

Hawaii Kai salon gets new owner

BY LAUREN CHANG

Staff Writer

HAWAII KAI — In the final days before her son's graduation from Saint Louis High School five years ago, Connie Chang thought she had everything covered regarding commencement exercises. Then, one of her clients informed her of a certain local tradition that she was unfamiliar with.

"I didn't know I needed to buy leis," said Chang, who is originally from China. "My customer said, 'Connie, if you don't buy leis, he will be embarrassed.' So early the next morning, I went to buy lots of leis for him. Lucky thing, my customer warned me."

Chang, a Niu Valley resident and hairstylist, says this is just one example of a client extending aloha. More recently, however, Chang's clients have been informing others about the hairstylist's own gift of aloha: the purchase of Essential Beauty Salon, which Chang has since renamed Hawaii Kai Salon and Day Spa.

"All of my customers are my good friends now, and they help me spread the word that I was moving," said Chang, who previously worked at Marina Kai Salon as a hairstylist and cosmetologist. "They tell all their family and

WHAT:

Hawaii Kai Salon and Day Spa

WHERE:

Hawaii Kai Towne Center, Suite 101

HOURS:

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday

CONTACT:

For more information, call 396-8770

friends to come. I couldn't do it without their help."

According to previous owner Marie Coloma, she decided to sell the salon because she wanted "less responsibilities." When Coloma purchased the business from original owner Sue Hill in 2006, the Aiea resident continued to work as a stylist at an Aiea salon, and frequently commuted to Hawaii Kai.

"Working at two salons was draining me," Coloma said. "I know (Chang) will do good because she's in the salon more than I was, and has more potential because she lives in the area."

Located at the Hawaii Kai



Eugene Tanner photo

Connie Chang, second from right, with hairstylists McCarthy, recently purchased Essential Beauty Salon Noe Leong, Marie Imai, Cheryl Prell and Marie and renamed it Hawaii Kai Salon and Day Spa.

Towne Center, the salon is currently in the midst of minor renovations. What was once a separate "barber" room, will become a spa room, where Chang will offer facials, waxing and other

pampering services.

"I'm very excited, but also nervous because the economy is not as stable as it was before. But I have a good location and good workers, and I just want people

to get to know me. Deep down in my heart, I feel I am lucky.

"But not only lucky," she added. "I work very hard because that's the only way to be successful."