

## Hawaii's 2006 Small Business Awards Winners



**2006 SBA Small Business Award Winners for the State of Hawaii**

Front row: Joy Miura-Koerte, Ann Yamamoto, Alice Law, Barbara Bennett, Tim Law and Ben Fouts  
Second row: David Fisher, Eric Miura, Deb Hallof, Tad Miura, Howard Dicus, Russ Boyer, Brian Kitagawa, and Frank Law.

### **Small Business Person of the Year**

Randy Boyer & Russ Boyer - Aloha Lumber Co., Inc. (State of Hawaii)  
William Hughes & Dana Chun - King Food Service, Inc. (City & County of Honolulu)  
Margaret & Shon Pahio - HMP, Inc. dba Business Services Hawaii (County of Hawaii)  
David Miyake - Miyake Concrete Accessories, Inc. (County of Maui)

### **SBA Family-Owned Business of the Year**

Tad Miura, Eric Miura & Ann Yamamoto - M. Miura Store, Inc. dba Déjà vu Surfwear (State of Hawaii and Region IX)  
Bobby Toguchi - Highway Inn (City & County of Honolulu)  
James Takamiya - Takamiya Market, Inc. (County of Maui)

### **Entrepreneurial Success of the Year**

Brian Kitagawa - I. Kitagawa and Company, Ltd. (State of Hawaii)

### **SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

Benjamin Fouts - Hawaii Pacific Aviation, Inc. dba Mauna Loa Helicopters (State of Hawaii and Region IX)

### **Small Business Exporter of the Year**

Frank Law, Alice Law & Tim Law - FAT Law's Farm, Inc. (State of Hawaii and Region IX)  
Edwin Noh, Miriam Noh & Raymond Noh - E&M Corp. dba NOH Foods of Hawaii (City & County of Honolulu)

### **Financial Services Champion of the Year**

David Fisher - Hawaii SBDC Network (State of Hawaii)

### **Home-Based Business Champion of the Year**

Joy Koerte & Jenny Fujita - Fujita & Miura Public Relations, LLC (State of Hawaii and Region IX)

### **Small Business Journalist of the Year**

Howard Dicus - Pacific Business News (State of Hawaii)  
Chona Montesines-Sonido - Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (City & County of Honolulu)  
Fern Gavelek - Fern Gavelek (County of Hawaii)  
Pamela Brown - Write Path, LLC (County of Kauai)  
Diane Woodburn - Maui no ka'oi Magazine (County of Maui)

### **Minority Small Business Champion of the Year**

Debbie Hallof - Business Advisory Group, Inc. (State of Hawaii)  
Hal Fraser - Hawaii Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc. (City & County of Honolulu)  
Thomas & Vicki Nelson - Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc. (County of Hawaii)  
Oscar Portugal - County of Kauai and Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce (County of Kauai)  
Susie Thieman - MEO Business Development Corporation (County of Maui)

### **Women in Business Champion of the Year**

Barbara Bennett - Kauai Island News (State of Hawaii)  
Joann Seery - Business Network International (City & County of Honolulu)  
Anna Ribucan - County of Maui (County of Maui)

## 2006 State of Hawai'i SBA Small Business Award Winners

### **2006 Small Business Person of the Year – State of Hawai'i**

**Russ and Randy Boyer**  
**Aloha Lumber Company, Inc.**



*Randy & Russ Boyer*  
*Aloha Lumber Company, Inc.*

Since 1980, Russ and Randy Boyer have owned, managed, and operated Aloha Lumber Company, Inc., a thriving small business located in Kapaa. The company has grown into one of the largest building materials retailers and distributors on the island, generating millions in revenues by serving contractors and builders at four locations, offering diverse products and services and providing 38 jobs for island residents.

Nominated by: Joelle Wada, Bank of Hawai'i  
Dan Oshima, American Savings Bank

### **Small Business Person of the Year – City and County of Honolulu**

**William J. Hughes and Dana H.Y. Chun**  
**King Food Service, Inc.**



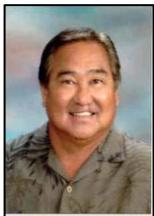
*William Hughes & Dana Chun*  
*King Food Service, Inc.*

Will Hughes and Dana Chun have the focus and business acumen required to make King Food Service a multimillion dollar industry leader. Their company distributes chilled and frozen food products to supermarkets, hotels and restaurants. With innovative ideas and products like specialty foods, unique product promotions, and sponsorship of culinary training and scholarships, KFS distinguishes itself among competitors.

Nominated by Roland Chang and Denise Haruki, Central Pacific Bank

### **Small Business Person of the Year – County of Maui**

**David Miyake**  
**Miyake Concrete Accessories, Inc.**



*David Miyake*  
*Miyake Concrete*  
*Accessories, Inc.*

Since starting Miyake Concrete Accessories, Inc. in 1979, David Miyake has added five more locations, including a Lahaina facility financed with an SBA 504 loan. A Vietnam veteran, Miyake focused that drive and discipline on building his business and sells a wide range of products and equipment for construction, renovation and home improvement. Started with six employees, Miyake now provides 70 jobs and has built a multimillion-dollar enterprise that strives to offer the best in service, quality, and pricing.

Nominated by Charles Keyes, Central Pacific Bank

**2006 Small Business Person of the Year – County of Hawai'i**

**Margaret Pahio and Shon Pahio**

**HMP, Inc. dba Business Services Hawai'i**



**Shon & Margaret Pahio**  
*HMP, Inc. dba Business  
Services Hawai'i*

In 1984, Margaret Pahio started Business Services Hawai'i, a residential rubbish service with just one truck. In addition to new services like commercial pick-up, recycling, and shredding for confidential files, BSH created four recycling sites for the county. Son Shon Pahio soon joined the company after working with large recyclers on the mainland. The mother-son team have increased revenues by over 200% between 2000 and 2004. BSH had grown to handle 450 commercial accounts across the Big Island providing jobs for 18 people.

Nominated by Calvin Kang, Central Pacific Bank

**2006 Entrepreneurial Success of the Year - State of Hawai'i**

**Brian I. Kitagawa**

**I. Kitagawa and Company**



**Brian  
Kitagawa**  
*I. Kitagawa and  
Company, Ltd.*

Opened by Isojiro Katagawa as a simple fish market in 1905, I.Kitagawa and Company, Ltd. has changed with technology and with the community. Over that 100 years, they provided goods ranging from fish, to gasoline, appliances to automobiles and the entrepreneurial spirit of the family has survived and thrived, once using an SBA loan to recover after a tsunami! Today, under the leadership of Brian Kitagawa, the company is no longer a "small" business, providing employment for over 160 people, and generating millions in revenue each year.

Nominated by Roberta Chu and Art Taniguchi, Bank of Hawai'i

**2006 SBA Family Owned Small Business of the Year – State of Hawai'i & Region IX**

**Tad Miura, Eric Miura and Ann Yamamoto**

**M. Miura Store, Inc. dba Déjà vu Surfwear**



**Tad Miura, Ann Yamamoto & Eric Miura**  
*M. Miura Store, Inc. dba Déjà vu Surfwear*

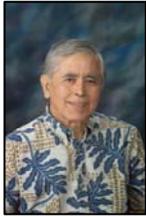
Established over 97 years ago by great grandfather, Makichi Miura, the current management team is the fourth generation to run this company that evolved with the community, serving as a small candy store, a general store, a clothing shop and, currently, a popular surfwear retailer with three locations. Of the 34 employees, 24% of the staff are direct descendants of the founder.

Nominated by Paul Endo, First Hawaiian Bank.

**2006 SBA Family Owned Business of the Year - County of Maui**

**James Takamiya**

**Takamiya Market, Inc.**



*James Takamiya  
Takamiya Market*

Takamiya Market was opened by Kamade Takamiya in the 1930s and operated as a fish market exactly where it stands today. James Takamiya took the reigns in 1972 when brother Kenneth, the first successor, retired. Making critical choices necessary in a changing market, he started Dani's Catering in 1975, built a banquet hall, launched a delivery service, and soon started selling local favorites he prepared. The Takamiyas created a multimillion-dollar business with over forty employees, including six family members. James will turn the keys over to Lance, the next generation, later in 2006.

Nominated by Patrice Matsumoto, Central Pacific Bank.

**2006 Family Owned Business of the Year - City and County of Honolulu**

**Bobby Toguchi**

**Highway Inn, Inc.**



*Bobby Toguchi  
Highway Inn*

After release from internment camps in 1946, the Toguchis started Highway Inn serving American, Hawai'ian, and local foods. The inn now seats more than 55, and serves about 500 meals each day. After training with his father, Bobby Toguchi showed intuitive business skills, took the helm and expanded the business to include a Seafood Market and a catering business. In 2003, Bobby's daughter Regina, stepped up to help run the business and continue the family legacy in 2003 and the well known Waipahu landmark lives on.

Nominated by Beulah Olanalan, Bank of Hawai'i

**2006 Small Business Exporter of the Year – State of Hawai'i & Region IX**

**Tim, Alice and Frank Law**

**FAT Law's Farm, Inc.**



*Tim Law, Alice Law & Frank Law  
FAT Law's Farm, Inc.*

FAT Law's Farm has become one of Hawai'i's main producers and distributors of fresh herbs and vegetables, accounting for 60% of the basil exports from the state. As exporters, the Laws have creatively resolved problems in shipping, product shelf life, supplies, and product quality improvements with many small farmers to be shipped across Canada and the mainland U.S.

Nominated by Thong Songvilay and John Dickinson,  
American Savings Bank

**2006 Small Business Exporter of the Year – City and County of Honolulu**

**Edwin & Miriam Noh, Raymond Noh, Howard Noh**

**E&M Corporation dba Noh Foods**



*Edwin Noh, (Miriam Noh), Raymond Noh & Howard Noh  
NOH Foods of Hawai'i*

Founded by Edwin and Miriam Noh in 1963, E&M Corporation dba Noh Foods is our leading manufacturer of packaged Asian sauces and mixes. Thirty different products are now exported out of Hawai'i to Asia, Australia, New Zealand and even to France. Raymond and Howard Noh, sons of the founders, operate their successful business today, expanding exports with an eye on the appeal of products to new

markets and cultures. Noh Foods is involved in the Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association and participate in training, trade shows, and other promotions for Hawai'i food products.

Nominated by Paul Vella, Central Pacific Bank

**2006 Young Entrepreneur of the Year – State of Hawai'i & Region IX**

**Benjamin C. Fouts**

**Hawai'i Pacific Aviation, Inc. dba Mauna Loa Helicopters**



*Benjamin Fouts  
Hawai'i Pacific  
Aviation, Inc. dba  
Mauna Loa  
Helicopters*

Mauna Loa Helicopters is the premier helicopter flight training school in Hawai'i, and owner Ben Fouts has bold, creative ideas to expand to offer aerial photography, aerial crane and external load services to contractors, medical evacuation and tour services. In just three short years – and before reaching 30 years of age - Fouts has managed to turn around the Kona firm. He has increased annual revenues well over 300% since 2002 and now employs 15 full time staff on Kauai, Oahu and the Big Island.

Nominated by Christie Dermengian, Bank of Hawai'i.

**2006 Home Based Business of the Year – State of Hawai'i & Region IX**

**Joy Miura Koerte and Jenny Fujita**

**Fujita & Miura Public Relations**



*Joy Koerte & Jenny Fujita  
Fujita & Miura Public Relations, LLC*

Joy Koerte and Jenny Fujita, of Fujita & Miura Public Relations, have contributed greatly to the credibility of home based businesses in the islands through the advocacy and training of small businesses as well as by their own success. The pair is involved with workshops, mentoring, and coaching often with the Hawai'i Small Business Development Center's office, the Chamber of Commerce and Kauai Micro. They actively advocate for county ordinances which support home based firms and directly impact the annual revenues of other firms by referring

business and by subcontracting work from clients.

Nominated by Leland Kahawai, First Hawaiian Bank

## **2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year – State of Hawai‘i**

**Howard Dicus**

**Pacific Business News**



*Howard Dicus  
Pacific Business News*

Howard Dicus, well known journalist featured in the Pacific Business News and on the KHON-2 morning news, has contributed countless articles, stories, and commentary to highlight small business and puts their issues in perspective. With over 35 years of experience in the industry, he has been news anchor, reporter, editor and executive, working with the Associated Press, Mutual News and the United Press International. Dicus is also host of the “PBN Friday” business program on PBS.

Nominated by Naomi Masuno, Central Pacific Bank

## **2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year - County of Maui**

**Diane Haynes Woodburn**

**Editor and Publisher**

**Maui Nō Ka’Oi Magazine**



*Diane Woodburn  
Maui nō ka ‘oi  
Magazine*

Involved with journalism on Maui for twenty years, Diane Haynes Woodburn knows what she writes about in Maui No Ka ‘Oi Magazine. She started her first publication in 1983 called “Art to Onions” featuring articles on Maui businesses and their products and evolved into Pacific Art and Travel. After a hiatus, she created Maui No Ka ‘Oi to showcase small businesses and industries that show uniqueness and creativity or explores issues such as sustainability, education, the environment and the role of small businesses in the economy and the community.

Nominated by Lolita Feliciano, Bank of Hawai‘i

## **2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year - County of Hawai‘i**

**Fern Gavelek**

**Fern Gavelek Communications**



*Fern Gavelek  
Fern Gavelek  
Communications*

With over 25 years in journalism, Fern Gavelek is one of the most talented business writers on the Big Island. She develops in depth stories that are compelling and showcase the contributions provided by small business. Her stories have been featured in This Week Publications, Kona Views magazine, North Hawai‘i News, Hilo Tribune-Herald, the Kona Kohala Chamber newsletter, Na Leo ‘O Hawai‘i television and for the Kona Coffee Festival’s series on farms. In 2002, she launched her company, Fern Gavelek Communications, to do freelance writing and public relations.

Nominated by Christie Dermengian, Bank of Hawai‘i

**2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year – City and County of Honolulu**

**Chona Montesines-Sonido**

**Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle**



**Chona Montesines-Sonido**  
*Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle*

Under the initiatives and direction of Chona Montesines-Sonido, the Hawai'i Filipino Chronicle has become a formidable resource for small businesses and the Filipino community. She captures the spirit of entrepreneurship in the features on successful business owners. Working with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce and the FilCom Center, Sonido is able to provide assistance through public service announcements, on, and volunteerism to advance opportunities for small businesses. Sonido advocates for a better business environment through her editorials focused on critical issues.

Nominated by Chris Yamada, First Hawaiian Bank

**2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year – County of Kaua'i**

**Pamela Brown**

**Write Path LLC**



**Pamela Brown**  
*Write Path, LLC*

Pam Brown, small business owner and writer, increases understanding of the challenges that small business owners face and how vital they are to the economy through her articles and features. She creates vital links between businesses, customers and the community. Her published features and public speaking present a clear snapshot of business ownership. She is a contributor to Kaua'i Business Report, Hawai'i Premier Homes, and the founding editor and a writer for Kaua'i Woman magazine, which covers business women on Kaua'i.

Nominated by Sonia Topenio and Jim Mayfield, Bank of Hawai'i

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year - State of Hawai'i**

**Deb Hallof**

**Business Advisory Group**



**Debbie Hallof**  
*Business Advisory Group, Inc.*

Debbie Hallof has been supporting small businesses throughout Hawai'i for over 15 years. Hallof provides business consulting services specializing in strategic planning, performance management, needs assessment and other critical business management areas. Hallof has voluntarily provided training and support to the Hawai'i Women's Business Center, the Kuha'o Business Center on Moloka'i, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Small Business Resource Center in Honolulu which has served as many as 9,000 people a year.

Nominated by Kelly Walsh, consultant, formerly with Bank of Hawai'i.

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – County of Maui**

**Susie Thieman**

**MicroEnterprise Director, Maui Economic Opportunity Business Development Corporation**



*Susie Thieman  
MEO Business  
Development Corp.*

After years as a business owner, Susie Thieman joined MEO Business Development Corporation to invigorate the Micro-enterprise Program and expand their reach to minorities. Thieman has long been a champion for those who face unfair social or economic disadvantages. Over 45% of MEO's clientele are minorities. She increased participation in the Core Four training and works collaboratively with the Maui SBDC, Maui County OE D and the Maui Chamber. Her efforts continue to offer great help to business start-ups in rural Hana, Molokai and Lanai.

Nominated by Paul Felix, American Savings Bank

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – County of Kaua'i**

**Oscar Portugal**

**County of Kaua'i and Kaua'i Filipino Chamber of Commerce**



*Oscar Portugal  
County of Kaua'i  
& Kaua'i Filipino  
Chamber of  
Commerce*

Oscar Portugal has his finger on the pulse of Kaua'i. A volunteer with a talent to make things happen, Portugal facilitated the creation of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce in 2001, a venue for more than 150 minority business owners and professionals to network, mentor and advance. Assuming the leadership as volunteer director, he initiated important activities including political forums in 2002 and 2004, a Nursing Study program, the Statewide Business Forum and a successful series of meetings featuring speakers like Representative Ed Case, Director Nelson Befitel of DLIR and others.

Nominated by Sonia Topenio and Jennifer Sandrowski, Bank of Hawai'i.

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year - County of Hawai'i**

**Thomas & Vicki Nelson**

**Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc.**



*Thomas & Vicki Nelson  
Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc.*

Puna Kamali'i Flowers, Inc. in Keeau engages in propagating, packing, and selling plants and foliage. Thomas and Vicki Nelson operate what seems an ordinary small business with an extraordinary mission: to provide training, coaching and support to individuals with disabilities, a minority group with limited access to business opportunities or employment. The revenues generated by the business cover their costs so they focus on the goals for their workers. Their advocacy fosters awareness and trains the disabled to become viable, productive and motivated employees.

Nominated by Keene Fujinaka, Bank of Hawai'i

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year – City and County of Honolulu**

**Hal Fraser**

**Hawai'i Center for Entrepreneurship**



**Hal Fraser**  
*Hawai'i Center for  
Entrepreneurship, Inc.*

Hal Fraser, President of the Hawai'i Center for Entrepreneurship, has a passion to help get small businesses on their way to success through training and consulting. With his interest in helping disadvantaged individuals, he is a technical assistance provider for SBA's Community Express Loan program and knows other loan alternatives. Fraser has provided coaching and training for disabled clients to help implement their ideas and get loans from a special HDVR fund. Fraser also addresses groups on topics like goal setting and vision, networking skills and value added partnerships.

Nominated by Naomi Masuno of Central Pacific Bank

**2006 Financial Services Champion of the Year - State of Hawai'i**

**David B. Fisher**

**Maui Center Director, Hawai'i Small Business Development Center Network**



**David Fisher**  
*Hawai'i SBDC  
Network*

David Fisher has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the small businesses of Hawai'i. Fisher helps small business owners, working with over 2,500 entrepreneurs and generating \$55 million in economic activity on Maui over the last 15 years. He has worked with Maui Economic Opportunity, Lokahi Pacific, the Governors Community Based Economic Development Board, the Maui Mayor's Business Task force and created the Maui Enterprise Forum website.

Nominated by Kevin Yoshida, Central Pacific Bank

**2006 Women in Business Champion of the Year - State of Hawai'i and County of Kaua'i**

**Barbara Bennett**

**Kaua'i Island News**



**Barbara Bennett**  
*Kaua'i Island News*

Barbara Bennett is a lifelong advocate for the success of women, not only in business but in life itself. This single mother of six believes that with drive and desire to excel, you can achieve and often exceed your goals and strives to instill that concept in other women. She volunteers with the Women in Business Roundtable, a forum that she helped establish, the Chamber of Commerce, Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, Bennett is the account executive for the Kaua'i Island News, the Honolulu Advertiser's fast growing weekly.

Nominated by Jennifer Sandrowski, Bank of Hawai'i.

## **2006 Women in Business Champion of the Year – City and County of Honolulu**

**Joann Seery**

**Business Network International (BNI) / Serious Business Solutions**



**Joann Seery**  
*Business Network  
International*

Joann Seery has a genuine commitment to helping women business owners achieve success. A volunteer with HWBC and a technical assistance provider for SBA's Community Express, she helps women build skills, confidence and financial resources. In 2002, Seery purchased Business Network International (BNI) Hawai'i and turned the organization around to support more small businesses. As president of Professional Women's Network, she has worked to rebuild this valuable organization. Seery has shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with countless women, helping make their dreams come true.

Nominated by Beulah Olanolan, Bank of Hawai'i

## **2006 Women in Business Champion of the Year - County of Maui**

**Anna K. Ribucan**

**Small Business Advocate, Maui County**

**Maui County Business Resource Center**



**Anna Ribucan**  
*County of Maui*

Anna Ribucan brings wisdom and experience to the women-owned businesses she passionately mentors today. Starting her firm with an SBA loan, she learned the critical lessons she teaches to others. Ribucan also offers assistance for SBA's Community Express Loan, targeting women borrowers. As Maui's Small Business Advocate, she is a direct line to the Mayor and runs the Business Resource Center. She has successfully linked to statewide resources like SBA, UH, Hawai'i SBDC and the Hawai'i Women's Business Center. Ribucan takes every opportunity to promote business growth for Maui's women.

Nominated by Kevin Yoshida, Central Pacific Bank