

## Kapolei Chamber of Commerce: *Working together for Kapolei*

**O**n April 7, 2008, the newly formed Kapolei Chamber of Commerce held its first business meeting, attracting 100 business leaders to the inaugural event at Kapolei Hale. At that time, there were 800 businesses in the Kapolei region, the economic zone between Ewa and Ko Olina, generating more than 27,000 jobs.

This took place at a time when the U.S. economy was slowing down, and the State's 11 years of expansion was also slowing down. But economist Leroy O. Laney, Ph.D., who presented his Kapolei Economic Forecast at that first meeting, offered encouraging news about Kapolei. He said, "Kapolei is a growth hotspot — a boom amidst a national bust." To Laney, Kapolei was experiencing an "out of-cycle" growth that benefited the region and helped to stabilize the state economy. The expansion was expected to come from Kapolei's projected growth, and from business investments that would fuel the economy and almost triple the number of jobs to 70,000 by 2025. In fact, current estimates put that number at 84,000 with more than 40 percent of these jobs located in the heart of the region, the City of Kapolei.

Today's surge in business investments and construction activity in the region is a clear sign that Kapolei is on that projected upswing. With such robust growth, the Kapolei Chamber's role as the voice of business in Kapolei has never been more

important. As its [website](#) says, "The Chamber works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive." The organization is member-driven, member-supported, and represents the interest of all types of business — small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit, or sole proprietorship.



Councilmember Kymberly Pine

### Chamber co-sponsors Hire Leeward

Regardless of size or type, businesses share a common, critical interest — finding the right employees for their organizations. For the first time, the Chamber is partnering with Hire Leeward and Councilmember Kymberly Pine to sponsor the 3rd Annual Hire Leeward Job and Career Fair. The Fair's purpose is to connect Leeward residents with Leeward jobs. That such a service was needed became very evident when 3,000 people turned out for the first fair — a number that has held steady since. The 3rd Annual Hire Leeward Job and Career Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the UH West O'ahu campus. More than 70 businesses are participating in the event. For more information please go to [www.hireleeward.com](http://www.hireleeward.com).

### Why you should join the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce

Here are five reasons why you should join the Chamber:

1. Networking and new business contacts to increase your visibility in the community and help your business grow.
2. Referrals and other opportunities to promote your business.
3. Access to key business, community and government leaders.
4. Government advocacy for business and for Kapolei.
5. Informative programs with news you can use.

#### And a sixth reason:

A limited time offer:

#### 50% off Kapolei Chamber Membership

This limited time offer of 50% off membership dues is available online. Just enter the code "SPECIAL50" and sign up. Once a member, you can register for events at the lower member rate as well as take advantage of other member-to-member offers provided by Kapolei Chamber members. Join at [www.kapoleichamber.com](http://www.kapoleichamber.com).



Working together for Kapolei

### Meet Kiran Polk

Kiran Polk has joined the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce as its new executive director. Most recently, she was the chief of staff to Councilmember Kymberly Pine, during which time she assisted with executing the Hire Leeward initiative. Kiran has extensive experience in public relations, event management, business development, marketing and training. Prior to her work with Councilmember Pine, Kiran was the Events Manager for Kapolei's Kroc Center, and was also the General Manager for Iroquois Point Island Club (also known as The Waterfront at Pu'uloa). She may be reached at [kiranpolk@gmail.com](mailto:kiranpolk@gmail.com).





## 3rd Annual Hire Leeward Job & Career Fair *Connecting Leeward Residents with Leeward Jobs*

From its very beginning, Kapolei was designed to be a live/work/play community. A place where residents could set down roots, find work close to home, and have the luxury of time to enjoy their families and their lives. Over three years ago, Councilmember Kymberly Pine decided to take up the cause of Leeward jobs for Leeward residents with a five-year initiative she called Hire Leeward. The idea was to launch a Leeward Job and Career Fair that would connect Leeward job seekers with prospective employers. Simple in concept, but ambitious in scope. Not only would this free fair bring these two groups together, but it would also be a networking event for businesses, and would offer free personal career and business development seminars.

“The Hire Leeward initiative empowers West O’ahu residents to leave their days of driving in traffic behind them by taking advantage of the many job opportunities within their community. Many don’t realize that there are over 63,000 Leeward jobs on the Leeward coast; one for just about every

adult in my district. I am excited to see area businesses and organizations connect with Leeward residents,” said Councilmember Pine.

At the first event in 2012, fair organizers expected 600 to 800 attendees. About 3,000 people showed up. The second event drew more than 3,000 people who were vying for jobs being offered by 40 businesses. This year, well over 70 businesses and organizations will participate, and there’s every reason to expect a huge turnout of job seekers.

The participating employers represent a wide range of industries: healthcare, food service, hospitality, retail, military, and administrative, as well as trade apprenticeships.

But the program doesn’t end with the fair. Throughout the year, [HireLeeward.com](http://HireLeeward.com) is a resource for businesses to post job openings, and for residents to check on the listings.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Councilmember Pine  
808-768-5001  
[kmpine@honolulu.gov](mailto:kmpine@honolulu.gov)  
[www.hireleeward.com](http://www.hireleeward.com)  
[#hireleeward](https://twitter.com/hireleeward)



### 3rd Annual Hire Leeward **JOB & CAREER FAIR**

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**  
**UH WEST OAHU CAMPUS**  
*(On the Great Lawn-Flat shoes Recommended)*  
**91-1001 Farrington Highway (Kapolei)**

## Free Personal Development & Business Seminars



These seminars have proven to be a valuable resource. Last year’s personal development seminars were heavily attended, while the business seminars were standing room only.

### Personal Development Seminars

- 6 Tips to Landing a Job
- Acing the Job Interview
- Winning Friends and Influencing People
- Work Smarter, Not Harder —  
Brain Training to Improve Your Job Performance

### Business Seminars

- Building Business Through Networking  
& Communicating More Effectively
- Building a Successful Online Presence
- Steps to Start Your Small Business Part 1
- Steps to Start Your Small Business Part 2



### KAPOLEI PROPERTIES LLC

Kapolei Properties LLC is an affiliate of the James Campbell Company with a focus on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KAPOLEI, PLEASE VISIT:  
[www.kapolei.com](http://www.kapolei.com) or contact Steve Kelly at [stevek@kapolei.com](mailto:stevek@kapolei.com)

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