

Legislative scorecard process is revisited

THE CHAMBER VIEW

by Pamela Tumpap



The Maui Chamber of Commerce is an organization that believes in continuous improvement

and routinely refines processes and programs to advance, improve and deliver optimum results. So, when some legislators had strong reactions to and concerns about our Chamber of Maui Political Action Committee (COMPAC) scorecard process, we revisited the process. We explored how we best can communicate with our members, the business sector at large, legislators and the community on issues of importance to the chamber, and share where legislators stand on those issues.

This week, we revisited the scorecard process, considering its intent, development, and how we can produce a more objective and timely report going forward. We looked at the span of the last report and contemplated a more frequent publication. We explored ways to provide as objective a report as possible that details whether elected officials voted for or against the chamber's position

on government action priorities. And, we looked at how and when to publish this information.

Moving forward, we want the scorecard to inform members sufficiently and on a timely basis about important legislative matters; detail the chamber's stance on each; and give an objective account of each legislator's attitude on those issues. As we appreciate and value member participation, we will continue to seek member input on the areas for which they would like to see voting records — in addition to COMPAC legislative priorities — to improve and further round out our report. In exploring how best to tell the story, we realize that limited publication space can condense a report and reduce some details.

It generally was felt that including elected officials' voting record on each item would be helpful in the report. While we recognize that many legislators must address trade-offs daily, just as we do in business, it is difficult for us to identify those trade-offs and accurately communicate what is going on behind the scenes. Therefore, voting records were suggested as the benchmark for looking at how each elected official was aligned with chamber views.

Following discussion, it was

agreed that COMPAC will publish a quarterly scorecard to recap the activities of our County Council members. This will allow us to increase our coverage of various bills, policies and procedures; tell the story more fully; and base the scorecard on the voting record of council members for an objective analysis. On a state level, we are looking to do an annual report after the close of the legislative session each year. In this way, we can continue to work and share ideas with elected officials, and there will be no scoring surprises since their scores will be based on how they voted, which is a matter of public record.

Our goal is to assist businesses in understanding and keeping abreast of legislative issues that impact their businesses and the community; to engage them in the process; and to have their voices heard by government. We feel a continuing scorecard process will go a long way toward that goal.

While we know that we will not always agree on every subject, this is the time for government, the private sector and the nonprofit sector to pull together to improve our community and our economy, and we stand ready to help.

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