

VOICE

OF BUSINESS



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

SAFE, DECISIVE AND SWIFT ACTION NEEDED TO RE-OPEN TOURISM

While much about COVID-19 remains unknown, this much is clear—each hour that ticks by compounds economic damage to Hawaii families. By the numbers, more than 200,000 have lost their jobs. And as food donation lines continue to snake around miles of roads and businesses close their doors for good, we know from our own experiences that the people of Hawaii are suffering.

The need to reopen trans-pacific travel with established health guidelines, is apparent. Hawaii businesses have lost significant income while facing what seem like insurmountable obstacles to survival. As they are forced to shut down, the fabric and landscape of our local communities across the islands will be forever disrupted. The longer we wait for a path forward to recovery and the opening of trans-pacific travel, the broader the negative impact on Hawaii.

We've done our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. In return, we implore the Administration to reopen trans-Pacific travel and the implementation of guidelines that will allow travel to resume safely before July 31, 2020.

From the time our shelter-in-place mandate was put in place to the present, Hawaii's economy has been immeasurably hit hard by this pandemic. Numerous surveys taken over this period have showed that businesses have faced drastic financial losses and have had to significantly reduce positions and benefits. In a startling turn of statistics, Hawaii went from having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation to reporting one of the highest. Even now that commerce has started to reopen, thousands of our residents are still out of a job.

Despite these devastating outcomes and grim view of the future of our economy, our community has persevered, following physical distancing rules and other protocols. With this compliant spirit, the people of Hawaii have flattened the curve. And with our island values and community-mindedness, we are confident that appropriate guidelines to maintain a safe environment will continue to be adhered to.

Hawaii businesses are coming up with creative ways to stay open and keep their employees on payroll, and stepping up to help each other and the broader community, but more

immediate action must be taken by all levels of government to ensure that we have businesses to return to.

Every day we inch closer to an economic cliff that will close businesses permanently and destroy our local business community beyond repair if tourism doesn't reopen. It is incumbent that the Administration implement a plan to accelerate the opening of the trans-Pacific visitor economy ahead of July 31. Local businesses and workers will pay the price if safe, decisive and swift action isn't taken.

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

Welcome New Members

- Great Places and Spaces
- Guardian Rock Wealth Investment Mgmt. Inc



Welcome New Young Professionals

- Justin Akai

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMBER VIRTUAL EVENTS

- June 23 – Let's Talk...with Chamber President & CEO
- June 23 – Tips for Creative Presentations
- June 24 – COVID-19 Webinar: Who Will Watch Our Children?
- June 25 – Vote 2020 Mayoral Forum
- June 25 – COVID-19 Webinar: Economic & Healthcare Trend Predictions Post-COVID-19
- June 26 – Young Professionals Professional Development Class
- 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.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



While the Chamber's mission is to serve as the voice of business in Hawaii, they have also been a great ally and resource during this COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Chamber's programming, we have been able to cultivate many professional relationships. In addition, the Chamber has served as an excellent resource for learning and professional development that has added value to our staff. We look forward to continuing to benefit from these programs.

MICHAEL YASUI
President & CEO, CEI Hawaii

Ask the Expert



Q & A

with **Trini Abaya-Wright**
Vice President, Business Banker, American Savings Bank



TRINI ABAYA-WRIGHT
Vice President, Business Banker
American Savings Bank

Q What banking services are available for my business that can help keep my customers and employees healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A With this new normal, American Savings Bank offers many ways to help your business with social distancing practices while staying up to date with your banking services. We have online banking and mobile deposit available for businesses to conduct regular transactions from the comfort of your own home. Our credit card processing with best-in-class technology offers the capability to accept payment for purchases via contactless cards and through your computer with virtual terminal (hosted payment page) which supports keeping your employees and customers healthy when purchasing.

Q What credit options are available to help my business manage through COVID-19?

A Small businesses are critical to our Hawaii community and are dealing with unprecedented economic disruption. The CARES Act established temporary relief programs such as the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program to help retain employees during this pandemic. You may also contact your financial institution to possibly defer business loan payments.

To find out more about American Savings Bank's business products, services and special offers visit ashhawaii.com/business

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