MAC FACILITATES GREATER DIALOGUE ON KEY ISSUES IMPACTING HAWAII

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii’s Military Affairs Council (MAC) is hosting its 15th Annual Hawaii Military Partnership Conference today. Every January, this event provides a rare opportunity for governmental, business, community and military leaders to engage in greater dialogue regarding key issues affecting the state.

With the challenges that all defense communities, like Hawaii, are facing in Washington, D.C. in competing for military funding, the state must start focusing on emerging opportunities that will help to develop areas of expertise and maintain relevance. As such, the theme of this year’s conference is “Facing the Future Together.”

Based on the success of last year’s format, the conference highlights breakout sessions focusing on the specific issues of cyber security, energy, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and environmental/community partnerships where participants have the opportunity to engage in panel-led discussions with subject matter experts.

The hope is that the topics covered by these sessions will create a framework for the MAC’s strategic blueprint for the state that lays out where sustainable results over the next five years.

Initiatives for this year include: pursuing a campaign volunteer corps as an opportunity for members to get engaged with organizations, including Neighbor Island Chambers, the Administration and our Alliance of business leaders to engage in greater dialogue regarding key issues impacting Hawaii.

As we move forward in 2016, the Chamber will continue to seek ways to serve as a catalyst for positive change in our state. We are already implementing initiatives for this year include: pursuing a campaign volunteer corps as an opportunity for members to get engaged with elected officials, addressing workforce development issues and developing a MAC Fellowship Program.

The Chamber’s role is to be the leader and partner of the business community. With a statewide membership that represents different sectors, industries and sizes, we have an opportunity to sustain and make a positive impact on the future of our economy, particularly during this pivotal time in our state’s history.

We ask the business community to join us in our effort to become BIGGER, BOLDER and BETTER in 2016 so that, together, we can make a positive difference in our state.

MAC members stay current on the military landscape in Hawaii with quarterly briefings.

BUILDING A STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR THE STATE

Happy New Year!

As we reflect back on 2015, it was a busy year. In January, we hosted Chamber Week and Military Partnership Conference, which we are doing again this year, and, new last year, the Military Affairs Council (MAC) led the effort to garner more than 40,000 signatures to show support for the Army’s presence in Hawaii.

On the legislative front, we introduced a business package and with the support of the Legislature, the Administration and our Alliance of business organizations, including Neighbor Island Chambers, many of the package bills passed and were signed into law.

Additionally, in an effort to expand economic and business opportunities beyond our state, the Chamber represented Hawaii and the U.S. on various international missions, including to South Korea and Japan.

As we move forward in 2016, the Chamber will continue to seek ways to serve as a catalyst for positive change in our state. We are already implementing a strategic plan that will culminate in measurable, sustainable results over the next five years.

Sherry Menor-McNamara, President & CEO