



Albert Fung showing Mark Tagawa how to play

SUPERCONNECTED

ALBERT FUNG

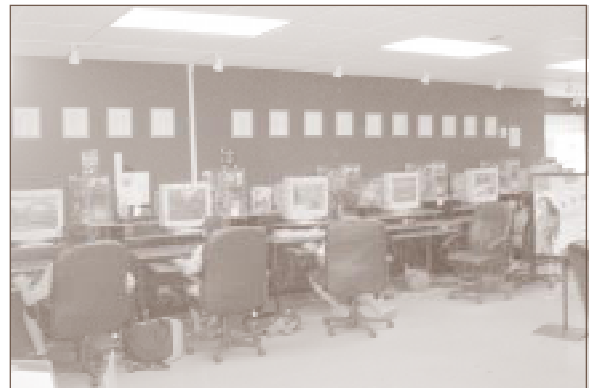
“There is always a way, you just have to find it.” Albert Fung said it, and it is apparent that he means it. Perhaps his drive stems from his parents and sister being entrepreneurs. Or, maybe it comes from being highly motivated. Whatever it is, it is definitely working for him.

Albert Fung was working out of his home for three years as a computer consultant, repairman and customized computer salesman when he decided he wanted to expand his business. It was at this point that Albert seemingly accidentally stumbled across the Hawai'i SBDC Network. He was eagerly seeking assistance to point him in the right direction, and Mark Tagawa, Business Development Specialist, was just as eager to assist.

Albert came to Mark with an array of ideas that he saw as key elements to his business. He did, however, realize that he needed help in narrowing these ideas down. After these ideas were compressed into a solid initiative, the business plan was next. Mark proved to be a valuable sounding board for all of Albert's questions and continuous ideas.

Albert now owns Superconnected, which provides an assortment of services. It serves as an Internet café, a mobile phone store, a PC repair shop, and a place for Albert to continue building computers and websites. Even with a late move-in date, they were up and running in only three and a half weeks. Superconnected recently held its grand opening on January 12th. Albert indicates they are “struggling, but that's expected”, and with the help of his two nephews, the business seems to be right on track and building a steady clientele.

I visited the store on a Wednesday afternoon and not a single one of the many computers were available, so much for checking my email! Each occupied chair was filled with a twelve-year-old boy playing “Counterstrike”. Now, I must admit that my knowledge of video games ended with Pac Man, so I was curious to see the advancements in the gaming area. Lucky for me, Albert had all of the answers to my questions. We started with “Counterstrike” which has 2.5 million players and is played interactively. Superconnected will be hosting a “Counterstrike” tournament next month. Although I toyed with the idea of entering, I don't know that I would be ready to make the change from Pac Man to packing heat so quickly.



Computers available for use at Superconnected

Not only is Superconnected equipped to host game tournaments, they also have many other features such as basic computer usage and web cameras for chatting long distance. Now that would be a tournament I could enter, and win!



*Theresa Tsutsui,
the friendly face behind the desk.*

According to Mark, “Albert's best asset as a business owner would have to be his energy and extensive technical knowledge.” Albert has incorporated determination and drive into his vision of owning his own business, and he has accomplished what he has set out to do. “This process has been stressful, but it's my dream.” says Albert. That dream seems to be making him pretty happy.

To find out more about Superconnected, visit www.superconnected.com.