

HAWAI‘I SBDC SUCCESS STORY - EAST HAWAI‘I CENTER



Akau Accounting, LLC

Claire and Arthur Akau at Akau Accounting, LLC, operate a vital business providing online accounting services to small businesses while collaborating and giving back to other organizations. Claire has 20 years of accounting experience, an Accounting degree from University of Hawaii, Hilo, as well as teaching experience there, and a QuickBooks Certified Pro designation. Claire enjoys training others, and from the beginning her goal has been to empower business owners to properly manage their finances and to give students and graduates job opportunities and work experience. As Akau Accounting grows, they are doing both. Arthur handles web design, social media and search engine optimization for this and other businesses.

Claire met with the SBDC before launching this business to discuss the extent of need in the community, effective marketing methods and funding and continues to discuss opportunities and challenges with her SBDC business advisor. Akau Accounting launched by providing QuickBooks classes and quickly found many people eager to learn more.

Akau Accounting now offers both short and long-term QuickBooks training classes. Akau sets up bookkeeping for clients and trains them to do the bookkeeping tasks themselves. If the owner would rather, they will handle all the bookkeeping and payroll tasks for them. Akau Accounting has a team of employees and several UHH interns who are highly skilled and able to use their training to assist clients with their accounting needs. These students are able to gain valuable, practical experience as well.

By using cloud-based accounting services, Akau provides the assistance a larger businesses might have, without the cost of an employee. Business owners both retain and share their financial data, so they can focus on what they do best.

“We appreciate the tremendous support from SBDC. Judi Mellon helped us develop a viable business plan, expand our business through referrals and continues to give us the confidence to grow.”

