

## Gift Club

A company which has had an employee-run charity committee for three years now is Hawaii Modular Space. Called Makana Hui, the committee distributes \$10,000 annually to nonprofit groups that promote health, education and overall well-being to Hawaii's families. In addition, each employee also is assigned \$100 to donate to a charity of his/her choice. Past recipients include: the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation, Leeward YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii. In 2004, the \$10,000 was awarded for the first time to a single organization: the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, which gives at-risk students a second chance to earn their high school diplomas. This year the Makana Hui fund is increased to \$25,000.



"I have always enjoyed being philanthropic," says Mike Fox, president. "I've always seen the benefits of it. As our business grew and was successful, I wanted to continue giving back to the community in a corporate way and a structured way. I also thought it was really important to involve our people,

A past recipient of a Hawaii Modular Space Makana Hui gift, the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii honor company representatives Julie Wataroi and Ann Martin (adults wearing lei) with a mahalo presentation.

our employees. I didn't want it to just be something that I mandated or I directed and made all the decisions. I wanted our employees to be involved so that they got the same understanding and the same appreciation for giving back to the community."

Besides the warm feeling from having done a good deed, another benefit, according to Fox, is: "There's validation from the business community, your clientele base, that they are dealing with a company that really is committed to the place we live in and is committed to giving back to our community."

In the construction industry, it's not always about building a physical building or bridge. Sometimes, it's also about building relationships, bridging the gap and making a difference in the community.



These NAWIC members spearheaded the renovation of The Salvation Army Family Treatment Center in Kaimuki this year. They recruited volunteers to help with painting, pouring concrete, excavation work, glass work, etc.