

# Grand Opening & Blessing of Mākaha Studios

On April 25, a dream came true for Wai'anae High School's Searider Productions Program Director, Candy Suiso — the opening of Mākaha Studios.

Following a traditional Hawaiian blessing by Dean Fujii, invited guests and dignitaries from many fields, partners and friends toured the newly finished studio and saw some of the projects currently being worked on, as well as the award winning projects previously completed.

Candy has long believed in the talents of students, especially those on the Westside. This has been demonstrated by her dedication to Searider Productions (SP) from the "hole-in-the-wall" classroom in 1986 to the media center which now graces the Wai'anae High School (WHS) campus. Her dream was to open a business for the graduates of

SP to utilize the talents that they acquired from both high school and college media classes so they could stay in Hawaii and pursue their careers.

Mākaha Studios LLC, located in Mākaha Marketplace, is the "for profit" spin-off of Searider Productions. The employees are able to combine expertise in video production and post-production, motion graphics, animation, web programming, original audio production and traditional graphic design across multiple media channels including television, radio, print, CD/DVD, web and internet applications.

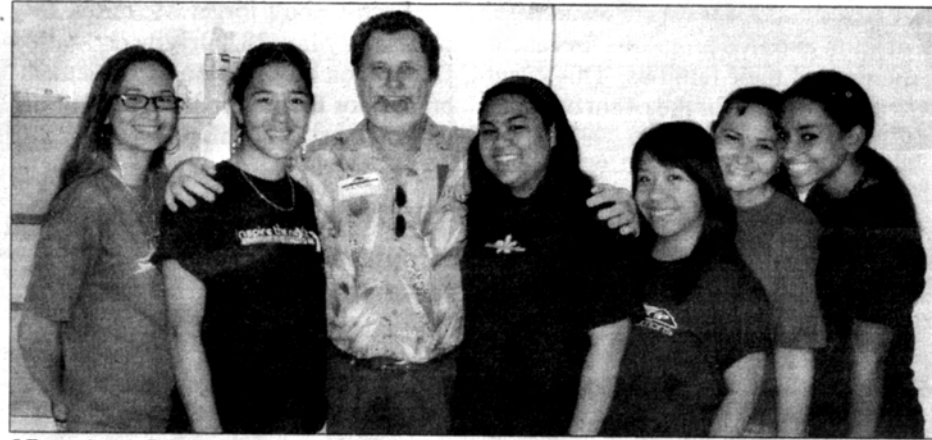
The paid production team is comprised of WHS alumni. They are: John Allen III, Creative Director; Cat Beaver, Graphic Designer; Keoni Fernandez, Producer/Project Manager; Chad Brown, Motion Graphic Artist and Bill Evangelista, Flash/Web Developer. The business team consists of Linda Brock and Ric Gresia.

Profits (after salaries and expenses)

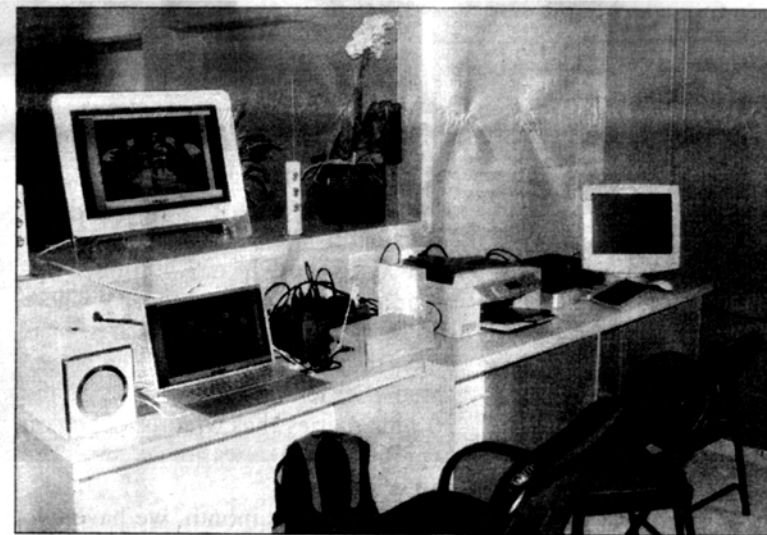
from the Mākaha Studios will be put into the Searider Production (SP) Foundation. SP Foundation is "dedicated to making available the highest quality media education to all Westside youth." Activities funded include technical media staff positions at Westside schools and community programs; scholarships;

trips for students, educators for competitions and conventions and purchasing industry-standard media production equipment.

For more information, please call Mākaha Studios at 695-8200, e-mail at [info@makahstudios.com](mailto:info@makahstudios.com) or visit their website at [www.makahstudios.com](http://www.makahstudios.com)



SP students Brittany Gomes, Noel Meyers, Jonalyn Arao, Deva-Joy Danong, Amanda Robinson and Amber DeMarco pose with (center) Mike Nelson, Vice President Ko Olina Resort at the grand opening.



One of the many work stations at Mākaha Studios.



Mamo Carreira — Complex Area Superintendent, Joe Lapilio — Executive Director Wai'anae Coast Coalition, Emme Tomimbang, Candy Suiso and Nelson Shigeta — Mākaha Elementary Principal