The legislature is in its final weeks of session. Two bills that are moving through that the business community needs to be aware of is HB 496 HD 1 SD2, which requires employers to provide paid sick leave to employees for themselves and to take care of family or domestic issues. It also mandates that employees can carry over up to 80 hours of earned sick leave at the end of the year. The other bill is SB 1174, which would limit employers’ rights in Workers’ Comp of the year. /T_h e other bill is SB 1174, which
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Welcome New Members
- Alcatel-Lucent
- Charley’s Taxi/Radio Dispatch Corp.
- Clay Chapman Cimputation Iwamura
- David Kanaya Design
- Dell Military
- Fluid Tech Hawaii
- Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina
- GGP Limited Partnership
- Hawaii Energy
- Hawaii Medical Skin Care
- Kakaako Wine Loft & Sake Collection
- Oahu Fresh
- Prestige Real Estate Investments
- SEO Oahu LLC
- Sharon Zambo-Fan & Associates
- Sonitrol of Hawaii

Selective USA Attracts Investment in Hawaii

According to President Obama, keynote speaker for the Select USA Investment Summit, which attracts investors from all over the world to connect with businesses in the USA, the initiative has brought in more than $20 billion to America’s economy and helped more than 1,000 clients since it first launched in October 2013.

The number of participants this year far exceeded those who attended the inaugural conference in 2013, which shows that the U.S. still has a stronghold when it comes to new investment opportunities. Hawaii is uniquely positioned with its strategic location to the Asia-Pacific region. As such, many attendees expressed interest in doing business in Hawaii, specifically in the manufacturing and clean energy sectors.

As the world gets smaller and competition fiercer, our state needs to be proactive in promoting Hawaii as a place to do business. This is why the Chamber continues to seek opportunities to improve our rank in cost-of-doing-business surveys, work with our community colleges with programs to address workforce development challenges, push forward with our Manufacturing in Hawaii initiative and advocate for a better business climate through legislation.

As part of our Manufacturing in Hawaii and Hawaii on the Hill initiatives, I had the honor of touring businesses on Kauai and in Honolulu with U.S. Senator Hirono, thanks to coordination efforts by the Kauai Chamber and Innovate Hawaii.

On Kauai, we visited Kauai Kookie, Koloa Rum, Salty Wahine and Kauai Coffee. Each had an inspiring and unique history as to how they got started.

On Oahu, we toured businesses related to clean energy, fashion and transportation, with visits to Innovate Hawaii, The Cut Collective, Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies and UPS. We also enjoyed lunch at Highway Inn’s Kakaako location, learning about owner Monica Toguch’s fascinating family history and her story about how their business got its start.

And, recently, our members had an opportunity to observe jewelry in the making with our member, Maui Divers Jewelry. This is how the Chamber serves our members and the local business community. Our advocacy efforts help ensure that these small businesses can continue to stay in business, create and sustain jobs, as well as promote the Hawaii brand to a national and international audience.

Please join us in this effort by recruiting members, joining our policy committees or emailing your ideas to me at SherryMenor-McNamara@cochawaii.org about how we can continue our way up.

Upcoming Events

Chamber Events
April 21
- Laie’s Live-Work-Play Model at a Crossroad

April 22
- Step Into Spring: Socializing & Spirits at Cupola Theatre

April 23
- Young Professionals Exec Connect

April 27
- Energy Forum: Where is the future of energy in Hawaii headed?

April 30
- Young Professionals Anniversary Party

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

Member Events
May 3
- The ST. Andrews’ Schools Spring Open House

May 6
- Wealth Strategy Partners’ 1st Annual Golf Tournament

May 7
- Hawaii Community Foundation: Advancing Nonprofit Excellence

May 13 & 23
- RevoluSun’s Cleaner, Smarter, Living Seminar

To receive the Chamber’s legislative action alerts, which make it easy to send testimony and letters to legislators, and to join a Chamber policy committee, comprised of members who help determine legislative priorities, please email Jenny Lee with the Chamber’s Business Advocacy department at jel@cochawaii.org.

To participate and learn more about the bills this session, please visit the Chamber’s Legislative Action Center at cochawaii.org.

Sherry Menor-McNamara
President & CEO

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