

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - April 29, 2002

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PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

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SBA awards come out this week

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The Honolulu regional office of the U.S. Small Business Administration hands out its annual awards this week.

The 15th annual statewide SBA awards luncheon will be tomorrow, Tuesday, April 23, 11:30 a.m., Sheraton Waikiki. Information: 541-2990.

Winners have already been announced. They are:

Small Business Person of the Year: Thanh Quoc Lam, owner of Ba-Le Inc., the company behind 21 Ba-Le sandwich shops and restaurants in Hawaii. The Oahu winners are Alan and Jennifer Shintani, general contractors. Craig and Teena Rasmussen of Paradise Flower Farm in Kula won the same award for Maui. The Big Island award went to Colin Nakagawa of Seaside Restaurant in Hilo, and the Kauai award went to Ian Kagimoto of Aqua Engineers Inc.

The SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year -- winners must be under 30 and have owned their business for at least three years -- is Darren Kimura, a certified county engineer. Kimura also won the Regional Award.

Entrepreneurial success awards are going to Big Island businessman David DeLuz Sr. and Maui Clothing Co.'s Ed Wayne. Exporter awards go to Yu-Sen Hwang of Rainbow Farms Hawaii -- he exports fresh herbs -- and Pat McGrath of Hawaii Foliage Exports.

A sampling of several additional awards include Leona Jona of KNDI Honolulu for minority small-business advocate, the YWCA's Cheryl Ka'uhane for women in business advocate and Barry Gay of Maui Economic Opportunity for home-based business advocate.

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