BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HAWAII WILL DEPEND ON SUCCESS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

Jimmy Chan, owner of Hawaiian Chip Company, began making hand-cut chips just after graduating from college. After decades of perseverance, his products are sold throughout Hawaii, with sales growing across the U.S. and in Asia. At his factory off Nimitz Highway, he’s expanded operations into a chip-tasting experience and recently remodeled an adjoining building into an incubator of sorts providing space for other entrepreneurs to sell their products. He takes employees on trips to Washington, D.C. and Japan to learn more about the markets their chips and sauces are sold in.

In 2017, Jimmy was recognized by the Small Business Association as Exporter of the Year for the City and County of Honolulu. In 2018, Hawaiian Chip Company donated over $15,000 in products to assist with fundraising efforts for various local organizations and over $10,000 to help fund medical research.

We need dedicated, ambitious entrepreneurs like Jimmy to grow and continue to create jobs for his 20 employees. As he grapples with increasingly burdensome regulation and burgeoning costs of doing business in Hawaii without any relief, he’s questioning whether it’s worth continuing his business. As Jimmy said, “As a business owner, you sacrifice and put in extra hours, 90 hours a week, to build a business. To have these mandates go into place—it makes it not worth operating. The last increase made it very difficult to retain reliable talent as more resources were allocated to unskilled entry level positions. Imposing a raise without merit is unfair to the dedicated laborers who have worked their way up to higher wages by being punctual in attendance and reliable in work product.”

It’s unacceptable that any entrepreneur should have to consider closing their business because of over-burdensome regulation. Our guiding principle as we advocate for business owners like Jimmy this session is “Our Future Is Our Business.” A bright future for our state will depend on the continued creation and success of locally-owned businesses.

As the legislative session continues, the Chamber will continue to advocate for our 2,000+ members. Strengthening opportunities for businesses to thrive will benefit all of our communities and that’s worth fighting for.

Welcome New Members
- 9 ORCHIDS INC.
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Aloha Chapter
- Ben Bridge Jewelers, Pearlridge
- Doralphsn Quest Oahu
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Oahu Kapolei
- Makaha Group, Corp., DBA Island Pacific Care
- Maloala Group, Corp., DBA Island Pacific Care
- Mana Up
- Mauina Kea Fund
- MELE Associates Inc.
- Mental Health America of Hawaii
- NTECH LLC
- Pacific Point Inc.
- Samsona Media
- Sturt Rent A Car

Welcome New Young Professionals
- Jessica Arias
- Craig Chong
- Angela Connelly
- Midori Craig
- Sherry Coons and Company
- Kiera Dillard
- Kaposunilas Fatum
- Matthew Guervos
- Greysun Hanap
- Dan Mayhew
- Bryn Seaberg
- Kyo Sato
- John Stark
- Janae Shibuya
- Linda Suggs
- Anna Teshirogi
- Kelly Valencia-Aiken
- Paul Wideski
- Aran Wilson

UPCOMING EVENTS
CHAMBER EVENTS
- February 20 - Young Professionals Launch Party
- February 21 - Business After Hours – JABSOM Field Trip – HART
- March 5 - Employment Law Mid-Year Update
- April 5 - Young Professionals 8th Anniversary & Awards Reception

MEMBER EVENTS
- February 25 - 2019 U.S. Hong Kong China Forum

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Jimmy Chan, Owner, Hawaiian Chip Company

We are working to ensure that voices like Jimmy’s—businesses owners who will struggle to survive another minimum wage increase—are heard in this important debate. We agree that it’s difficult to make ends meet in Hawaii.

But this is a problem that goes far beyond wages and job creators should not have to solely bear the burden of solving Hawaii’s high cost-of-living issues.

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