

Kauai Chamber of Commerce Highlights: January – May 2009

These efforts were carried out to promote the Chamber's mission, boost our members' value, and to help our members' businesses survive and grow during this tough business climate.

Strategic Plan: Business Advocacy

- Held Roundtable Meetings each with Mayor Bernard Carvalho and Council Chair Kaipo Asing on the Building Permit Process and what the administration and Council are proactively doing in order to move the process forward and make it accessible and transparent. Progress has been made on the residential aspect with work continuing on the commercial aspect of the building permitting process. Other topics included the County's Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) and status of the Transient Vacation Rentals (TVRs) to name a few. To learn more, visit the County's website at www.kauai.gov.
- Joined statewide alliance of 13 business and industry groups and Chambers of Commerce in "Walk Around of the Capitol" which focused on several bills including HB 952 Relating to Labor, aka "Card Check Bill". This bill certifies entities as exclusive representatives without an election where no other representatives are certified as the exclusive bargaining representatives for employers with annual gross revenues of \$5M or more. Requires immediate collective bargaining between parties once entities are certified as exclusive reps. Makes it a violation for an employer or employee to commit unfair or prohibited practices interfering with an employer's or employee's statutory rights or discriminating against an employer or an employee for exercising protected conduct, subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation. Effect. July 1, 2009. **Chamber Position:** OPPOSE
- Provided testimony throughout the legislative session on various issues related to Kauai's, business and workforce climate on issues and bills of importance on behalf of chamber at county and statewide levels. Providing testimony to Governor Lingle on bills that passed the legislature and are waiting for her signature, veto or without her signature and becoming law.
- Met with U.S. Congresswoman Maize Hirono to discuss The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Economic Stimulus Plan funds including Kauai infrastructure projects and workforce development funds.
- Attended and provided input at the Special Council Meeting of the Kauai County Council as Chair/Member of Kauai Workforce Investment Board to discuss Economic Stimulus Funds allocated to County of Kauai – Office of Economic Development – Workforce Investment Act Program to support workforce efforts through June 30, 2010. Funds will be used to retrain displaced workers and youth. Mahalo also to Board of Director member Jonathan Chun who provided additional information and historical perspectives to Council members.
- Attended and provided input at the Special Council Meeting of the Kauai County Council in support of marketing funds from County of Kauai to Kauai Visitors Bureau in support of marketing efforts for visitors. Testimony was submitted to provide support and perspective in terms of economic/multiplier effect and impact to other industries other than the visitor industry sector. Secondary and tertiary businesses included those who would directly and indirectly benefit from tourism's impact (food service, retail, construction, health sector and finance, to name a few).
- Participated in joint letter to President Obama communicating the impact of what was deemed as excessive in this current economic climate as far as the business of Corporate Meetings & Incentive Travel, the unintended consequences which have resulted in 132 group cancellations of meetings and incentive trips to Hawai'i.

- Continued to cultivate and strengthen the Chamber's leadership and support of business and government in economic, workforce and community development on Kauai and at a statewide level.

Strategic Plan: Business Support

- Completed Video-Teleconferencing Equipment and Installation. Service is free and cost-effective for members and saves travel time, costs for air and ground transportation, and provides a convenience to meet electronically using the latest technology. Funds provided through a grant from the Kauai Visitors Bureau and Hawaii Tourism Authority, Kauai - Community Outreach Program. Free video-teleconference equipment installation was provided by A&B Audio Video – Home Theatre and IT Kauai for computer networking and telephone system installation. Total value of dollars and in-kind donations, nearly \$10,000.00.
- Member-2-Member (M2M) Discount Program increased to nearly 40 members. Each M2M participating member will soon have a decal identifying their participation in this discount program.

Strategic Plan: Networking

- Held 5 successful Business After Hours Networking events that attracted over 900 attendees and provided members the opportunity to meet new members, initiate business opportunities, renew and or strengthen business relationships.
- Held 2nd Military Appreciation Month including 2 Chamber events which increased awareness of the military's contributions to Kauai's economic and workforce development as well as highlighting the importance of Pacific Missile Range Facility in the area of bilateral trade and defense.
- Participated in Kauai Business Council which is an alliance of 13 Kauai Business and Industry groups regarding legislation impactful to Kauai. Attended meetings of 5 member organizations of the KBC including Kapaa Business Association, Kauai Visitors Bureau, Lihue Business Association, North Shore Business Council, and West Kauai Business & Professional Association.

Mahalo Nui Loa to all of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce members for your invaluable input, participation and support of the Chamber. ***Mahalo*** also to the following Chamber committees:

Events & Activities Committee
Executive Committee
Golf Scholarship Committee
Government Affairs Committee
Membership Committee
Public Relations Committee
Small Business Committee

Mission of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce:

"To promote, develop and improve commerce, quality growth and economic stability in the County of Kauai"

"Working Together to Make a Difference"

Founded in 1913

www.kauaichamber.org