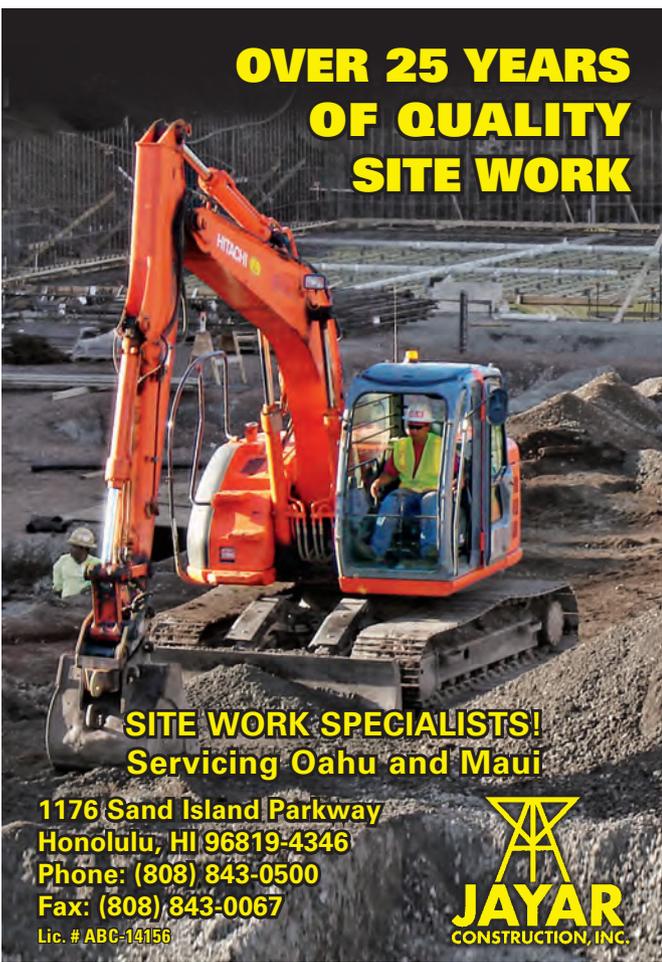


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(Above) Bales of steel stacked and ready to be shipped off for recycling. (Below) Scrap metal is collected and crushed into manageable bales to be sent to be recycled. (Right) A trailer load of scrap metal gets dumped off.

that's post and pier and was built in 1948," he says. "Demolition would take, let's say, three or four days with two guys. With deconstruction, it would be four guys for 10 days. The site condition at the end of it would be pretty much the same—except for the waste."

Instead of going to the landfill, all that material—hardware, doors, cabinets, sinks, windows, fixtures, tiles, lumber (from which every nail is removed back at the Re-use Hawaii warehouse) and more—goes back to the Re-use Hawaii retail store in Kakaako.

And the homeowner's donation of those materials is tax-deductible. "Folks can get tens of thousands of dollars by donating the materials," says Vittum. "It ends up helping them save money on their building removal projects. Sometimes it doesn't really pay off when you do things green, but in this case it does. People are rewarded for doing the right thing."

People in the community also donate items they no longer need. He says the retail store is a huge resource.

"On Saturday, hundreds of people came through," he says. "Saturdays are a lot of do-it-yourself homeowners. Self-reliance, it's really great to see. People are just thrilled because everything is pretty affordable, and you can find things that don't exist at other hardware stores."



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