The Chamber has reviewed all of the 3,000+ bills that have been introduced during the 2018 Legislative Session. As we quickly approach the first significant deadline at the State Capitol, here are a few of the bills moving through the legislature that will have a significant impact on the business community. In total, the Chamber is monitoring more than 200 bills that relate to employment, health, land, tax, education and small business. With more than two months to go until the end of session, the Chamber will continue providing the business community with a voice until session ends on May 3rd.

HB1727 - Requires employers to provide a minimum amount of paid sick leave to minimum wage employees to be used to care for themselves or a family member who is ill or needs medical care. If passed, this bill would increase costs and administrative expenses for employers in service industries.

HB2598 and SB2990 - Require the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to establish paid family leave for all workers by 1/1/2023. They also authorize the department to adopt interim rules and establish paid family leave implementation taskforce to assist the department and report to the legislature. While these measures would provide the business community with a voice regarding the development and implementation of a paid family leave program, they still would create mandates as an additional burden on employers. Similar bills that were far more overreaching died in favor of these.

SB2991 - Increases the minimum wage to $12.25 per hour in 2019 and $15 per hour in 2020. It also repeals language allowing the hourly wage of a tipped employee to be increased on account of tips. The measure goes further by requiring the DLIR to annually calculate the adjusted minimum wage rate to the nearest five cents using the Honolulu region consumer price index. With the recent increase of minimum wage to $10.10 at the start of 2018, this bill will unnecessarily add to the cost of doing business in Hawaii.

Throughout the legislative process, we will keep you apprised of any developments and bills that impact your business, and facilitate your involvement when it’s critically needed. While the Chamber represents your business and makes sure your voice is heard at the legislature, the more members we have, the more advocacy power we have and the stronger the voice of business.

For information on signing up to receive legislative action alerts email info@cochawaii.org. Or to join the Chamber, visit cochawaii.org.