Gearing up for Next Session

Election season is underway, but the Chamber’s policy committees have already started developing the organization’s pro-business package aimed at reducing regulation, developing new small business incentive programs and lowering the cost of doing business in Hawaii.

The Chamber staff and members of its six policy committees review the 2,000+ bills introduced every year at the legislature, track approximately 200 bills, testify on about half of those bills and focus its lobbying efforts on 10-15 bills. The Chamber also hosts a “Legislature 101” session to brief members every January on what is anticipated to be the top issues at the legislature and provides a report at each of the four legislative deadlines about the bills moving through the legislature that impact business.

Policy committee meetings, held every month during session, help shape the Chamber’s stance on various issues. This past session, the Chamber introduced its first-ever pro-business package focusing on the cost of doing business, economic development and education. Working with the policy committees, members and other organizations, the Chamber was able to get bills passed that will help the business community. In partnership with Hawaii Insurers Council and the C&C of Honolulu, for example, a Workers’ Compensation bill was passed that put a cap on reimbursement for repackaged drugs, which has been spiraling up over the past few years, and stopped other bills that would have increased Workers’ Comp-related costs.

Those interested in impacting legislation and getting involved in other business-related activities should email the Chamber’s VP of Business Advocacy and Development, Pono Chong, at pchong@cochawaii.org.

A Message from the President & CEO

Aloha!

As a statewide business organization representing approximately 1,000 members, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii begins its new fiscal year by launching our Chamber Voice page in Hawaii’s leading weekly business publication to keep the business community informed about issues that impact business, recognize Chamber members’ efforts, and provide resources and tools to help businesses succeed.

We recently held our 164th Annual Membership luncheon. One of the messages that I delivered in my remarks was that the Chamber’s resolve to be the “Voice of Business” has never been greater. Regardless of the size of your organization, industry or location, the Chamber stands ready to serve and represent our membership.

Our call to action was for each member to recruit one additional business to our current roster. By doing so, we will strengthen the influence of the Chamber and achieve our goal of 2,000 members by 2016, essentially doubling our membership. Reaching this goal will send a resounding message that YES, the business community can and will speak up for change. That we will not be content and settle for the status quo and that we are ready to march forward and do what’s right for our state.

As a business community, let’s blaze innovative and exciting trails that will lead to a better business climate, better communities and a better state for all of the people of Hawaii.

The Chamber extends its warmest mahalo to our sponsors: Becker Communications, Carlsmith Ball LLP, ProService Hawaii and The Queen’s Health Systems for their invaluable support of this exciting new initiative.

Welcome New Members

- Buca di Beppo Restaurant
- CASE Forensics Corporation
- Groove LLC
- Haute Confectionery Boutique
- Hawaii Tech Support
- Hawaiian Chip Company
- Heartland Payment Systems
- Ho‘okele Health Navigators, LLC
- Honeywell International, Inc.
- Liz Jing Xu
- WUBHawaii (Okinawan Chamber of Commerce)
- Pacific Island Financial
- Pacific Toxicology Laboratories
- Reg Baker
- The Salvation Army
- SunRize Technologies
- TalkSession
- Uber Technologies, Inc.

For more information on all events, visit cochawaii.org.

The Best In Full-Service Integrated Communications

The Queen’s Health Systems

For more information contact: 808-533-4165

www.BeckerCommunications.com