

HAWAII SBDC SUCCESS STORY - KAUA'I CENTER



Jeff Adams had a higher purpose in mind when he created Ha (Hawaiian for “breath”) Coffee and relocated he and his family to Kauai from Washington State. Organized as a non-profit and using funds from an acquaintance/investor interested in community development, Ha Coffee is designed to provide employment/training opportunities, serve as a platform for community activities and act a hub for discussion. At any given time, you may find the local makers group, a hui of individuals working to promote sustainability and awareness of climate change issues and members of the Lihue Business Association meeting in the space. A recent visit to Ha Coffee provided an opportunity for the SBDC Director (John Latkiewicz) to connect with the Red Cross Director (with whom the HSBDC is coordinating regarding disaster preparedness) and Megan Fox and Sally Rizzo of Malama Kauai (John Latkiewicz will be presenting to a group of students and interns focused on sustainable agriculture).

The HSBDC has largely been involved serving as a sounding board for ideas, an opportunity to brainstorm possibilities and providing connections in the community. Originally, that included identifying local bakers who could provide goods for his business to resell (thus supporting local entrepreneurs) and identifying possible community partners, e.g., the heads of the Lihue Business Association and the Kauai Planning and Action Alliance.

Jeff is not sitting still. Over the last year or two, Jeff has asked for additional meetings with the SBDC focused on organizing a hui that would look at using the local feral pig population as a resource and then again on developing a business incubator. Again, John provided connections and played his role as a sounding board. We look forward to supporting Jeff as he works to build the local business community and the entrepreneurs operating in that community.

Jeff stated: "John and the SBDC of Kauai have provided invaluable insights, connections and overall help in establishing of Hā Coffee Bar. It's been an essential part of our success in this community!"