



**Contact:**

Rick Doyle, Executive Director  
100 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
(215) 564-3484  
(215) 564-2175 f  
[rdoyle@fernley.com](mailto:rdoyle@fernley.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hawaii Chapter of Armed Services YMCA receives \$76,575 From GAWDA Gives Back**

PHILADELPHIA – GAWDA President Bob Thornton and his wife Christine, along with the GAWDA Gives Back Committee, presented a check for \$76,575 to the Hawaii Chapter of the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) during the Opening Business Session of the 61st Annual Convention, at the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel and Spa, September 20, 2005.

Each year, GAWDA Gives Back selects a non-profit organization in the host city of the annual convention is selected to receive a contribution from funds donated by GAWDA members. The check was presented to Dave Gomez, Executive Director of the ASYMCA, bringing the six year GAWDA Gives Back total to over \$250,000 since the program was introduced in 2000.

The amount surpassed this year's goal (\$75,000) and will be used for spouse support, child care, health programs, holiday meals and the "Wounded and Fallen Hero" fund. The Hawaii Chapter of ASYMCA provides childcare, hospital assistance, spouse support services, food services, computer training classes, health and wellness services, holiday meals and financial assistance to over 107,000 service personnel and dependents stationed in Hawaii.

1,015 attendees were present to celebrate GAWDA's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention.

-more-

Special guest and keynote speaker John Ashcroft, former US Attorney General, was also present to witness the presentation. Later in the week, during the President's Farewell Reception, members were treated to a special musical performance by Michael Cavanaugh, star of the acclaimed Broadway show *Movin' Out*.

-30-

*GAWDA represents nearly 500 welding supply distributors and 275 manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to the gas & welding industry all over North America. GAWDA's mission is to promote the safe operation and economic vitality of distributors of industrial gases and related welding equipment and supplies.*

*GAWDA is managed by Fernley & Fernley, Inc., a 119 year old association management company, providing a full range of strategic and operational management services to 25 distributor, manufacturer associations and professional societies. Fernley & Fernley is accredited by ASAE and IAAMC, and headquartered in Philadelphia.*