



# HAWAII ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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## AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST 2026

**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, Homelessness & Community Safety**

- 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
- 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

### **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
- Advocate for renewable, reliable, and affordable energy solutions, including alternative energies

### **Business and Economic Development**

- Foster entrepreneurial endeavors & small business development
- Continuation of astronomy on Maunakea: Including supporting existing telescopes and the construction of new telescopes
- Back the U.S. military's training mission and land retention at Pōhakuloa Training Area
- 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
- Support UH Hilo, Hawai'i Community College, and workforce development programs
- Support the redevelopment of Banyan Drive

Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce 2025-2026 Leadership

President **David Kurohara**

President-Elect & Government Affairs Chair **Dennis Lin**

Vice President & Economic Development Chair **Bonnie Irwin**

Treasurer **Joshua Vierra**

Immediate Past President **Keith Marrack**