

Chamber will endorse candidates after the primary

THE CHAMBER VIEW

by Pamela Tumpap



This election season, the Maui Chamber of Commerce is making a change to its

candidate endorsement process, endorsing candidates after the primary election instead of before.

Why? This election year, the large number of candidates heading into the primary makes it impractical for business owners and executives to take the time necessary to interview all of them.

The chamber is excited by the number of candidates running this year and appreciates the many choices afforded our community. We know it is not an easy task and applaud those who have stepped forward to run. We

wish we could meet with all candidates before the primary, but it is not feasible given the in-depth nature of the chamber's endorsement procedures and equal review of each candidate.

Therefore, we will conduct our process after the primary, interviewing the final two candidates (where the office incumbent is opposed) or the incumbent for each office to provide the chamber's endorsements of "business-friendly"

candidates before the general election in November.

In the meantime, the Maui Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Realtors Association of Maui and The Maui News in sponsoring a pre-primary election town hall meeting with Democratic gubernatorial candidates Neil Abercrombie and Mufi Hannemann. Republican candidate, Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona, also was invited to participate,

but he will be on the Mainland for official business.

The town hall meeting will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Iao Theater in Wailuku. Members of the public are invited to attend. Discussion topics for the candidates will be selected at random from written questions collected from the audience.

This is the first and only gubernatorial forum of its kind on Maui prior to the primary so

please make every effort to attend and urge your neighbors, friends, colleagues and clients to participate as well! Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so please come early.

We hope you will join us for this exciting opportunity to hear from two gubernatorial candidates on issues of importance to our community.

■ *Pamela Tumpap is president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce.*