The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is a statewide, non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as the “Voice of Business” at the state legislature.

This legislative session, the Chamber focused its business advocacy efforts on four areas: Building a Better Business Climate, Building Business, Spurring Economic Development and Enhancing the Quality of Life for residents of Hawaii and on getting legislators to stop measures that, if passed, would have impacted local businesses negatively.

Negatively impactful measures which we effectively stopped from making their way to the Governor’s desk included bills related to 1) an increase in minimum wage that would increase costs for employers, 2) mandatory paid sick leave that would also increase costs as well as administrative expenses for employers and 3) an increase in real property taxes (by approximately $500 million) that would affect local renters and hotel guests visiting our islands, to help support funding public education without a guarantee that the funding would go to education and with measurable results.

With approximately 80 percent of our membership comprised of small businesses with less than 20 employees, the Chamber worked to stop legislation that would have increased regulations and mandates on small businesses and pushed for legislation to support small businesses, including advocating funding to continue the Small Business Innovation Research program within the High Technology Development Corporation.

The Chamber also continued to focus greater attention on the state’s manufacturing sector, supporting funding for innovative efforts like the Manufacturing Development Program. And, to demonstrate our continued advocacy of early childhood education, we promoted a bill calling for an increase of funding for education and with measurable results.

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The Chamber advocates at all levels of government, on behalf of our members, the advancement of good business legislation and the protection of employers from increased business costs, while supporting the progress of new industries and sectors, creating an environment that will attract new business, promote competition and stimulate expansion.

Welcome New Members
- Alphonso Go
- Buchholz Financial Group
- Capacity Inc.
- Diamond Head Gum Rental
- Filipino Chamber of Commerce
- Hanako
- Hawaii Restaurant Association
- Hawaiian Islands Land Trust
- Kappersen’s International Training Associates (IOTA), LLC
- Oahu Veterans Center
- Omega Boutique – Joanne Lum Tonia
- Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association
- INC/US Bowfin (SS-287)
- Savers Thrift Store – Kailua 1066
- Savers Thrift Store – Waipahu 1068
- Team Real Estate, Inc.
- The Passionate Wine Enthusiast
- WEVERY, Inc.

Welcome New Young Professionals
- Debbie Lee
- Hospice Hawaii
- Dan Nguyen
- Simplified Mortgage
- Nadia Podo
- Aerotek
- Frank Rodriguez

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

“In the short time I’ve been a proud member of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, I have already met many influential and successful business contacts who I consider friends, and people who have a genuine desire to help others succeed in the local business community.”

- AL DARLING,
  Landshark Brewing Company, LLC

MEMBER EVENTS

May 25 - Hawaii Business Magazine’s SmallBiz Academy: Windward Oahu

June 20-23 - VERGE Hawaii: Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit

CHAMBER EVENTS

May 23 - Young Professionals What Everyone Needs to Know About Business Etiquette

June 1 - Young Professionals Exec Connect

June 8 - FocusON: C’s of Soft Skills - Communication, Collaboration, Compassion

June 13-14 - Hawaii on the Hill

For more information on all events, to register or to join the Chamber, visit cochawaii.org or call 808-545-4300.

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