

U.S. Small Business Administration

Small Business Person of the Year

City & County of Honolulu - 2003

Presented to

Melanie Wong

For significant contributions
as an outstanding small business person
and for your dedicated support of small business.


Andrew K. Poepoe, District Director

April 30, 2003



Award of Merit

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

*This certificate is hereby issued to **Melanie Wong, Premium, Inc.**, on being named the 2003 Honolulu Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.*

Done this 19th day of March, 2003, in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Jeremy Harris
Jeremy Harris, Mayor

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII
WHIP-AT-LARGE



COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CERTIFICATE OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Presented to

Melanie Wong

Premium, Inc.

Small Business Person of the Year - City & County of Honolulu
U.S. Small Business Administration - 2003 Small Business Awards

April 30, 2003

DATE

Handwritten signature of Neil Abercrombie in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Council of the City and County of Honolulu

Certificate

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING MELANIE WONG

upon being named the Small Business Person for 2003.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) annually presents its awards to the state's top entrepreneurs and advocates who have demonstrated the tenacity and skill of the small business community throughout the state. Despite these tough economic times when many small businesses are struggling to survive, some entrepreneurs continue to show the flexibility, creativity and drive that turns adversity into opportunity.

Melanie Wong could be Wonder Woman. Stepping in as president of Premium, Inc., a local wholesaler of paper, plastic, disposable supplies, janitorial supplies and chemicals, she took charge of a crumbling business in 1988 at the age of 22 and completely transformed the operation. From the brink of bankruptcy, Wong's determination and strategic management returned the business to profitability in a year.

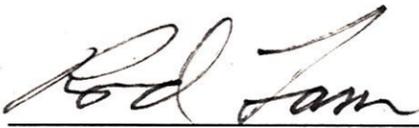
Wong took decisive action and got results. She computerized office functions and inventory, empowered the staff, instilled teamwork values, and personally set the pace for the sales staff by always calling one more time. She believes that their high levels of customer service provide Premium an edge, along with a product line of over 1000 items that keeps expanding to meet client requests or test the latest innovation.

Opportunity knocked again in 1997, so Wong purchased a warehouse facility and installed state of the art racking systems to maximize space and efficiency while minimizing damage while deploying orders for big clients like hotels, banks and state government. Despite the stability and profitability of the company, Wong is always on top of industry trends. Recently, Premium, Inc., became a supplier for an online procurement services for property management firms across the country.

Today, Premium grosses over \$6.5 million annually and provides full time work for 23 employees. While most companies consider downsizing, Melanie Wong has rolled up her sleeves, preparing for continued business growth by increasing sales staff, targeting new markets, and working with her team to be the best that they can be.

Therefore, the Council, on behalf of the People of the City and County of Honolulu, recognizes and congratulates **MELANIE WONG** on being named the 2003 Small Business Person of the Year. Further, the Council extends its best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Dated: March 19, 2003



ROD TAM, Introducer



GARY H. OKINO, Chair

