



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

## 2018 SPECIAL ACTIVITY REPORT



- Promoting our island, its products and services by providing information to people the world over.
- Influencing legislation and government policies.
- Voicing our island's concerns to state and other Chambers of Commerce and working together to address those issues.
- Sponsoring seminars and programs to help members conduct better business.
- Keeping members informed by collecting and dispensing information on business trends, legislation and new developments which affect our community.



**Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce**  
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HAWAI'I ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Your Chamber Connection ...

Aloha,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce 2018 Activity Special Report. Here you will find information about the activities of the Chamber and its various committees.

For 120 years our Chamber has been an integral part of our community as the voice of business and important to our island's economy. We continue to support our business members and together we have promoted economic well-being, great products and services to improve the business climate. We have nearly 300 business members with more than 700 employees.



The report makes it quick and easy for you to find out about the Chamber, its members and our many events and activities. We provide advocacy and support between our members and lawmakers. We identify issues facing the business community and engage in a collaborative approach. Through our members' expertise, relations and advocacy we help build a stronger community, promote a more vibrant economy, help create jobs and improve the quality of life.

Much Mahalo is owed our members for their support, participation and involvement, and I offer a very special Mahalo to the numerous advertisers and sponsors of this report.

We invite you to participate in the activities and events we have throughout the year. If you are not a member, we invite you to join the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce and help be a voice in building our community.

Mahalo,  
Gordon Takaki

2018-19 Officers & Board of Directors

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Rachel Solemsaas	Hawai'i Community College
Loren Tsugawa	Isemoto Contracting Co., Ltd.
Tam Vu	UH Hilo College of Business & Economics
Kurt Williams	Big Island Toyota

OFFICE STAFF

Miles Yoshioka	Executive Officer
Kristen Yagi	Administrative Assistant



## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



Chamber members walked from business to business in Downtown Hilo, passing out marketing materials in support of SBA's Small Business Saturday which took place on Nov. 25, 2017.

## What is HICC?

**T**he Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce brings businesses and professionals together to make Hawai'i Island a better place to live and do business. HICC represents both large and small businesses. Based in Hilo, HICC's members are nearly 300 businesses, professional organizations and individuals statewide with more than 700 employees who we consider member representatives.

Because we are the voice of business of East Hawai'i and beyond, we:

- **Promote our island**, its products and services by providing information to people all over the world.
- **Influence legislation** and government policies by providing access to government and legislative decision makers. HICC provides testimony on various causes which support local business and our community, as well as taking a stance in support of the Thirty Meter Telescope.
- **Voice our Island's concerns** to state and other local Chambers of Commerce and

business organizations and work together to address those issues.

- **Sponsor seminars and presentations** to keep members and the community informed by providing information on business trends, legislation and new economic developments. Such events include the annual Employment Law Seminar which offers updates on human resources and personnel law trends, presentations on emerging opportunities with aerospace for Hawai'i, how to grow business internationally through exporting, and how business owners are dealing with the challenges facing family-owned businesses.

- **Offer a one-stop shop** for information on how to do business in Hawai'i and provide relocation information to those moving to the Island of Hawai'i.

- **Promote tourism** to the Island of Hawai'i by providing visitor information to travelers and publicizing the services of member businesses.

Continued on Page 4



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## HAWAI'I ISLAND CHAMBER



HICC partnered with the Hawai'i Island Small Business Development Center to host a "Small Business Marketing on a Budget" workshop featuring guest speaker Melissa Forziat of Melissa Forziat Events and Marketing.

### What is the Chamber's purpose?

The purpose of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce is to assist businesses and promote the Island of Hawai'i. We provide leadership via services and advocacy for the business community while promoting the economic well-being of our island as a whole.

We accomplish this by:

- **Initiating and maintaining programs** of research, education and community.
- **Identifying the issues** facing the business community and acting to achieve satisfactory solutions.
- **Working with and coordinating activities** with other organizations to promote a stable and healthy economy.
- **Maintaining communication and rapport** between the business community and our governmental decision makers.
- **Advocating election or appointment** to public office of those who understand the problems facing the business community and have the ability, knowledge and experience to make sound decisions.
- **Providing networking** and social opportunities for our members.

We provide leadership via services and advocacy for the business community while promoting the economic well-being of our island as a whole.

### What is the Chamber's organization?

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors governs the Chamber and the President of the Board serves as Chief Executive Officer of the organization. The Chamber office is administered by a paid Executive Officer who reports to the President.

The Chamber accomplishes most of its work through its standing and special committees.

The committees are open to all members and member business employees.

It is on committees that anyone who is interested in the affairs of the business community has the most input.



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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



Past ATHENA Award® recipients, Irene Nagao (1990) and Jan Higashi (1995) chat at the ATHENA Award® Luncheon.

# HICC AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### ATHENA Award®

The Chamber of Commerce has the honor of presenting the internationally-recognized ATHENA Award® which recognizes community members who have achieved the highest level of professional excellence, steadfast dedication to community service, and works to improve the quality of life for others in the community and actively assist others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential.

Our most recent ATHENA Award® was presented in 2016 to highly-regarded restaurateur Debra Ching-Maiava, owner and manager of Ken's House of Pancakes and Ponds Hilo.

Debra was also presented a \$500 cash award donated by past ATHENA recipients to "Pay It Forward" to assist other women in our community. Roberta Chu is the Chair of the ATHENA® Award Committee

and KTA Super Stores and Bank of Hawaii sponsor the luncheon.

### SBA Awards

Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration honors the most outstanding small firms in Hawai'i to recognize their achievements and highlight the importance of small firms to a vibrant local economy.

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce has annually recognized the Hawai'i County small business winners at a luncheon and General Membership meeting.

The 2018 Awards luncheon was highlighted by a stimulating "talk story" interview with young business leaders Jason Fujimoto, President and COO of HPM Building Supply and Toby Taniguchi, President and COO of KTA Super Stores.

Story continued on Page 8



## Celebrating Pride & Aloha

As owner-employees, our goal is always to serve our customers with aloha — because happy people build better communities... and that, is something to be proud of.

Mahalo Hawai'i for 96 years of trust and support!

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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



From left, SBA District Director Jane Sawyer, Hawai'i County SBA winners Denise Laitinen, Dawn K.K. Kanealii-Kleinfelder, Mary Derla representing Paul Streiter and Angela Rey; Councilmembers Sue Lee Loy and Tim Richards, and Bill Walters, 2017-18 HICC president.



Vice President Rhea Lee Moku moderated a "talk story" session at the 2018 SBA Awards Luncheon featuring Jason Fujimoto of HPM Building Supply and Toby Taniguchi of KTA Super Stores, both Presidents and Chief Operating Officers of their respective organizations.

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[www.bayclinic.org](http://www.bayclinic.org)





## HAWAII ISLAND CHAMBER



HICC Executive Officer Miles Yoshioka pictured above with Calvin Uemura, a student of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Business & Economics and one of two recipients of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce scholarship.

The SBA Award winners recognized from Hawai'i County included Chamber member Dawn K.K. Kanealii-Kleinfelder of Liko Lehua, LLC, County of Hawai'i SBA Family-Owned Business of the Year; Paul Streiter and Angela Rey, County of Hawai'i Small Business Person of the Year; and Denise Laitinen, County of Hawai'i Small Business Advocate for Media and Journalism.

### Scholarships & Education Awards

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce supports students during a most important time of their lives... their pursuit of higher education through our University of Hawai'i system. The Chamber has been awarding scholarships to students at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College since 1989 through an

endowment fund managed by the University of Hawai'i Foundation.

Over the years, HICC has awarded more than \$140,000 to UH Hilo students enrolled in the College of Business & Economics and \$33,000 to HCC students who have excelled in academic and extra-curricular achievements.

Chamber scholarship recipients could be our future business leaders, all with a common commitment and drive to succeed.

These student recipients are no exceptions, with each receiving monies towards their education at UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College. UHH CoBE students Calvin Uemura and Zoe Kimura received HICC scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year. Hawaii Community College students who have benefitted from our Endowed Scholar Program during the 2017-2018 academic year are Jonathan Carroll, Tiana Kapumau, Kacie Kunioka and Craig Okahara-Olsen.

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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



Al-Qawi Majidah, Kapae and Josh Comstock, Justin Barrios and Shanda Lee-Barrios enjoy an evening of networking at the Pacific Tsunami Museum Business After Hours.

## BUSINESS

A “pau hana” event

## AFTER HOURS


**C**hamber Business After Hours events offer Chamber member businesses an opportunity to showcase their business and services, usually at their facility. Typically hosted by the firm or by the Chamber’s Social Committee, these events are usually held “pau hana,” from 5-7 p.m. They also offer attending members an opportunity to socialize, network and meet other business professionals. The Social Committee helps with planning and the Chamber office promotes the event. Recent Business After Hours events have included an opportunity to experience the venue services offered by the Arc of Hilo’s Event Center;



Christine and David Reed blow out the candles on Basically Book’s 32nd birthday cake at the Basically Books Business After Hours, while their daughter, Stacey, looks on.


enjoy ono pupu while helping the Pacific Tsunami Museum kick off Tsunami Awareness Month; commemorate Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associate’s 35 years of business in Hilo and

prove an accounting firm really can be fun and exciting; and celebrate Basically Book’s move to a new location along with their 32nd birthday party complete with cake.

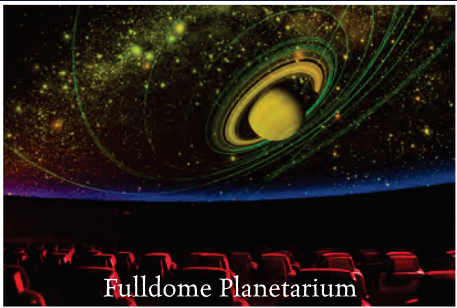


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## HAWAII ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE HICC

## Why should you join the Hawaii'i Island Chamber of Commerce?

Chamber membership adds credibility to your business. Be a part of an organization whose initiatives address the concerns of local businesses.

Members-only discounts to workshops and seminars in education, economic development, government affairs and employment law.

Increases awareness of your business by other members of the business community.

- HICC monitors and notifies you of legislation and community issues affecting business.

- HICC members with 10 or fewer employees automatically become members of the

State chamber, The Chamber of Commerce HAWAII through its Laulima Membership Program for neighbor island chamber members. Business members with more than 10 employees wishing to join The Chamber of Commerce HAWAII may do so at the reduced Laulima Membership Program price of \$100.

- New members receive 50% off one advertisement in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald, some restrictions apply. The amount you save may be more than your membership dues!

- Free annual subscription to Hawaii Business magazine.

- Free Membership Directory listing, print and online at [www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz).

- Members-only Chamber referrals.

- Website advertising opportunities for members only.

- Monthly newsletter advertising opportunities for members only.

- Annual printed Member Directory & Business Guide advertising opportunities for businesses.

- Business After Hours (pau hana) mixers and other social/ networking events.

- Chamber member-to-member discounts.

## What are the types of membership? How much are the dues?

A membership application can be found on the last page

Continued on the next page



The Employment Law Seminar presented by attorneys from Torkildson, Katz, Hetherington, Harris & Knorek, is the most comprehensive employment law seminar in Hawai'i, providing a thorough update on personnel law trends, including discrimination and harassment.

## Mahalo HICC for Supporting &amp; Strengthening Our Community!

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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



Gubernatorial Candidates David Ige, Ray L'Heureux and Colleen Hanabusa meet with forum moderator Sherry Bracken prior to the start of the forum.

of this tabloid. Applications are available also online at the HICC website [www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz). The Board of Directors reviews and acts on membership applications at its monthly meeting.

**Business Membership:** Any person engaged in business or who is interested in the affairs of the business community of the Island of Hawai'i and who supports the purpose and objectives of the Chamber, shall be eligible for active membership.

**Individual Membership:** Persons who wish to join the Chamber as an individual, without any business affiliation, are eligible for Individual Membership with the Chamber.

**Student Membership:** Students wishing to join the Chamber must be enrolled in post-secondary institutions

of higher learning and carrying class loads of 9 or more credits per semester. Students may join under individual names, not businesses.

Dues for Business Members are determined by the number of full-time employees in your company, with part-timers counting as 1/2. (See the Fair Share Dues Schedule on the last page.) Dues are not refundable. Besides basic Chamber operations, your dues support the community in various ways. Some recent examples are:

- The annual ATHENA Award® is presented to an outstanding woman in our community, sponsored in part by HICC.

Continued on Page 12



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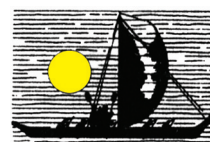
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## HAWAI'I ISLAND CHAMBER

- The annual U.S. Small Business Administration Awards. HICC facilitates the recognition of the Hawai'i Island recipients.

- Forums on legislation affecting business, tax changes and opportunities, local government and Hawai'i's economic forecast.

- Annual Employment Law Seminar which provides attendees with an update of recent law changes and current trends in personnel matters.

- Networking opportunities such as our Business After Hours events, quarterly meetings and our annual golf tournament.

- Forums and seminars related to



HICC Executive Officer Miles Yoshioka selects a raffle winner at the 5th Annual Home Expo hosted by the Hawai'i Island REALTORS®

economic development opportunities.

HICC dues do not include lobbying expenses. HICC's state and lobbying activities are directed by the Chamber's Political Action Committee

(PAC). Contributions to the PAC are voluntary. We suggest an annual contribution of \$20 made payable to HICC PAC. You may include your contribution with your annual membership dues.

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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT



From left, Dr. Lynda Dolan, Family Medicine Center; Anne Andersen, Licensed Certified Social Worker; Shirley Dellinger, Hawai'i Care Choices; and Brenda Ho, Hawai'i Care Choices.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Economic Development Committee

This committee works to enhance the general business climate on Hawai'i Island and to support a stable and healthy economy. The Committee also organizes informative presentations for members which focus on issues that affect businesses. During Mauna Loa's active phase, members were able to hear from USGS Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory scientists who addressed frequently asked questions about the mountain- its current status, hazards and how our community can prepare for a future eruption. Other presentations highlighted timely topics including retirement plans for business, developing community partnerships with Kamehameha Schools, updates relating to astronomy on Maunakea, and best practices of successful business leaders.

The chair of the Economic Development Committee is Chamber Vice President Toby Taniguchi of KTA Super Stores. Members and member employees are invited to take a more active role and join this committee which meets on each third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber

office. Dates and times are subject to change. Contact the Chamber office if you would like to get involved and be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Government Affairs Committee (GAC)

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) monitors legislative measures at all levels of government that may affect the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, its members, or the business community in general. It works closely with the State chamber, The Chamber of Commerce HAWAII, and its alliance of Chambers of Commerce and trade business organizations to speak with one voice on issues of similar concern to legislators. The GAC recommends a course of action to the Board of Directors, so the Board can make decisions that further the purpose and objectives of the Chamber.

HICC, with support from the GAC has also developed partnerships with other local Chambers of Commerce and business organizations to present moderated election candidate forums



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Continued on Page 14



## HAWAI'I ISLAND CHAMBER

for our members and the community. At a recent forum, gubernatorial candidates had the opportunity to share their stance on not only State issues but also those specific to our island.

Chamber President-elect Rhea Lee-Moku of Hawai'i Electric Light Company chairs the Government Affairs Committee. Members and member employees are invited to take a more active role and join this committee which meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:15 a.m. at the Chamber office. Dates and times are subject to change. Contact the chamber office if you would like to get involved and be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee manages the financial affairs of the Chamber so that it remains stable and fiscally sound. The committee ensures that Chamber funds are well-spent and are in the members' best interest. Additionally, the Finance Committee provides the Board with information pertaining to the financial condition and submits a report at least once a month to the Board for review.

The Chair of the Finance Committee is Chamber Treasurer Haidee Abe of First Hawaiian Bank. Members and member employees are invited to take a more active role and join this committee which meets on the third Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber office. Dates and times are subject to change. Contact the Chamber office if you would like to get involved and be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for developing marketing strategies to increase Chamber membership and support member retention. This committee also works with the Chamber's existing members to ensure that they are getting the best value from their membership. Additional member benefits or improvements are handled by the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee offers quarterly New Member Orientation luncheons, where new members are introduced to the Chamber leadership and learn more about the benefits of Chamber membership.

HICC Director Kimberly Pua of Wesley R. Sagawa & Associates chairs the Membership Committee which meets on each second Thursday of the

month at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber office. Dates and times are subject to change. Members and member employees who would like to take more active roles and join this committee may contact the Chamber office to be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Social Committee

The social and "fun" activities of HICC are coordinated by the Social Committee which promotes fellowship and networking among members and other Chambers of Commerce. The Social Committee plans the Chamber's near-monthly Business After Hours (pau hana) events and other member get-togethers.

The co-chairs of the Social Committee are HICC Director Lynn Nunez and Cheryl Marzo of CU Hawaii Federal Credit Union. This fun and energetic committee meets on each third Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Chamber office. Dates and times subject to change. Members and member employees looking to take more active roles in this committee are asked to contact the Chamber office to be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Political Action Committee

The Political Action Committee (PAC) directs lobbying for legislation and support of state and local political candidates that support the Chamber's purpose and objectives. Through financial support for state and local political candidates and issues, this committee furthers the goals and objectives of the Chamber. The PAC has supported candidate forums open to members and the community offering attendees the opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates in person, learn about the issues relevant to this important office, the candidates' backgrounds, and how well they will meet the needs of the people of Hawai'i Island.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Military Affairs Committee (MAC)

Our military is an integral part of our community and supports Hawaii's economy and national security in significant ways.

Continued on page 15



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## Mahalo!

For more than a half century the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce has been the community's driving force in the development of world class astronomy on Maunakea. Fifty years ago, astronomy helped rebuild Hilo's economy following the 1960 tsunami. Today, astronomy expands the boundaries of our knowledge and employs a high tech Hawaii Island workforce.



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## ACTIVITY SPECIAL REPORT

The military is Hawaii's second largest source of economic activity, contributing about \$8-\$10 billion annually and providing over 100,000 jobs across our State. The Military Affairs Committee (MAC) was formed in 2016 and serves as Hawaii Island's partner for the Military Affairs Council of the state Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. The Military Affairs Committee's mission is aligned with that of the Military Affairs Council in focusing its priorities on the 3C's — Commerce, Communications and Culture.

The HICC MAC is chaired by Keith Marrack of Edward Jones. Members and their employees are invited to take a more active role and join this committee which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the Chamber office. Dates and times are subject to change. Contact the Chamber office if you would

like to get involved and be notified of upcoming meetings.

### Whitey Rose Memorial President's Cup Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament Committee is responsible for planning and carrying out the Whitey Rose Memorial President's Cup Golf Tournament held during the President's Day weekend in February each year. Named after past Chamber president and committee member Whitey Rose, the tournament is held as a fundraiser to support the Chamber and its endeavors. Additionally, this event allows Chamber members and professionals to network and socialize with one another while supporting a good cause. Many corporate sponsors donate goods or services as prizes or as auction

items for the tournament. The co-chairs of the President's Cup Golf Committee are past chamber presidents Newton Chu and Barry Taniguchi.

### Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon

This committee organizes and hosts the Chamber's Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon, typically held on National Office Professionals' Day. This popular event celebrates and honors the hardworking administrative professionals in our community with exciting giveaways, lucky number drawings, delicious luncheon and outstanding entertainment. Stay tuned for the next Administrative Professionals Luncheon coming up in April 2019 which is sure to be as fun and enjoyable as past events! Co-chairs



Jere Usui, Barry Taniguchi, Mike Sayama and Kimo Alameda at the 2018 Whitey Rose Memorial President's Cup Golf Tournament at Makani Golf Club.

for this upcoming event are Jon Miyata of Honua Ola and Taylor Escalona of HouseMart.

Contact the Chamber office if you would like to volunteer for this fun committee.

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# HAWAII ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the membership application below and return it along with your dues payment to the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce.

Mail it in or stop by the HICC office:  
1321 Kino'ole Street, Hilo, HI 96720.  
Phone (808) 935-7178.

Online membership application and payment option available at  
[www.hicc.biz/membership](http://www.hicc.biz/membership).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Member & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

GET or FEIN # \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Full-Time Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Part-Time Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional member representatives (see dues schedule for number of additional Members allowed.  
Attach additional sheets if necessary).

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Fair share dues amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Initial application fee: \$ 25.00  
(Waived for students)

\$20 PAC Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional):

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the Chamber office at 935-7178 for credit card payments or pay online at <http://hicc.biz/membership/39/pay-member-dues>



## HOW DO I JOIN HICC?

Simply fill out the membership application and return it along with your dues payment to the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce.

Mail it in or stop by the HICC office, located at 1321 Kino'ole Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.

Online membership application and payment option available at [www.hicc.biz/membership](http://www.hicc.biz/membership).

## Fair Share Dues Investment Schedule

(Annual dues amount determined by the number of employees in your company)

Number of employees in your Company	Dues amount per year	Number of allowed member representatives
Student (UHH or HCC)	\$15/semester or \$25/year	1
Individual (no business affiliation)	\$125	1
1-2	\$175	2
3-6	\$200	2
7-10	\$225	3
11-15	\$275	3
16-20	\$325	4
21-25	\$375	4
26-30	\$425	4
31 or more <sup>ii</sup> (Add \$4 per employee over 31 employees to a maximum of \$775)	\$475+	5 (+1 rep. per \$100 over \$475) <sup>ii</sup>

## Special Investors

Topaz ±	\$1,000	10*
Ruby ±	\$1,500	12*
Sapphire ±	\$2,000	16*
Diamond ±	\$3,000	18*
Emerald ±	\$5,000	20*

\*For additional representatives, please add \$100 for each representative.

± Please contact HICC for more information and additional benefits included with this unique, optional Special Investor opportunity.

<sup>ii</sup> Example: 70 employees = \$631 with 6 member reps (\$475+(39x \$4)=\$631)