BRIDGING BUSINESS WITH EDUCATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

There is an emerging momentum and collective action building around education and workforce development in Hawaii. Public-private partnerships are being formed to amplify individual initiatives. Efforts are being aligned around the shared goal of improving access to education for Hawaii’s ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households, as 65 percent of jobs now require some education beyond high school (either a 2 or 4-year degree or an industry recognized certification).

At the Chamber, workforce development and education continue to be a high priority because we know that a highly skilled, local workforce is critical for Hawaii businesses to succeed and grow. Our goal is two-fold: ensuring our local businesses can fill their workforce needs with highly qualified local candidates and ensuring local students are well prepared for career pathways in Hawaii that enable them to live and thrive at home.

Our work focuses on helping to bridge business with education in support of a strong talent pipeline and attainment of Hawaii’s college and career readiness goals.

Work-based learning (WBL) opportunities such as internships, job shadowing and guest speakers provide real-world exposure that complement academic content while helping students develop employability skills like problem solving and communication. Hawaii Department of Education’s Career Academy model has placed work-based learning, reducing silos and collaborating on the highest priorities to amplify our impact.

Industry leaders are also collaborating through Sector Partnerships. Co-convened by the Chamber and University of Hawaii, leaders collaborate on opportunities to strengthen and grow their sector. These are things that no single business can adequately address on their own. Support partners (education, workforce development, economic development associations, and other stakeholders) also participate to leverage resources to support quality work-based learning activities, including a paid internship, that leads to a meaningful career that pays a family-sustaining wage in Hawaii.

To support this, the Chamber and partner organizations Hawaii P-20 and Kamehameha Schools have convened the WBL Champions, a group of employers who are leaders in the WBL space who share an aligned vision of getting more businesses involved in education and work-based learning, reducing silos and collaborating on the highest priorities to amplify our impact.

Our vision is that every Hawaii secondary and post-secondary student has equitable access to high-

quality work-based learning activities, including a paid internship, that leads to a meaningful career that pays a family-sustaining wage in Hawaii.

As a transportation-focused engineering firm in Hawaii, QRSE engaged the Chamber at the end of the year and we are very excited to be part of the Chamber’s business initiatives. As a transportation-focused engineering firm, we looked forward to engaging and meeting the greater business community of Oahu through the Chamber’s events and influence. Our employees look forward to the learning opportunities and networking events in the future. Thank you, Chamber, for championing business for Hawaii.

— KAI NANI KRAUT, PE, CCM

QRSE LLC, DBA ACM Engineering

Welcome New Members

• Aloha Pacific FCU
• The Attorneys for Freedom Law Firm
• Aina Advisers
• Thomas Marchant
• Elite Entertainment
• eNewton LLC

Welcome New Young Professionals

Joshua Xango
Broadfield Properties

Taylor Auyoung
First Hawaiian Bank

Philip Baezus
American Savings Bank

Patrick Branco
Hawaii Pacific University

Jon Brooks
Safy HNL

Marc Canoy
American Savings Bank

Kaimon Carlson
Hawaiian Airlines

Robert DePaula
Northshore Mental Health

Kayla Eno
Robert Half

Tianna Evans
Bank of Hawai‘i

Kora Hele
Pacific Business News

Katherine Kudo
First Hawaiian Bank

Habitat for Humanity

IC Media
Lifecycle

Phoenix Renovation
Corp. DBA SayWow

Tano

MEMBER EVENTS

February 27 - The Attorneys for Freedom Law Firm Open House

March 6-7 - Elite Entertainment Presents CAROL BURNETT

March 23 - Motivating by Appreciation with Dr. Paul White

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21 - Focus ON: BIG Data for Small Business

February 26 - Young Professionals Starter Pack – New Member Orientation

February 27 - Health Summit

February 27 - Business After Hours at K1 Speed

March 3 - Collaborative Solutions

March 5 - Young Professionals Synergy Symposium

March 10 - Young Professionals Aupae Leadership Development Program

March 10 - Young Professionals Starter Pack - New Member Orientation

March 24 - Communications Starts with Me

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

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