

State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce,  
Community & Economic Development



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### **Bambino's Baby Food Earns Alaska Manufacturer of the Year Award**

May 7, 2018 ANCHORAGE – Anchorage-based Bambino's Baby Food, which distributes Alaska grown and made baby food to families across Alaska and in all 50 states, received the 2017 Made in Alaska Manufacturer of the Year Award today from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development during the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's Monday Forum. Bambino's was selected from numerous Made in Alaska permit holders because of its substantial growth, extensive community outreach, and substantial use of Alaska produce and seafood.

"Bambino's is a great example of an Alaska-born company whose commitment to collaboration with other Alaskans fits perfectly with our mission to promote healthy economies and strong communities," said Mike Navarre, commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. "Bambino's helps expand the market for Alaska grown produce and wild-caught Alaska seafood. As Bambino's grows, so will the company's partners."

"We share this award with Alaska, our farmers, our fishermen, and Bambino's families across America," said founder Zoi Maroudas, who launched Bambino's during the wee hours of the morning from the Pizza Olympia kitchen in 2012 before expanding into her own space in 2017. Bambino's new manufacturing facility is right next door to its original home in Anchorage's Spenard neighborhood. They have an open-door policy, welcoming parents to visit to see how the products are made. [Video](#) from Governor Walker's visit to Bambino's earlier this year is available on the [Governor Walker's Vimeo channel](#).

"I wanted to create a brand that parents, pediatricians and allergist could all stand beside with flavors that babies will love," Maroudas said. "Bambino's Baby Food is a family brand that addresses infant nutritional and development needs with full transparency and traceability."

Interest in locally grown and manufactured food is on the rise, with sales expected to grow faster than the pace of total food and beverage sales over the next five years, according to the Institute of Food Technologists. More data on the growth potential of the food manufacturing industry in Alaska will be released in early 2019 by the Alaska [Division of Economic Development](#) in partnership with the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development.

Bambino's ships web orders around the nation, bringing the iconic Made in Alaska mother bear and cub logo to families across the country. With a local retail launch this spring, Bambino's organic meals are now also available

at the Carrs Safeway on Abbott and in Eagle River, and will soon be available at all Carrs stores Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer, and Wasilla.

“Bambino's objective is to expand into the global market and share our healthy and fresh meals created with Alaska's pristine vegetables and top-quality seafood,” Maroudas said.

As part of their effort to expand the reach of their products, Bambino's will participate in [Opportunity Alaska](#), the trade and investment mission led by Governor Walker to the People's Republic of China later this month. The week-long mission will include business-to-government and business-to-business meetings, networking opportunities, events, and market briefings to promote Alaska companies in China.

Bambino's is the 26th recipient of the Manufacturer of the Year Award. Launched in 1991, the award recognizes a Made in Alaska permit holder that demonstrates the ability to overcome challenges, grow their business, innovate, be a leader in the community, and collaborate with other businesses. The [Made in Alaska](#) program, administered by the Division of Economic Development, promotes products made, manufactured, or handcrafted in the state. The Made in Alaska mother bear and cub logo is an easy way for consumers to identify products manufactured in Alaska. Established in 1985, the program currently has nearly 1000 active participants and highlights Alaskan products across the United States.

Housed within Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through policy, promotion, financing, and business assistance. For additional information about the division, visit [commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED](http://commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED). To learn more about DCCED and its other agencies, visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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