harry Saunders**, President, Castle & Cooke Hawaii

**Vice Chair: Marc Tilker**, President & CEO, BEI Hawaii, a Marathon Group Company

Mission statement being revised by the newly formed Committee.

### MARITIME COMMITTEE

**Chair: Kraig Kennedy**, Vice President, McCabe, Hamilton & Renny Company, Ltd.

Develops and encourages Chamber participation in maritime related matters. The

Committee serves as a liaison between all private maritime business sectors, the legislature, and the government agencies and departments that manage and develop maritime lands and facilities for maritime use.

### SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Chair: Ruth Limtiaco**, CEO, The Limtiaco Company, Inc.

**Vice Chair: Peter Kay**, President, CyberCom, Inc.

Represents the interests of small business in legislative and regulatory matters, and provides opportunities for the establishment, growth and development of small business.

### TAX COMMITTEE

**Chair: Ray Kamikawa**, Managing Partner, Chun, Kerr, Dodd, Beaman and Wong, LLC

Promotes an equitable tax system that will encourage the orderly economic growth of Hawaii by creating an environment that will attract new business, stimulate expansion of the private sector, and provide increased employment opportunities.

### TOURISM & AIR TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Co-Chair: Gary Seibert**, Area Vice President & Managing Director, Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa

**Co-Chair: Ron Wright**, Chairman of the Board, Get2Hawaii

Encourages a broad base of understanding, support, and appreciation of tourism within the business community, legislature, and general public; supports visitor industry growth and improvement while working to enhance the visitor experience.

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# Welcome New Members



**Back Row Left:** Salvador Hernandez, Eillon Enterprises LLC; Debbie Weil-Manuma, Weil & Associates; Gary Chun, Weil & Associates; Bob Goldinger, Pre-paid Legal Services; Johnathan Lightfoot, TechForce. **Front Row Left:** Leslie Nollie, Eillon Enterprises LLC; Liz Chun, Good Beginnings Alliance; Mary Quartana, Mini of Hawaii; David Tom, Good Beginnings Alliance; Deborah Davis, Agent/Colliers.

**Deborah Davis, Agent/Colliers**

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**Mini of Hawaii**

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