MAC 2.0: Military Affairs Council Reorganizes

The Military Affairs Council (MAC) has reorganized to more proactively promote, preserve and protect military missions and installations in Hawaii. The Executive Committee is led by David Carey (Outrigger Enterprises), Peter Ho (Bank of Hawaii) and Connie Lau (Hawaiian Electric Industries). The reorganized MAC has seven committees that are actively engaged in: Training & Readiness, Air Force/Navy Support, Marines Support, Critical Infrastructure, Quality of Life, Technology & Innovation, Strategic Communications and Data & Research.

The military is Hawaii’s second-largest economic sector and a vital part of communities across Hawaii. Military expenditures in Hawaii total $8.8 billion annually, with an additional $2.3 billion in military procurement contracts for businesses in Hawaii. The direct and indirect impacts of overall military expenditures are reported to generate $14.7 billion into Hawaii’s economy, creating more than 103,000 jobs for residents that collectively report household incomes of around $8.7 billion.

Military expenditures touch every sector of our economy from STEM and education, tourism, housing and construction, retail, health care, agriculture and sustainable energy. Military members support our communities -- repairing schools, cleaning beaches, feeding the hungry or giving to our charities. They are an integral part of our extended ohana.

The MAC is working with military leadership and retired flag officers, business, labor and governmental leaders to help ensure that Hawaii continues to be a welcoming place for military service members. With sequestration and a reduction in defense spending, other states are very aggressive in demonstrating support for their units. Hawaii will need to do the same. While location is important and our forward deployed positioning in the Pacific is a big plus, it will no longer be enough to keep all of our military forces in Hawaii. Hawaii will need to rally and demonstrate its support.

Welcome New Members
- Acufit Hawaii
- Affordable Towing Services, Inc.
- Blue Startups
- Cameron Chemical Corporation
- Ditech Mortgage Corp.
- Foster & Associates
- Gartner Inc.
- Green Home Solutions
- Hawaiian Ocean Transport, Inc.
- Holatron Systems LLC
- Kiai’s Enterprises
- Markham Insurance Services
- New York Life Insurance Company
- PGA Aloha Section
- The Knot
- Watts Constructors
- Wayte Tool & Machine Company

Upcoming Events

CHAMBER EVENTS
October 29 = Small BIZ Academy
October 31 = Young Professionals Exec Connect

MEMBER EVENTS
October 18 = SHRM Hawaii State Conference
October 18 = HPH Erik Weihenmayer Presentation
October 23 = Hawaii Business Wahine Forum
November 5–7 = Blue Startups East Meets West Conference

For more information on all events or to join the Chamber, visit cochawaii.org or call (808) 545-4300

Subscribe to receive MAC e-updates at members.hawaiimac.com and join the MAC in its efforts to support the military in Hawaii.

A Message from the President & CEO

Supporting Startup Initiatives

Last year, a CNN report ranked Hawaii 8 of the top 10 most entrepreneurial states. According to the Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, these top states saw more startup activity than anywhere else. Hawaii’s 2012 startup rate was 400 per 100,000 adults.

In support of this, the Chamber has formed a new partnership with Honolulu Founder Institute, the world’s largest entrepreneur training and startup launch program. Through their four-month program, aspiring entrepreneurs can “learn by doing” and launch a company through structured training courses, practical business-building assignments and expert feedback from a large network of business mentors.

The Chamber has supported other startup initiatives, including the state’s Hawaii Growth Initiative, with the goal of helping to grow the job base, promote creativity, recruit local talent and build a thriving economy, with the ultimate goal of creating an environment that will keep these startups in business.

Another Chamber initiative is to proactively seek business opportunities and support member programs with countries within the Asia-Pacific region. Many of them are in the works and will be announced later. However, one of the events we are excited about is Blue Startups’ East Meets West conference, November 5–7.

As a new member of the Chamber, Blue Startups is producing this cross-cultural conference, sponsored by another member, American Savings Bank, targeting Asian, Silicon Valley and Hawaii participants. In addition to hearing from speakers, attendees will have an opportunity for deal making, learning and networking amongst regional startup investors and entrepreneurs.

These types of events and initiatives are important to further promote Hawaii as a place to do business, which is why we host events, such as our first-ever bus tour of local manufacturing facilities held on October 3, in partnership with INNOWATE Hawaii and in conjunction with National Manufacturing Day. Mahalo to INNOWATE Hawaii for supporting this important initiative.

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