

Real Stuff

Roy Sakamoto Honored for Community and Professional Involvement

By Wayne Smith

It is a wonderful thing to be recognized by your community for volunteer activities and services that benefit the community at large. It is equally fulfilling to be singled out by your professional peers for your work in that specific community. But for Roy Sakamoto, owner with his wife Betty, of Sakamoto Properties Inc. in Napili, both honors came together simultaneously in September. The **Maui Chamber of Commerce** presented Roy its prestigious **Humanitarian of the Year** award early in the month at the annual Business Awards dinner, and just days later, the **Maui Board of Realtors** named him the **Realtor of the Year**. In each case, he was recognized for his years of volunteer service to Hale Makua, Maui's not-for-profit private corporation that provides diverse healthcare programs for residents and the elder community. Services of Hale Makua include nursing home care, home health, rehabilitation and recovery, adult day health, and foster family services. In nominating Roy for the annual recognition, Anthony J. Krieg, President and CEO noted that "he is a kind and generous man, who gives from the heart and never asks for recognition. He gives tirelessly, and his efforts have made a tremendous difference in the lives our residents, staff, and, indeed, the entire community of Maui."

Since 1986, Roy was "always there for Hale Makua," says Krieg. "He shares his valuable time and incredible expertise with us at a moment's notice."

Roy became a member of the Hale Makua Board of Trustees in 1989 and is currently serving as Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Executive Review committees. He is a member of the Hale Makua Foundation Board and its Finance and Special Events committees. He is a charter member of the Hale Makua Foundation Board and served as its Chairman in 1999.



Roy Sakamoto

As Special Events Committee Chair, he successfully planned, organized, and implemented innovative special events to support Hale Makua. These events included golf tournaments, dinner cruises, barbecues, luaus, gala openings at the Lao Theater, volunteer recognition luncheons, gourmet dinners, and the grand opening of Lahaina's 505 Front Street Shops. He was instrumental in having Hale Makua named the benefiting charity of the Kaanapali Senior Pro-Am Golf Classic since its inception fifteen years ago. Not only has Roy made significant monetary contribution and provided countless volunteer hours to support Hale Makua programs, but he has enlisted the support of this staff at Sakamoto Properties and many others in the community as well to become regular contributors of time, money, and talent.

Roy's recognition from the Maui Board of Realtors as Realtor of the Year was based on his community work with Hale Makua plus his significant contribution to the success of his profession, both on Maui and at the state level. For the MBR he has served on the Professional Standards and Arbitration Committee, 1999-01, Nominating Committee, 1998-99, Treasurer, 1996, Finance and Budget Committee Chair, 1996, Finance and Budget Committee Vice-Chair, 1995, Executive Committee 1995-96, Hawaii Association of Realtors (HAR) Standard Forms Committee (Maui representative), 1994-01, and MBR Standard Forms Committee, Chair. There is the old adage that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. Roy Sakamoto is the perfect example of how that works. Real Estate Maui Style sends our congratulations to Roy for the honors he has so rightfully earned and thanks for the tireless contribution he makes to the quality of life on Maui.

Whalers's Realty Inc. held the 8th annual Jack Kelley Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting St. Francis Medical Center's Organ Transplant Institute on September 15 - just 4 days after the terrorist attack on America. It was decided to hold the tournament as scheduled because, as Bob Cartwright put it, "It was a way for many members of our community to pull together and demonstrate the essence of being American - we overcome obstacles! Everyone participated with subdued enthusiasm, many displaying American flags on their golf carts and clothing. It was inspiring."

The tournament has raised more than \$35,000 over the years and significantly increased the public knowledge and acceptance of organ donations. Incidentally, Jack Kelly, for whom the tournament is named, was the founder of Whalers Realty and a mentor to Bob and Tess Cartwright, the current owners who have made it a very successful company. Tourney chair, Hank Quayle, reports that 39 teams of three (117) golfers played and attended the festivities.

Eric Burgess, Paul Haake, Byron Rodrigues, employees of Kaanapali Beach resorts, comprised the winning team. The family team of Elizabeth Quayle, and husband David Barca, both agents with Whalers Realty Inc., and David's daughter, Gina Barca, of Napili Realty, won second place accolades. Tess Cartwright produced a video of the event that aired on Maui's public access TV.

Never too tired to make a contribution to the quality of life on Maui, Bob and Tess Cartwright showed up the next day at the Lahaina Yacht Club's golf tournament to benefit the American Cancer Society. While they didn't win any golfing prizes, they did win big at the live auction, conducted by Chuck Dicker. Tourney chair Joe Gallagher presented a check for over \$17,000 to the Maui Molokai Lanai Unit of the ACS for use in providing patient services to the communities.