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age: 51,855 square
feet

■ **Square footage:**
2,580 and 3,185
square feet

■ **Total land:** 1.2
acres, ground leased
from Kamehameha
Schools

SOURCE: HAWAIIAN ASSET MANAGE-
MENT CO., CITY AND COUNTY OF
HONOLULU TAX RECORDS

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Laulani Village, which will be anchored by Safeway.

Howard bought a partner out eight years ago, leaving him and his family the sole owners of Hamico. The properties are owned by Howard and family members. None of Howard's five children is interested in commercial real estate, which is one of the reasons he decided to sell and retire, he said.

Howard had a deal to sell the properties last year, but the prospective buyers pulled out.

In June 2007 he sold another property, a 20-acre site of the future Laulani Village shopping center in Ewa Beach, to Westwood Development Group for \$47.2 million. Howard's Laulani Village LLC had bought the property in November 2004 for \$12 million.

Howard, who lives in California's San Francisco Bay area but comes back to Hawaii once a month, said he chose CBRE and its senior vice president and retail specialist, Wendell Brooks III, because Brooks' father, Wendell Brooks Jr., one of the founders of Chaney, Brooks & Co, is an old friend.

"They've got their own businesses and I'm not one to push them," he said.

Although he doesn't own a home in Hawaii — he's a frequent guest at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Resort & Spa — Howard plans to continue to visit the islands, especially Maui where he has bought two condominiums under construction.

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Family fight over Star Markets settled out of court

RETAIL

BY LINDA CHIEM
PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

A bitter fight among the family members who own Star Markets Ltd. has been settled out of court but the future of the local grocery store chain remains uncertain.

A plan to sell the company set off the dispute, which ultimately led to a lawsuit pitting former Star Markets President and CEO John Fujiyeki against his cousins, Patrick Fujiyeki and Jo Ann Yonehara, over control of the business.

John Fujiyeki sued his cousins and the company last May, claiming he was wrongfully fired for speaking up against the sale. The two sides had been in mediation since last September and reached a settlement earlier this month.

"Star Markets and its shareholders are pleased to announce that they have reached an amicable and reasonable settlement of all claims in the various litigation matters

between them," John Fujiyeki's attorney, Jerry Hiatt, said in a prepared statement. "No party has admitted any fault under the settlement. All the shareholders and family members have agreed to work together diligently for the benefit of Star Markets, its employees, all shareholders and family members."

Hiatt said he could not discuss the details of the settlement.

Star Markets' attorney, John Yamano of the McCarriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon law firm, referred PBN to Star Markets' corporate secretary, Phyllis Masuda, who did not return calls.

In his lawsuit, John Fujiyeki detailed a bitter battle for control of the company and claimed his cousins, along with current President and CEO Karl Wissmann, wanted to cash out on Star Markets by attempting to sell it for less than what it was worth.

According to the lawsuit, John Fujiyeki controlled 23,408 shares of Star Markets stock, which was enough to block a take-

over or buyout. Since Star Markets is a private corporation, it is not known who the majority shareholder is and whether there still are plans to sell the company.

Star Markets in recent years has struggled to remain profitable in the face of increased competition.

Some competitors, like Whole Foods Market, are entering the Hawaii market for the first time. Others, like Safeway, have been opening new stores and remodeling existing ones.

For some 80 years, Star Markets has remained the quaint neighborhood grocer in Hawaii but has taken steps to modernize its facilities by renovating and expanding its higher-performing stores in Moiliili and Kihei to remain competitive.

However, it has closed three stores in the past 15 months — in Kahala, Kaneohe and, most recently at the Maui Mall in Kahului. It has seven remaining stores on Oahu, Kauai and Maui.

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