

HKCC HONORS DONALD BUM SIK KANG: ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



Donald Bum Sik Kang

The Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Donald Bum Sik Kang is this year's Entrepreneur of the Year. Donald Kang is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Pomare, Ltd., a Hawaii corporation that owns and operates eight retail outlets throughout the State of Hawaii under the trade names Hilo Hattie and Island Edge.

the recipient of several awards including the Wall Street Journal Business Leadership Award in 2001 and 2003, the Minority Businessman of the Year Award (SBA, West Region Manufacturer) in 1998, and the Minority Businessman of the Year Award from the State of Hawaii in 1997. He is also a dedicated husband and father. His wife Jennie and two children, Howard and Edward, live in Honolulu.

"I am humbled to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce" says Mr. Kang. "This award is very special to me because it represents recognition from my peers, who understand the work ethic of our shared ancestral background."

The Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce proudly salutes 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year, Donald Kang for his leadership and excellence in business.

Q. How would you describe your company?

Hilo Hattie is a vertically-integrated company that provides all things Hawaiian and epitomizes the Hawaii brand. We provide a 'one-stop' shopping and gift-giving solution by providing a vast array of products.

Q. What motivated you to start your own business?

It would be pretty safe to say that all parents want to provide a secure and wholesome life for their children. With that said, while I was working in the International Market Place I got to observe tourists on vacation. It was there I set my goals to eventually own Hilo Hattie. The process was not easy, but hard work and determination over the years finally rewarded me in achieving my goals.

The Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce initiated the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1997. Eligible nominees must have conducted business for at least three years, be at least 50% Korean ethnicity, and their company must demonstrate a pattern of business and employee growth under the nominee's direction and leadership. Nominees must also be active in community projects and organizations.

Donald Kang has demonstrated excellence and achievement in business and a passion for giving back unselfishly. His hands-on leadership and commitment in everything he does, speaks volumes about his character. His hard work has led him to much success, but through it all he remains grounded and eager to improve the community.

In 2006, Mr. Kang became a founding director of Ohana Pacific Bank, a Hawaii chartered commercial bank. Shortly thereafter in 2009 Donald Kang purchased Hilo Hattie's parent company, Pomare, Ltd, and in doing so saved one of Hawaii's most influential brands from bankruptcy.

Chamber of Commerce member Daniel Pyun acknowledges the award recipient's leadership. He says, "Donald Kang is an actualizer. He makes things happen. The results of his leadership is manifested throughout our community."

Mr. Kang immigrated to the United States from Korea in 1980, and he has lived in Hawaii since 1982. He has been

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