

Some materials are labeled as to where they're from. For instance, restaurateur Ed Kenney purchased flooring from the old *Honolulu Advertiser* building for his new restaurant on Waiialae Avenue in Kaimuki. Kenney said it will be the focal point of the place. The solar company RevoluSun purchased redwood walls that came from Punahou School's Winne Units, which Re-use Hawaii deconstructed.

Re-use Hawaii has deconstructed more than 300 projects in eight years and diverted six million pounds of building material from the landfill. Vittum says they have sold \$704,000 worth of materials in what he calls "screaming deals" that he points out are worth far more than that dollar amount. If those materials hadn't been salvaged and redistributed to the community, he says, the homeowner would have had to pay to dispose of them, and the city, county or state would have had to pay to manage them.

He also points out that when materials are salvaged, it's not only the resource that is recovered but also the energy that was put into it. For every ton of lumber recovered, a Re-use Hawaii intern once calculated, 60 tons of greenhouse gas is not emitted.

"Here in Hawaii, it's such a non-negotiable part of the industry," he says. "We have to keep stuff out of the landfill or else the industry won't be sustainable." 🏠



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