

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAT THINK DRINK SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN-OWNERS

A conversation with Hawai‘i’s women-owned businesses

HONOLULU, HI – The Hawai‘i Agricultural Foundation (HAF) will host its third virtual event 12th episode of EAT THINK DRINK in partnership with Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i in the next segment of the Open for Business: Female Power During COVID-19 on Wednesday, October 14 from 6-7pm.

HAF reformatted its [EAT THINK DRINK](#) event to a monthly Open for Business series to provide a platform for partners in business and trade organizations to share the stories of their constituents – Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Food Industry Association, Hawai‘i Lodging and Tourism Association, Hawai‘i Restaurant Association, Hawai‘i Retail Merchants Association.

EAT THINK DRINK was initially developed by HAF to bring the community together to discuss issues around food sustainability and security; however, as various industries in Hawai‘i are now facing hardship due to government mandated shutdowns of deemed non-essential businesses, many are on a long and difficult road to economic recovery. By sharing the platform with other organizations and industries, there will be opportunities for broader discussions as Hawai‘i navigates its way through the delicate balance of health and public safety as it directly relates to COVID-19 and the health of our local economy.

For this special episode of EAT THINK DRINK, the Hawai‘i Agricultural Foundation has partnered with Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i to share the stories of female business owners in Hawai‘i as their businesses are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the impact on business have varied depending on industry, there is one group that has been particularly hit hard in America and specifically in Hawai‘i – women-owned small businesses.

Sherry Menor-McNamara, CEO of Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i will open the discussion and introduce Lesley Gabrielle Harvey, President of the Hawaii Economic Association, who will present statistics on how women-owned business have been impacted and set the stage for attendees to hear first-hand from Hawai‘i’s powerful female business owners who have been affected by the global pandemic.

Moderator Kanoë Gibson, host of HI Now on Hawai‘i News Now, will speak to our panel of female business owners as they share their powerful stories on how they’re navigating these challenging times, what they need to survive, how they are pivoting and explore creative solutions, community partnerships and new strategies. The panel will feature:

- Dr. Summer Chong MD, Oahu Dermatology
- Bernice Delos Reyes, Co-Owner, The Mango Tree Fitness and Martial Arts
- Deidre Harvie, Owner, Owner, Zoe Lash Pro
- Jan Hori, Co-Owner and Co-Founder, Hawaiian Pie Company
- Summer Shiigi, Owner and Designer, TEN TOMORROW
- Gayla Young, Owner and Founder, Pipeline Bake Shop

“We’re excited to partner with Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i for our third virtual EAT THINK DRINK discussion.” says Denise Yamaguchi, HAF executive director. “We’re all in this together and this is the perfect opportunity for the community and each organization’s constituents and stakeholders to learn about issues that are affecting various industries and sectors.”

“This EAT DRINK THINK Open for Business series is a great opportunity to highlight and support our local businesses and show their resiliency,” said Menor-McNamara. “We appreciate the participation of these speakers and businesses, despite the difficulties they’re experiencing. We’re also grateful to HAF for this partnership, as it’s going to take collaborative efforts such as this for us to emerge successfully from this pandemic.”

This special event will take place online via Zoom Webinar. [Register online for \\$10.](#)

HAF has also partnered with restaurants on O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui and the Island of Hawai‘i to offer attendees tuning in from across the state a meal to take home and enjoy during the event. **The \$10 event registration fee is waived for all EAT & DRINK takeout orders.**

For this episode, HAF has selected women-owned restaurants on O‘ahu and have included on O‘ahu – Fête, Maile’s Thai Bistro Hawai‘i Kai, The Pizza Press, Nico’s Kailua, and Moani Island Bar & Bistro; and on Maui – Hali‘i Maile General Store, and Down the Hatch. More restaurants will be added and announced soon!

Here’s how it works:

1. Register to reserve your spot for \$10 (incl. taxes & ticketing fees) on [Eventbrite](#). Skip this step if you’re purchasing a takeout order from one of our featured Food-A-Go-Go restaurants. Event registration is FREE when you choose to takeout an EAT & DRINK order!

2. Purchase a meal for one at \$35 (incl. taxes & ticketing fees) from one of our featured Food-A-Go-Go restaurants. Add-on a 6-pack for \$15. All proceeds from takeout orders go back to support HAF programs. **The order deadline is 4:00pm on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.**

**Our restaurant partners are operating under the current restrictions and guidance provided by their respective local liquor commission. Please check with your restaurant and current County regulations.*

3. Check out and complete the payment process. A link to join the webinar will be included in the confirmation email. If you purchased an EAT & DRINK order, please follow the instructions in the confirmation email to setup a pick-up time with the restaurant for Wednesday, October 14.
4. On Wednesday, October 14, pick up your EAT & DRINK order at your selected restaurant at your confirmed time.
5. At 6pm, tune in for EAT THINK DRINK 12: Open for Business – Female Power During COVID-19.

Attendees registering for the event will automatically be entered into a lucky draw to win prizes from TEN TOMORROW, Hawaiian Pie Company and more! Winners will be announced during the live virtual event.

For more information, visit OnoRevolution.com.

[EAT THINK DRINK](#) is an event series by HAF, developed to bring the community together to discuss issues around food sustainability and security. By finding common ground, raising community awareness and support for local farmers, and developing better infrastructure and consumer demand for value-added products, EAT THINK DRINK aims to build and engage a large network of Gen X and millennial consumers. The series is an opportunity for the public to learn about food – from farm to table – empowering Hawai‘i’s next generation of community and industry leaders.

EAT THINK DRINK is supported by Alexander & Baldwin, Bayer, Fiji Water, HONOLULU Family, HONOLULU Magazine, Kamehameha Schools, Kona Brewing Company, Lendlease, State of Hawai‘i, Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits, and Ulupono Initiative.

About Hawai‘i Agricultural Foundation

The [Hawai‘i Agricultural Foundation](#) is a non-profit charitable organization created to promote agriculture and farming. Established in 2007, HAF’s mission is to support and sustain Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry by addressing critical needs and services of farmers and the agricultural industry in Hawai‘i, and by better connecting the farmers with the community and vice-versa.

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