



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 2024

We support the ability for businesses to thrive in the islands. Government can contribute by minimizing and simplifying regulations. The primary focus should be on eliminating ineffective laws and practices, rather than merely introducing new ones.



Continuation of astronomy on Maunakea

Including supporting existing telescopes (Gemini Observatory, Keck Observatory, Subaru Telescope, Canada France Hawaii Telescope, etc.) & the construction of Thirty Meter Telescope



Facilitate success for medical practitioners

Exempt healthcare providers from GE tax for patients on Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare (SB1035); participate in the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact; support loan forgiveness & increase affordable housing for medical service workers



Increase the housing supply

Simplify building codes, streamline permit processes, update zoning for higher density, allow for ADUs, etc.



Addressing homelessness to ensure safety

Especially in downtown areas where residents and visitors shop and frequent



Foster entrepreneurial endeavors & small business development



Reduce regulations on commercial building construction & remodels



Simplify the lease renewal process in the Hilo Community Economic District (SB79)

Including the Waiākea Peninsula



Advocate for renewable, reliable, and affordable energy solutions

Including geothermal and biomass



Improve & expand island infrastructure

With consideration for bike and pedestrian friendly roads

AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST 2024

-Continued-



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



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



Crime prevention and law enforcement



Waste Management

Support efforts to increase waste diversion measures - reuse, recycle, bioconversion



Provide support for those needing to convert from cesspools to septic tanks

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



Prevention and containment of invasive species



Back improvements to parks and trail systems on island



Improve ethics in government



2023-2024 Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce Leadership

President Randy Kurohara

President-Elect Keith Marrack

Vice President Kevin Waltjen

Treasurer Dennis Lin

Immediate Past President Doug Simons