

VOICE OF BUSINESS



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
ACCE
STATE CHAMBER OF THE YEAR
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www.cochawaii.org

WEARING MASKS SAVES LIVES AND BUSINESSES

If you want to support local businesses, wear a mask and practice physical distancing. The science is clear – wearing masks saves lives and businesses.

Our local businesses cannot afford a second shutdown. In other countries where this has occurred, a second shutdown has been far more devastating to businesses. Countries that never shut their businesses down, such as South Korea, were able to accomplish this by universal use of high-quality masks and other safety measures.

A major challenge to businesses has been the shifting patchwork of regulations in different counties and even with the state. For example, if someone is cited for not wearing a mask in a business on Oahu, the customer is fined. However, if the same thing occurs on Maui, the business is fined. Small businesses are requiring masks and cannot afford more fines on top of the financial hardship they are enduring. Businesses would benefit from all counties adopting the City & County of Honolulu's mask policy.

There have also been disturbing reports of employees being verbally and physically harassed for asking customers to properly wear a mask in places of business. This isn't who we are as a state. All employees should

be treated with respect, especially those on the front lines who are valiantly reporting to their job sites and risking their personal health to keep the economy in motion and the rest of us safe.

Small businesses have worked hard to implement safety protocols and deserve our support for putting the health and safety of their customers and employees first. Let's show our appreciation by keeping their employees and customers safe by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing and other recommended safety measures.

Local businesses will continue to need financial support as they are forced to limit the number of customers who can be in their stores and restaurants. While many businesses are open, it is not business as usual.

And while it is encouraging that the state and city are working on support programs for the business community, more support is needed. Small businesses create half of Hawaii's jobs. In March, 24 percent reported that they would not reopen, even with the Paycheck Protection Program and other loan programs, which would be

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



As a technology company, we believe in using leading edge tools and expertise to provide our customers with the best IT solutions available. We look at the

Chamber of Commerce in much the same way: the Chamber is in the forefront of business in Hawaii and provides us access to the leading minds in business. So, membership in the Chamber is an essential part of business success in Hawaii.

MICHAEL McMURDO
President, Cetra Technology Inc.

devastating to our economy.

Support our local businesses by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and buying local whenever possible. We also urge our government to set up medium and long-term support programs for small businesses. We must come together to stabilize our local business community and ensure that they will be able to continue to create jobs and support our families, communities and our state, as a whole.

Visit the Chamber's dedicated site for the business community to receive COVID-19 updates at www.covid19.cochawaii.org.

Welcome New Member

• Hub Coworking Hawaii



Young
Professionals
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAWAII

Welcome New Young Professionals

• **Ku'ulani Keohokalole**
People Strategies Hawai'i

• **Tatianna Mulitauaoepe**
Austin Tsutsumi & Associates

To learn more about the Young Professionals Program and how to apply visit:
www.cochawaii.org/ypprogram/

Ask the Expert



Q & A

with **Zach Taylor**
Senior Project Manager, Layton Construction Company



ZACH TAYLOR
Senior Project Manager,
Layton Construction Company

Q What lessons have you learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?

A *In construction, safety is always a top priority and Layton Construction has always had top-notch safety protocols in place. However, this ongoing COVID-19 situation has taught us the importance of flexibility and adaptability. We've stepped up our jobsite protocols, ensuring our work areas, tools and equipment are regularly cleaned in accordance with CDC and local health department guidance.*

In an effort to do our jobs as safely as possible, we have conducted virtual walk-throughs for our stakeholders and owners instead of requiring them to visit the job site in person or adjusted our schedules to accommodate fewer people on a job site at once. The COVID-19 situation has evolved rapidly since day one, so we've had to remain adaptive and shift our approach at a moment's notice.

Q How has the pandemic changed the way you conduct your business?

A *We've always believed in the importance of communication. Now more than ever, we're staying in touch with clients, subcontractors and partners at every step of the way to ensure everyone is kept up to date on the project status with as much notice and transparency as possible. As always, we're continuing our approach to set clear expectations and provide predictable outcomes even in an unpredictable situation.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMBER VIRTUAL EVENTS

July 23 – COVID-19 Webinar: Back to School Amid the Pandemic

July 27 – Teambuilding

July 30 – Collaborative Solutions

MEMBER EVENTS

July 30 – The Attorneys for Freedom Law Firm Open House

Please check the Chamber's event link at cochawaii.org or call (808) 545-4300 for notices of postponement, restrictions or transition to webinars.

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