



June 24, ISSUE OF CHAMBER VOICE, PBN

4HI POLICY COMMITTEES GEAR UP FOR 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Chamber Members Encouraged to Participate

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the leader in advocating for business friendly policies at the state legislature. Rather than only playing defense against policies that would adversely affect businesses, the Chamber takes a proactive approach to create and bring forth solutions to legislators that would support businesses and help Hawaii's economy thrive. The ideas and policies that are generated come directly from membership and leaders among the business community through the Chamber's **4HI Policy Committees**. These committees were formed to engage members in developing policies for the next legislative session and bring industry expertise to the process. The 4HI committees consist of four policy areas: **Economy, Environment, Education and Entrepreneurship**.

Economy Policy Committee

With the unstable economic environment due to COVID shutdowns over the past few years, the Economy policy committee will be focused on addressing the needs of our business community during uncertain times and the need to stand up and support a cost-of-living package that is balanced and ensures that the business environment is not jolted into a slower recovery. With the passage of a minimum wage increase to \$18 by 2028, some of the smallest businesses in the state may struggle to keep their doors open and keep staff employed, which is why this committee will focus on policies that can alleviate the stresses of inflation and rising costs of doing business in our state. Cutting red tape, reducing regulations and creative tax solutions are key focus areas for the Economy committee.

Environment Policy Committee

The Environment committee is focused on the need to balance growth and access with thoughtful management and preservation, particularly in light of the increasing stresses on our islands' natural resources and physical environment. Hawaii's natural environment is its most valuable resource for long-term business development and preservation of the environment is consistent with the Chamber's mission. The committee's goal is to ensure that policy solutions do not impede or

JOIN CHAMBER POLICY COMMITTEE

If you're a Chamber member, email Trevor Abarzua at tabarzua@cochawaii.org to join a 4HI Chamber policy committee covering 4 areas: Economy, Environment, Education, Entrepreneurship.

create unintended burdens on businesses and entrepreneurs, but instead provide opportunity and growth. The Environment committee will be focused on developing policies that ensure that government does not enact tax increases or burdensome regulations, but, instead, incentivizes businesses to enact their own restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.

Education Policy Committee

Through strategic and deliberate collaboration, the Education policy committee is focused on creating policies that invest in K-12 career and technical education with synergy from the business community, resulting in new industry partner connections, sector-driven workforce development solutions, increased certification attainment and high-quality work-based learning experiences. Sector Partnerships provide a forum for employers, educators, community partners and public sector leaders to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen and grow their sector. Convening and facilitating

a shared space for employers and educators is instrumental to preparing Hawaii residents for in-demand jobs and helping employers find skilled workers.

Entrepreneurship Committee

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, there are over 137,000 small businesses across the State of Hawaii, who employ almost 50 percent of Hawaii workers. The Entrepreneurship committee is dedicated to ensuring that our local entrepreneurs are provided with the resources they need to sustain and expand their businesses here in Hawaii. The committee will focus on programs and policies that incentive entrepreneurship, as well as eliminating regulations and red tape that are barriers for those in Hawaii who want to start a business.

Get Involved!

The 4HI policy committees will meet monthly from June to December and will convene both in person and virtually. For June, the meetings will occur the week of June 27th. Participants must be an active Chamber of Commerce Hawaii member. Members interested in participating and adding their expertise to the policy generation process, can reach out to the Chamber's Associate Vice President of Business Advocacy, Trevor Abarzua - tabarzua@cochawaii.org - who is actively recruiting for committee members.

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAWAII MEMBERS

- Ashley Smith Photo LLC
- First Foundation Inc.
- Gucci Waikiki
- Kure Kompany, Inc.
- Leading With Mastery
- Lubroco LLC
- Lumen Technologies – Matthew Patterson
- Nakata Advisory, LLC
- New York Life
- Ohana Restoration
- Paws for a Moment
- PMAG Hawaii – Pacific Medical Administrative Group
- Reynolds American Inc.
- SMS Hawaii
- Waikiki Beach Services LLC
- Waikiki Business Improvement District Association



- Kristina Akridge, UHA Health Insurance
- Samuel Campiformio
- Laura Creider, American Cancer Society
- Sasha J. Ellul, Aloha Homes
- Lindsay Ferreira, Moss Adams LLP
- Shelly Imamura, Y. Hata & Co., Limited
- Molly Johnston, American Heart Association
- Kristen Kawano, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
- Sage Keely
- Gideon Lee, Okika Data LLC
- Rebekah Lee, The Hawaii State Judiciary
- Joanne Li, LinkedIn
- Joao Marco Maffini, HealthPersonas, Inc. (dba myPersona)
- Raymond Mullins, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.
- Krystal Posadas, Cisco
- Irel Shishido, The Queen's Health System
- Gregory Turner, Aligned Mortgage
- Arthur Valera, Valera & Associates
- Dale Yasunaga, Yasunaga Consulting LLC
- Joshua Yee, Ernst & Young LLP
- Joanne Zukeran, T-Mobile

UPCOMING EVENTS

- CEO LEADERSHIP SERIES WITH SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CEO BOB JORDAN**
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
 - *YP 11TH ANNIVERSARY & AWARDS RECEPTION PRESENTED BY MATSON**
Friday, July 8, 2022
 - * YP 9-HOLE GOLF**
Friday, July 22, 2022
 - ALOHA YOKOSO! GETTING READY TO WELCOME JAPAN BACK AND SUPPORT HAWAII'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PRESENTED BY HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**
Monday, July 25, 2022
 - ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT LAW SEMINAR**
Friday, August 26, 2022
- *YP – Young Professionals
Visit cochawaii.org for more information and to register.

Q & A

Ask the Expert

Michael Parker
Sr. Preconstruction Manager
Layton Construction



Q: How and why is wood framing currently being used in commercial construction and what are the benefits of using wood framing?

Over last five years, we've seen the popularity of wood framing in commercial buildings take many swings—from being the clear, more cost-efficient option to being something that you wouldn't even consider. Many factors affect this choice, the top being building height, floor plan layout, occupancy type and price. Wood framing is often considered and is usually the front runner for structures under three stories and can be for building types such as retail, restaurants, multi-family, or hotels.

Greater and more detailed studies are needed when four- and five-story options are being considered. The weight of these structures at these heights demands a higher structural load being supported on the lower floors, which can often negatively impact the use of wood construction. Floor plans with spans between 12 and 20 feet are where you would want to consider wood framing, and that would even utilize engineered lumber such as TJI's and Glu-lam beams. Beyond those spans, the use of steel to supplement the wood construction becomes a factor.

Occupancy type can dictate the fire-life safety requirements for the building. A higher occupancy will require stricter fire-life safety measures that can affect the performance of wood framing. Finally, pricing of wood framing materials has been on a roller coaster as a result of tariffs on Canadian lumber, wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and the impacts of COVID-19 on supply chain. Currently, in the second quarter of 2022, we have seen wood framing lumber material prices recover better than those of steel and aluminum. If this trend continues, we expect to see the increase of wood structures being utilized in the commercial construction sector.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



Talent HR Solutions has been a member of the Chamber since 2012 and have had the honor of working with Sherry and her staff. Our team values the personalized support that they

have received from the Chamber over the last 10 years. We are grateful they are our advocates for all the businesses in Hawaii. Keep up the hard work and hope all businesses have a prosperous 2022.

SANJAY MIRCHANDANI
Managing Director, Talent HR Solutions

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