



HAWAI'I ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We are the voice for over 300 businesses and non-profit organizations, predominantly situated in East Hawai'i

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AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST 2025

We believe in fostering an environment where businesses can thrive in the islands. The government can play a key role by streamlining and reducing regulations.

Housing and Urban Development

- Increase housing supply: Simplify building codes, streamline permit processes, update zoning for higher density, allow for ADUs, etc.
- Reduce regulations on commercial building construction & remodels
- Simplify the lease renewal process in the Hilo Community Economic District, including the Waiākea Peninsula

Homelessness and Community Safety

- Addressing homelessness to ensure safety: Especially in downtown areas where residents and visitors shop and frequent
- Crime prevention and law enforcement

Healthcare

- Facilitate success for medical practitioners and improved access to healthcare services, including enhanced reimbursement rates from government and private health plans and decreasing administrative burdens that negatively impact patient care and contribute to provider burnout

Education and Workforce Development

- Support UH Hilo, Hawai'i Community College, and workforce development programs

Agriculture and Food Security

- Support local agriculture: Increase purchasing of local produce and meats by state agencies (DOE, etc.), improve water availability for farmers and ranchers, support local dairies and egg producers, increase the number of slaughterhouses to serve local ranchers, add refrigeration facilities for farmers, support local feedstock production, fertilizers, and compost

Infrastructure and Environment

- Improve & expand island infrastructure
- Waste management: Support efforts to increase waste diversion measures - reuse, recycle, bioconversion
- Prevention and containment of invasive species.
- Provide support for those needing to convert from cesspools to septic tanks
- Back improvements to parks and trail systems on the island

Energy and Sustainability

- Advocate for renewable, reliable, and affordable energy solutions, including geothermal & biomass

Science and Technology

- Continuation of astronomy on Maunakea: Including supporting existing telescopes and the construction of new telescopes

Business and Economic Development

- Foster entrepreneurial endeavors & small business development

Military and Defense

- Back the U.S. military's training mission and land retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area

Ethics and Governance

- Improve ethics in government

**Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce
2024-2025 Leadership**

President Keith Marrack

President-Elect David Kurohara

Vice President Dennis Lin

Treasurer Joshua Vierra

Immediate Past President Randy Kurohara