

Thomas C. Goob, 33 Safety, Health, Environmental Affairs Manager Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc.



"My first real understanding and appreciation for safety occurred while in high school. My high-school shop teacher had two fingers missing on one of his hands. You can bet we all paid attention when he discussed shop safety. I have now spent the majority of my career getting others to have an understanding and appreciation for safety!"



Public health and safety have always been a passion for Thomas C. Goob, 33, the safety, health and environmental affairs manager for Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc. in Honolulu.

After graduating from Baldwin High School in Pittsburgh, Pa., Goob joined the U.S. Air Force, where he learned about on-the-job safety and health regulations. He was a specialist assigned to ensure safety on bases with more than 5,000 people and working in hazardous and industrial work sites.

"It's rewarding," said Goob of his job. "You get to help people and feel like you've contributed to helping people who are hurt on the job."

During this time, he also completed his master's degree in public health at the University of Hawaii. After stints with various Mainland organizations, Goob returned to Hawaii in the fall of 1999 with a job at Diagnostic Laboratory Services Inc., the state's largest medical testing lab.

"Tom is helping us take the money from good to great," said Richard Okazaki, president of Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

Okazaki cites the example of how Goob built a company within a company to provide local testing services for mold and other industrial concerns spurred by the mold at Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa's Kalia Tower. That company is now in beta testing, Okazaki said.

Goob's work is to ensure health of company employees. When the billing department had increased complaints of musculoskeletal disorders, Goob diagnosed the problem as ergonomics. He arranged for basic training after which he encouraged the department to identify the source of its problems.

"The employees developed solutions and as a result gained ownership of the process and the outcome," Okazaki said.

When Goob is not at work, he's an involved parent and sits on the board of Voyager Public Charter School.