



NEWS RELEASE

HAWAII DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: April 6, 2004
Release Number: DO 04-11

Contact: Jane Sawyer 808-541-2973
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

SBA Prepares to Celebrate Small Business Week 2004

Honolulu, Hawaii – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s annual National Small Business Week commemoration, SBA Expo ’04, will be held in Orlando, FL., May 19-21 at the Orange County Convention Center. The celebration honors America’s leading entrepreneurs, and includes the announcement of the *National Small Business Person of the Year*. Special events this year will include a small business expo, a business matchmaking event, business seminars, a town hall meeting, and award ceremonies honoring women entrepreneurs and state and national small business winners. Other highlights will include business industry leaders and speakers from trade associations, and state level and federal government.

“SBA Expo ’04 will celebrate the many contributions of the small business men and women whose hard work and perseverance have created opportunities for millions of Americans,” said Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “The SBA is proud to honor the entrepreneurial spirit that has helped strengthen the nation’s economy.”

SBA Expo ’04 is the culmination of national and regional events held to commemorate the SBA’s 50th anniversary, which was launched in September 2003, at the SBA’s National Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C. More than 3,000 participants from across the nation marked the agency’s 50th anniversary. A highlight of NECE was the inauguration of the SBA’s “Hall of Fame,” which honored nationally known companies that started with SBA assistance.

In Hawaii, special events to recognize the achievements of small business owners, entrepreneurs and advocates will be held across the state, culminating in the **17th Annual Statewide Small Business Awards Luncheon** on April 28, 2004, at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort on Oahu. The Winner’s Circle, an exciting exhibit of the award winning firms focused on their products and services, innovations, and success strategies, will kick off the celebration at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon and awards will begin at 12 noon. Twenty three top businesses will be honored for their contribution to the local economy, their determination and business savvy. The neighbor island chambers are also hosting events on Hawaii, Kauai and Maui to recognize their small business award winners. Advance registrations are necessary for all the events.

For more information and to register for SBA Expo ’04, visit the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/50 . Information on the 17th Annual Statewide Small Business Awards activities is available through the Hawaii District Office at 808-541-2973.

For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

###