

From Hawaii's Shores, A Birthday Message to America

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

From the breathtaking shores and sun-kissed beaches of Hawaii, we celebrate you with full hearts and the spirit of *aloha*, a word our islands live by. Aloha means love, peace, and compassion. It means showing up for each other.

One of America's greatest gifts has always been its people, the generations of families from every background imaginable who came together, worked hard, and built something bigger than themselves. Nowhere is that more visible than here in Hawaii, where that same American spirit helped build our state and has brought together a rich tapestry of communities, neighbors, and business owners who show up for each other every single day. Hawaii is also home to one of the largest and most strategically significant military presences in the nation, and we are deeply proud of that. We are humbled to be part of this country's story and honored to bring our own voice to it.

At the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, we get to live that story every single day. And we've been living it for a long time. Since 1850, before Hawaii was even a state, a group of business leaders came together with a simple belief: that when people organize around a shared purpose, they can accomplish things none of them could do alone. That instinct to connect, to build, to show up for each other is still exactly what drives us today. We even have a word for it in 2026: **guts**. The courage to take the risk, to stay the course, and to keep building even when it's hard.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is proud to have played a meaningful role in advocating for Hawaii to become the 50th state in 1959, and we've never stopped advocating for the people and businesses of these islands since.

Behind that belief are real people, and we get to work with them every single day. We stand alongside our members: family businesses, small shops, entrepreneurs, innovators, educators, members of the military. And we work hard to make sure they have every opportunity to succeed. Our programs connect businesses to resources, open doors for the next generation of leaders, and strengthen the economic fabric of our communities across these islands. It's meaningful work, and we don't take it lightly.

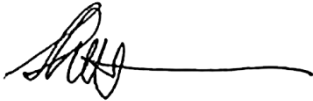
As a country and as a state, we've been through hard times together. Just within the last five years, Hawaii has weathered economic downturns, a pandemic that hit our tourism-dependent state especially hard, and devastating losses that tested us in ways we never expected. But every single time, our community showed up. Our neighbors. Our business owners. Members of our Uniformed and Armed Forces. That kind of showing up, that's aloha. And we believe with everything we have, that's America too.

So as you turn 250, America, we want you to know: we're still all in. We're here to build, to grow, to support one another, and to make sure the promise of this country stays alive and well right here in Hawaii.

Thank you for the freedom to dream. Thank you for the opportunity to build. And thank you to every business owner, community leader, and hardworking person across these islands who makes us proud every day to be residents of Hawaii, and Americans.

May God continue to bless this great nation, and may the next 250 years be even brighter than the last.

Me ke aloha (with love) from the Aloha State,



Sherry Menor
President and CEO
[Chamber of Commerce Hawaii](http://www.cochawaii.org)