Hawaii manufacturers are a vital driver of our state’s economy. Local manufacturers create more than $1 billion in economic output each year and support more than 14,000 jobs. On National Manufacturing Day on October 4, the Chamber and the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) teamed up to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges Hawaii’s manufacturers face. Manufacturing Day was established to give the public a chance to experience modern manufacturing. The initiative is meant to inspire the next generation of skilled workers and is a growing grassroots movement of manufacturers dedicated to overcoming their collective challenges in order to help their community thrive. Hundreds of U.S. manufacturers across the nation participated in Manufacturing Day by hosting open houses, public tours, career workshops and bridge other gaps as they grew production.

As Hawaii’s manufacturing industry continues to evolve, hearing directly from Hawaii’s manufacturers through initiatives such as Manufacturing Day will be increasingly more important. As the official Hawaii partner of the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber will continue to be on the front lines to facilitate this conversation.

In recognition of this industry’s importance, Governor David Ige signed a proclamation honoring “the many contributions of the state’s manufacturers to our dynamic community and thriving economy.”

The Chamber and HTDC hosted a manufacturing bus tour to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to hear firsthand from manufacturers. Mana Chocolate, Crazy Shirts, Beer Lab HI and Coastal Windows opened their doors to a bus tour of over 40 members of the Hawaii State Legislature, legislative staff and other stakeholders. Attendees had the opportunity to walk production floors, learn about how Hawaii’s unique geography influences production methods and tasted local chocolate as they heard directly from manufacturers about their paths to success.

Several of the manufacturers visited were able to grow their businesses through state Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) grants, which offer Hawaii-based manufacturers up to a 20 percent reimbursement on qualified expenses to help them become globally competitive. Business owners recounted how the MAP grants allowed them to buy new equipment and bridge other gaps as they grew production.

(Left to right) Chamber Chair and CEO of Island Movers Donn Takaki, Chamber Board Member and President & Owner of Hawaiian Chip Company James Chua, Chamber President & CEO Berry Morin-McNamara, Governor David Ige, Acting Executive Director of HTDC Lon Wigard, and Center Director of INNOVATE Hawaii Wayne Inouye.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMBER EVENTS

October 21 - Young Professionals Start Up - New Member Orientation
October 23 - Young Professionals Sunset Yoga
October 24 - Young Professionals Bun
October 26 - Hello, Can Anyone Hear Me? Communications Training
October 29 - Business After Hours at Pristige Center
October 30 - Young Professionals Professional Development Class
November 5 - Tips for Creative Presentations
November 7 - Young Professionals E:Connect
November 7 - Young Professionals Pop-Up
November 12 - Communicating with Your Customers

MEMBER EVENTS

October 22 - FEMA Industry Day
October 24 - Procurement Tips from Small Business Professionals
October 26 - UNITE! for Blending Dissemed Walk

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