

From the Pacific Business News

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2001/02/19/daily45.html>

Ben Franklin marks 50 years in Hawaii

Feb 22, 2001, 4:03pm HST

Hawaii's local Ben Franklin franchise is celebrating 50 years in business in the islands.

Tadami Kamitaki and Matsuko Mizoguchi, a brother and sister team, opened Hawaii's first Ben Franklin store in 1951, when the chain ran variety stores rather than serving the craft niche it caters to today.

The business passed to the next generation of the family in 1975, and in the 1980s the Ben Franklin chain became affiliated with Ace Hardware.

Today the family owns nine Ben Franklin stores on the four biggest islands plus one in Nagoya, Japan, and a dozen Ace Hardware stores on Maui, Kauai and the Big Island.