MADE IN HAWAII WITH ALOHA LAUNCHES

Manufacturing in Hawaii is a steadily growing industry with potential for further expansion. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), along with the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), with the support of the Chamber, will be promoting the Made in Hawaii with Aloha branding program for local manufacturers, farmers and exporters. The Made in Hawaii with Aloha brand was created for local manufacturers and farmers to promote their products to the local community, as well as to the larger tourism industry. Many visitors come to the islands seeking true, locally made products; this branding program makes it easy for visitors to identify which products are made in Hawaii. HDOA and DBEDT encourages companies to be certified and to proudly display this logo mark. Visit www.hdoa.hawaii.gov/madewithaloha.

LOCAL DESIGNERS DEBUT IN BLOOMINGDALE’S

Visit local designers Summer Shiigi of Ten Tomorrow brand and Allison Izu of Allison Izu brand, who will be debuting their spring/summer 2016 collection at Bloomingdale’s on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th from 11am-6pm (free gift with purchase will be available). Both designers make their clothing in Hawaii.

HONORING OUR MILITARY IN MAY

In 1999 Congress passed legislation designating the month of May as National Military Appreciation Month to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate the men and women who have served and those currently serving our nation in uniform.

Since then, the Chamber, through the Military Affairs Council (MAC), has worked with the military, government, community organizations and businesses to coordinate a month of events that convey Hawaii’s appreciation for our military members and their families.

For the last three years the MAC has coordinated the opening ceremony for Military Appreciation Month with the Governor’s office. This year, on Friday, May 6, Governor Ige will officially proclaim the month of May as “Hawaii Military Appreciation Month.”

During this ceremony, seven Hawaii-based members of the armed services will also be recognized for their dedication and commitment towards improving our community. All of the honorees have dedicated countless hours of their own time to clean up the environment, fix our schools and mentor our youth through education or coaching youth sports. Although most of these individuals are stationed in Hawaii for only a few years, volunteerism has been an opportunity for each of them to engage the community and make their adopted home of Hawaii a better place for all.

While defense spending is a significant for the state’s economy, second only to the visitor industry, many of us often lose sight of the fact that our men and women in uniform can also have an impact on our community in small but meaningful ways.

Our military should be honored for their service to our nation in defense of the freedoms each of us is afforded. Military Appreciation Month is certainly a time for us to do this, but more importantly, the month of May is also a time for us to recognize the incredible partnerships and individual efforts made by the military, our military, to improve Hawaii.