A delegation of approximately 100 business members from across the state will be traveling to Washington D.C. for the Chamber’s 5th Annual Hawaii on the Hill, June 12-13, 2018.

Hawaii on the Hill, a partnership with Senator Mazie Hirono, is a two-day event in D.C. that gives local businesses the opportunity to meet directly with news and policy makers while also showcasing Hawaii businesses, products and industries to members of Congress and the Washington, D.C. community.

“The Chamber launched Hawaii on the Hill in 2014 and over the past four years, the event has grown from 50 to over 100 participating companies,” said Chamber of Commerce Hawaii President & CEO, “We have received incredible support from businesses across the state and are gratified to see how this initiative has helped these businesses grow beyond Hawaii.”

Last year, more than 65 local companies were represented on the Hill, most of which are 4-year veterans of Hawaii on the Hill. The main event, Taste of Hawaii on the Hill, was attended by a record-breaking 1,600 people. It is the largest event held on the Hill, with Mayors serving as Honorary Chair for Hawaii on the Hill, most of which are 4-year veterans.

Last year, more than 65 local companies were represented on the Hill, most of which are 4-year veterans of Hawaii on the Hill. The main event, Taste of Hawaii on the Hill, was attended by a record-breaking 1,600 people. It is the largest event held on the Hill, with Mayors serving as Honorary Chair for Hawaii on the Hill, most of which are 4-year veterans.

As a statewide effort, Senate President Ron Kouchi serves as Statewide Honorary Chair for Hawaii on the Hill, with Mayors serving as Honorary Chairs for each of the counties, and many Hawaii legislators and council members in attendance.

Hawaii on the Hill Delegation on Capitol Hill

WILLIAM M. HARSTAD
Partner, Carlsmith Ball

What legal trends do you think will have an impact in 2018?

Q

A

Based on events from 2017, an ongoing trend will be tension between what potential litigants view as their legal rights and public opinion, fueled by numerous social media outlets. These social media outlets, combined with widespread use of mobile devices, can create crises from situations that a decade ago would have passed well below the radar. What previously might have been nothing more than a blip in a local newspaper can now become a global flashpoint.

United Airlines learned this lesson the hard way when it forcibly removed Dr. David Dao from a United flight in Chicago last year. While United appears to have believed it had the legal right to remove Dr. Dao from the plane, the video footage of his removal and subsequent outrage forced United to settle before a lawsuit was filed and to issue several mea culpas. The lesson United learned in dealing with Dr. Dao applies locally as well. With cranes still dotting the Honolulu skyline and anticipated continued development in the Transit Oriented Development zone near the rail’s planned Ala Moana terminus, disputes are likely to arise based on competing visions of Honolulu’s identity. Developers and businesses alike will have to be aware not only of their legal rights and obligations, but also of public sentiment and opinion. As many mainland and foreign investors may not be aware of Hawaii’s unique cultural heritage and social identity, holistic legal and public relations advice is imperative to achieve success.