



Michael Martins
Entrepreneur
Class of 1993

By Dustin Rellez

When Michael Martins graduated from Waiakea High School in 1993, he went to the community college and also started a business that he called Five Star Maintenance. The business did so well that he decided to leave college and started working full-time. Five Star Maintenance is a cleaning company with offices in both Hilo and Kona that was honored by *Pacific Business News* as one of the year's fastest-growing companies in the state. He said, "As the owner of the business, I ensure that the jobs people do are done correctly, and I oversee all of the management."

One thing that brings him satisfaction about his job is financial freedom. "I can make my own schedule, so if I need to do something with my kids, I can always adjust my schedule."

His advice for running a business is to be unique and work very hard. During his years at Waiakea High, he met many teachers who helped him a lot, and those memories will always stay with him. "They also gave me a great education, which helped me start my business. It's great now because I started a business which has been running for almost a decade. This is very rewarding."