

Deep Harbor, Inc./Ono Pops



Greg Askew and Candace Boxer were seeking a warm weather climate with plenty of outdoor opportunities. When they arrived on Kauai, they knew it was going to be home. By happenstance, the local Hawaii SBDC Network (SBDC) office was offering a “Starting a Business on Kauai” seminar while they were on the Island. Greg attended and met John Latkiewicz, Center Director. They approached John with a plethora of ideas. Much of the first contact was working through these ideas and how they might fit on Kauai.

One idea that appealed to them was frozen treats (popsicles) made with local ingredients and based on local flavors. (“Popsicle” doesn’t do it justice. Think of flavors such as Lilikoi Cheesecake, Butter Mochi, Strawberry Lemonade and Pineapple Li Hing. Then think local ingredients, all natural, nothing artificial ever.) Greg contacted Ono Pops, possible competition and what they thought might be a competitive relationship turned out to be a partnership. Kauai was

not working for the Oahu based business due to distance and the need for a local presence. They were amenable to Greg and Candace giving it a try.

The next issue was access to a commercial kitchen. It so happened that another of John’s clients was contemplating renting out of her commercial kitchen on off-hours. Greg and Candace came to agreement and the kitchen issue was resolved. They began operations in the kitchen in November of 2014. As of February, 2015, 10 retail outlets now carry Ono Pops with more being added. Ono Pops is one pursuit. Expect to see some of the ideas that they came to the Island with evolve into other business ventures. John certainly expects to be seeing them again.

Kauai is now home. Greg and Candace are committed to the community volunteering with local organizations, participating in chambers and trade associations and finding ways to use local ingredients and partner with local businesses.