

# Members work toward sustainable Maui, Hawaii

## THE CHAMBER VIEW

by Pamela Tumpap



Many Maui businesses are working toward a sustainable future for Maui and the state of Hawaii by focusing on sustainable design, practices and technologies as all or a part of their business operations.

As the Maui Chamber of Commerce is assisting with the creation of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, we think it is important to recognize the efforts already under way. Thankfully, we're blessed with a host of excellent Maui examples that can't be covered in one article. However, we thought we would periodically share examples with you in this column, starting with three examples of current efforts by Maui Chamber of Commerce members (found by simply looking at their Web sites).

### Aloha Recycling — Taking care of the land

A certified redemption center that turns HI 5 containers into cash (actual cash, no checks), Aloha Recycling accepts alu-

minum, plastic, glass and bi-metal drink containers, and readies the material for other products. The recycled glass is crushed on-site and used by local companies as pipe cushion and asphalt mix. The crushed glass also is used for sandblasting, decorative landscaping and water filtration. The clear-plastic bottles are shipped to China, where they are used in making items like indoor/outdoor carpet. No. 2 plastics are bailed and sent to the West Coast, where they are processed into plastic lumber. And aluminum is crushed and packed into 40-foot containers and shipped to Alabama, to a major aluminum-recycling factory. Aluminum recycled today can be back on the shelf as a new recycled can in as few as 60 days. There is no limit to the times aluminum can be recycled. But, most importantly, recycled items do not go into our landfill, and that's a huge savings for Maui!

### Dowling Co. Inc. — Building in balance

Forging a new path that leads to closely examining and effectively managing the environmental and human impact of every building they develop, the Dowling Co. Inc. has adopted the nationally recognized U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental De-

sign (LEED) Rating System. The intent of green building design is to balance environmental responsiveness, resource efficiency, and cultural and community sensitivity. The goal of this process is to create buildings that meet the needs of current building occupants while being mindful of the needs of future generations. The Dowling Co. began with its own office, which is the first LEED-certified building on Maui and demonstrates the company's commitment to fulfilling its corporate values of superior quality while maintaining the vitality and well-being of Maui. Dowling staff members' own LEED-certification effort enabled them to identify and improve performance in five areas: sustainable site; water; energy and atmosphere; indoor environmental quality; and materials and re-

sources. Since that time, the Dowling Co. has registered an additional eight buildings throughout its projects on Maui for LEED certification.

### Pacific Biodiesel Inc. — Renewable fuel

Created to answer concerns over potential environmental and health problems resulting from restaurant grease clogging the Central Maui Landfill, Robert King, owner of King Diesel on Maui, started with a small-scale, economically feasible operation to maintain the generators at the landfill. The workers went on to attack an even larger landfill problem: grease-trap waste. With the addition of a custom-designed grease-trap-oil processor, they then were able to supply their own boiler fuel, diverting 140 tons of grease-trap oil from

the landfill each month. This bio-fuel product is available for considerably less than petroleum diesel fuel.

Biodiesel is a completely natural, renewable fuel applicable in most any situation where conventional petroleum diesel is used. It is 100 percent vegetable-oil based. The fuel produced by Pacific Biodiesel Inc. in Hawaii is made primarily from recycled cooking oil and used mostly in generators of all sizes, commercial diesel equipment, vehicles and marine vessels. Since the opening of the Maui processing plant, it has become more economical for pump trucks to deliver used restaurant oil to Pacific Biodiesel than to landfill it, resulting in a landfill diversion total of more than 40 tons of used cooking oil per month.

We're excited and encouraged

by what these and other members are doing to sustain Maui and provide models within our state. We hope these first few highlights have sparked an interest in learning more about what's being done on Maui in the area of sustainability.

We will be highlighting sustainability efforts on the Maui Chamber of Commerce Web site at [www.mauichamber.com](http://www.mauichamber.com) soon. We invite the business community to tell us about its sustainable efforts, by sending us information at [info@mauichamber.com](mailto:info@mauichamber.com), so we can help share with the community what businesses are doing.

Let's learn from one another and work together to create a vibrant and sustainable Maui and Hawaii.

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