

# Shared Vision

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## *President's Message*



***Filo Tu, President/CEO***

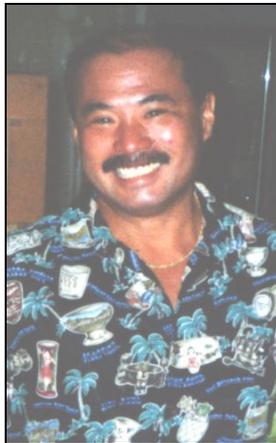
I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays. Holidays are something very special! I don't know about you, but for me, it makes me stop and think how fortunate I am. We are all too busy trying to make a living. I don't think anyone would blame us for that, but it is very important to take some time to appreciate what you have.

How lucky we are. You see, we have the best of two worlds. We have jobs, and therefore; we have the opportunity to look forward to Holidays, vacations, and many other things. The message to you, is to be grateful for everything that you have. I am very grateful to Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. for giving me the opportunity to do what I was

unable to do before. I am also grateful to all of you because you make Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. to be what it is today. Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. is our company. I hope you will be proud of Ohana just as much as I am.

Let's all be grateful for the little things we have, because the little things that we have, are a lot to those who don't have any. May God bless all of you and your families. Let us pray that the good Lord will continue to look with favor on Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.!!! Thank you very much.

## *Operations Manager's Message*



***Garret Suzuki, Operations Mgr.***

Our company's name, Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc., was selected for a special reason.

Ohana, in Hawaiian means family. The people who chose this name believed that when everyone works together in harmony (owners, managers, and employees) the likelihood for a prosperous company is greater. It is evident that some of the employees at Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. have forgotten this important concept.

In order for a family, organization, company, or any group to be successful in whatever its goals or missions are, it is very important that each member work and play together in harmony.

The goals and mission of the owners and management of BVO are: 1) to build a company that will prosper; 2) to create an atmosphere that is positive and conducive to a friendly and happy working environment, and; 3) to employ people who will create an atmosphere that is warm and friendly, so customers will feel welcome and happy for visiting our shops.

How can we achieve our missions? It certainly is not by having conflicts with your fellow employees in or out of the shops. I understand that each of us have individual rights and opinions, but it is essential that we take the responsibility to deal with our personal and work problems in a

mature and positive manner. After all we are adults and not children. Thus, we should be able to handle our emotions in a positive manner, so we do not create a problem on the job.

How do we deal with our problems? 1) Leave your personal problem at home and away from the work environment; 2) If you have any work related problems, see your Lead, Supervisor, Manager, or Human Resource Manager. REMEMBER-Deal with your problems in a responsible, mature, and respectable manner, so you will not embarrass or disgrace yourself or Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.

### It Was A Merry 2004 Christmas Party



Ohana's 2004 Christmas Party was held at the Airport Hotel on December 10<sup>th</sup>. About 120 employees, family, friends and guests were treated to a fun-filled evening featuring some beautiful table decorations, tasty holiday foods, festive games, great door prizes, superb music, singing and disco dancing.

The Christmas Party Committee, comprised of employees (Betty Kumata, Ruth Jamile, Elizabeth Suliven, Sonia Haynes, Priscilla Griffin, Calmond Tang, Virginia Ibay, Joy Gibo, Lily Delos Santos, Brenda Bart, and Lilia Del Rosario) who volunteered to help organize and

plan to make the party a success. They did a marvelous job of planning, greeting people at the reception table, making table decorations and party favors, organizing games, arranging for music (Sandy's Mobile DJ), handling out door prizes, MC duties, etc.

Greeting our employees and guests at the reception table with smiles and good cheer from the cash room staff dressed in their holiday finery: Lily Delos Santos, Brenda Bart, and Leonor Yonemura. Upon entering the banquet room, employees and guests were treated to colorful and beautiful array of Christmas table decorations and favors put together by our decorations committee volunteers. The tables glistened from the miniature Christmas trees with lights (made by Ruth Jamile), the ceramic figurines (made by Elizabeth Suliven), sweet favors for everyone (made by Priscilla Griffin) and white table cloths with Christmas colored napkins set up by the Airport Hotel Staff.

Announcing and opening the party was our own "Mistress of Ceremony and Fun", Betty Kumata. The opening prayer by Stanley Mundon was beautifully done. Filo's warm welcome to everyone to enjoy the party and spirit of Christmas set the tone for Betty leading us in singing a couple of Christmas carols before dinner to start the party. There were many comments about the great selection of holiday and local food entrees (ham, chicken, and beef), sushi, salads, and desserts selected by Filo were plentiful and tasty.

Betty and her spirited team of volunteers: Elizabeth Suliven, Virginia Ibay, Rowena Carino, Lilia Del Rosario, Sonia Haynes, Maria Jones, and others helped with the games, music from our DJ Sandy and giving out door prizes. An added surprise treat for everyone, especially for the kids, was Cory Ma'ae's entrance as a Polynesian Santa Claus in Samoan attire, with Lance Choe as his helper, carrying their bags of goodies for the kids.

The games that our employees and kids played was planned and organized by Sonia Haynes and daughter, Kourni. Winners of each game, which included the kids, got gift cards from Longs and other prizes. The games Sonia organized were designed for the participants, which included kids participation, and audience to have fun....and we did!

Throughout the evening, many door prize items were generously donated by the owners (Filo, Tom, and Walter), good friend Warren Toyama, and vendors that do business with Ohana, such as the Madden Corporation, Pepsi, Islander Group, M&M Mars, and EFC, added to the suspense and joy throughout the evening. We had many, many, wonderful prizes such as color TV's, DVD - VHS combo TV's, clock radio-CD, DVD, and CD stereo sets, various sized coolers and water jugs, boxes of chocolate candies, several \$100 cash prizes, tote bags, T-shirts, Ward Center and Longs Drugs gift cards, leading up to the final two super door prizes: two Las Vegas travel and hotel trips for two persons. Lilia Del

Rosario and Sonia Haynes won the super door prizes donated by the Madden Corporation and Pepsi.

After Betty and Filo gave their acknowledgements and final announcements, our employees partied well past midnight dancing and singing karaoke in the Hotel lounge. We had terrific karaoke singers: Ira, Filo, Maria, and others who gave some great performances.

Once again, everyone did a great job of organizing, especially Filo and Garret, who got vendors, owners, and friends to donate a lot of door prizes.

**A REALLY BIG MAHALO** to all the employees who volunteered to work on the 2004 Christmas Party and to those who came to celebrate and have fun at the party! Ho! Ho! Ho! You all did so well.....so let's do it again next year!

### Pa'ahana Award Winners



Our first Pa'ahana Award winner is **Ronald Flormata**, a Sales Associate at the Honolulu International Terminal. Ron is a very personable, friendly, and conscientious employee who

displays outstanding customer relations.

Ron is married and a father of three, two daughters, and a son.

Ron received a degree in electrical engineering. However, his major interest is in computer. He is very knowledgeable in various aspects of computer technology and programming. He is the Webmaster for the Hawaii Association of the Blind website and conducts computer classes for the HAB membership.

Ron loves music and enjoys singing and playing the guitar.

Our second Pa'ahana Award winner is **Nani Ironmoccasin**, a Sales Associate at the International Terminal. This employee is very reserved, gracious, and someone with a pleasing personality. Her customer relations are outstanding.



Nani is the mother of four children, two girls and two boys. She is also blessed with six grandchildren.

Nani spends as much time as possible with her family doing various things. She also enjoys

outdoor activities, like camping and barbeques. Whenever she has any free time she enjoys watching movies on TV, especially films where Robert De Niro and Al Pacino are starring in. In the past she did a lot of sewing for herself and her children.

Our third Pa'ahana Award winner is **Ofelia Cadiz**. She is a custodian with Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. She is very quiet and effective. This young lady does an outstanding job of keeping BVO's premises neat and clean.

Ofelia finds it most enjoyable spending time with her family doing various activities. She finds it very relaxing watching Filipino programs on TV. She loves to cook, especially pancit and pinacbet. She also enjoys dancing.



Before being employed with Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. Ofelia was a custodian with the Honolulu Club. In June of 1996, while at the Honolulu Club, Ofelia received the "Associate of the Month" award for outstanding work.

*CONGRATULATIONS to all Pa'ahana Award winners!  
Wedding Bells*



Congratulations go out to **JR. Villaruz and his beautiful bride Jo Ann.** They were wed in the Philippines on November 26, 2004. The banquet was fantastic! The tables were laden with delicious Filipino and Chinese dishes. JR commented that the entire wedding was just unbelievable and memorable. JR and his bride spent a week on their honeymoon in Bagio.

JR and his wife are blessed with a handsome three year old, J.V. JR is very anxiously awaiting for his family to join him here in Hawaii.



Congratulations go out to **Chudako and Romeo Cantorna** upon birth of their first child. On Januray 27, 2005, they were blessed with a baby girl whose name is Alexis Rochelle. Alexis weighed in at 7 pounds and 8 ounces and 19 inches long. She was born in Kaiser Hospital. Sources tell us that little Alexis is very cute and looks like her dad.

Chudako is a Sales Associate at the Honolulu International Terminal.

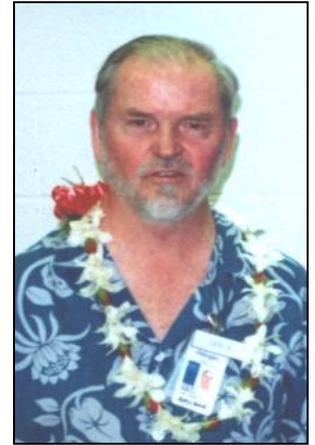


Congratulations, **Maricen and Shane Olipares!** The birth of their first born has brought much happiness to them and their families. On Tuesday, November 9, 2004, at approximately 1:11 p.m. their son, Daiten Ryder arrived. He weighed in at 7 pounds and 2.3 ounces and 19 ½ inches in length. Proud mom says, "Daiten looks like his dad. He is so cute, he smiles and baby talks a lot." You can see so much happiness and pride in Maricen's face whenever she talks about Daiten.

Maricen is Secretary to Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc. President and CEO, Filo Tu.



*In Memorium*



**Leslie Sebelle,** a Sales Associate of Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc., expired on September 27, 2004, at the Queen's Medical Center. He had been critically ill for a few months prior to his passing away.

Les was a very loyal and faithful employee. He said to some employees, "I love coming to work for Ohana because the people are so caring and compassionate." He thought Ohana's environment was very comfortable and warm.

We will always remember Les as a courageous man who never gave up hope. He was a genuine friend.



**Ways to Avoid Backache**



**By: Jim Kahue, HR Manager**

Recently my wife underwent knee replacement surgery on her right leg. After three weeks of post surgery suffering she began the long road to wellness and walking better by

going to physical therapy 2-3 times a week.

After a few weeks of making progress she began to have sharp back pain and aches in her lower back running all the way down her right leg. She asked for advice from her doctor and her therapist. Soon after doing the things they suggested she began to feel better and stopped taking pain pills which made her nauseated and uncomfortable.

Here are some of the advice they gave her: 1) stretch before you exercise or do any strenuous physical activity; 2) don't slouch when you stand or sit; 3) sleep on your side to reduce any curve in your spine – sleep on a firm surface; 4) wear comfortable low-heeled shoes; 5) keep your weight down and eat a

diet sufficient in calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin D; 6) when lifting something, lift with your knees, tightening your stomach muscles and keep your head down and back straight, and; 7) ask for help when lifting or walking up or down stairs.

Finally, although my wife doesn't smoke, they said that smoking reduces the blood flow to the lower spine causing the spinal discs to degenerate.

You can avoid having backaches by checking with your doctor and/or physical therapist and getting the expert's advice before starting a physical training program.



## A Look at "OHANA"



Sonia Haynes and Lilia Del Rosario were the big door prize winners for the Las Vegas trips

Photos taken from the 2004 Christmas Party:  
Owners, Employees, Family, & Friends of Blind Vendors Ohana, Inc.





