

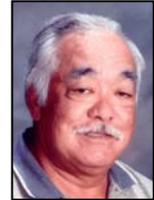
## MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR



**Robin Puanani Danner**  
Council for Native  
Hawaiian Advancement  
Region IX & State of  
Hawaii

As the leader and creator of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, **Robin Danner** is committed to promoting economic development opportunities that support minority business ownership. Bringing together business leaders, government agencies and non-profit organizations to promote Native Hawaiian causes, her work improves conditions for minority small businesses statewide. Millions of dollars have come to Hawaii for community development in just the past two years as the result of her advocacy efforts. Danner was instrumental in the formation of Hawaiian Homestead Technology, Inc., a for-profit technology firm providing jobs on Native Hawaiian homesteads. The Community Builder program provides training and technical assistance to over 200 non-profit organizations serving Native Hawaiian communities. She also developed the first Native Hawaiian Business and Economic Development Summit in 2002. *Nominated by: Kelly Walsh, Bank of Hawaii.*

**George Toyama** knows first-hand the challenges that business owners face. His struggles and ultimate success with his business, General Trades & Services, Inc., has motivated him to help minority entrepreneurs overcome barriers to achieve their dreams. Toyama devotes his time consulting and teaching classes for the Minority Business Development Center (MBDC). He serves on the 8(a) Council for the Building Industry Association and has helped several 8(a) certified firms with contract submittals, managing contracts, and technical advice on business operations. As a result, many of these local businesses have been awarded lucrative contracts, valued at over \$5 to \$7 million. Toyama's dedication to Honolulu's minority small business is invaluable to our community and has set a shining example for others. *Nominated by: Jean Williams, Minority Business Development Center of Honolulu.*



**George Toyama**  
General Trades &  
Services, Inc.  
City & County of Honolulu



**Judith Fox-Goldstein**  
UH at Hilo Conf. Cntr. &  
Hawaiian EDventure  
County of Hawaii

**Judith Fox-Goldstein**, Director of the UH at Hilo Conference Center, has been a supporter of minority-owned small businesses for over a decade. Fox-Goldstein launched her brainchild "Hawaiian EDventure," an innovative curriculum that encourages cultural and environmental exploration through opportunities to connect Kupuna (elders), scientists, artists, teachers, and business professionals. Hawaiian EDventure promotes an authentic experience through experiential tours on Hawaiian culinary arts, culture, and natural history. A majority of the 110 vendors associated with the program are minorities who Fox-Goldstein has personally coached to develop their business skills. The success of Hawaiian EDventure is evident in the numerous awards it has received over the past years. Fox-Goldstein is highly active as a volunteer in various community organizations and serves on non-profit boards and government commissions. *Nominated by: Art Taniguchi & Beth Dykstra, Bank of Hawaii.*

Working at the Department of Taxation, **Cielo Molina** has had contact with many small business owners looking to make a difference in their lives and their community. Molina demonstrates a commitment to help minority and women entrepreneurs achieve their dreams by providing assistance, training and opportunities. With the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, she has coordinated workshops and seminars on federal and state tax laws, resources for small business financing, and workplace communications. Molina also shares her talents through training partnerships with Alu Like, VITEC at Maui Community College and others. With the Makawao Main Street Association, she has been an advocate for the preservation of small businesses, balancing the needs of the community. Molina has served on the Commission of the Status of Women and is a member of the Business and Professional Women of Hawaii. *Nominated by: Alvin Santander, Bank of Hawaii.*



**Cielo Molina**  
Department of Taxation  
County of Maui