

'Demolition paradigm'

Quinn Vittum grew up building and remodeling houses with his father in New England. Then in the Pacific Northwest, he worked in the architectural salvage industry, where recycling was a strong focus.

So it's no surprise that here in Hawaii, he continued his interest in the sustainable building industry, co-founding Re-use Hawaii with Selina Tarantino in 2006. Re-use Hawaii is a nonprofit company on Oahu that salvages reusable building materials and



Quinn Vittum

"People tell me what they're looking for and I call them up and tell them when I have it. Metal stairs, a fan, a claw foot tub, whatever. I have a ship in my yard; you want it?" – Mike Leary

redistributes them in the community.

He says it's part of an effort to address what he calls the "demolition paradigm."

From walls to the rafters and the roofs, Re-use Hawaii deconstructs buildings and recycles and sells the materials.



**Protect.
Preserve.
Our Hawaii.**

Lenox Metals is Hawaii's choice for practical, cost effective solutions for collection, transport and purchase of recyclable metals



**LENOX
METALS**

Recycling metal products statewide since 1988
808-682-5539 • LenoxMetals.com

"It's a term I use to describe what happens when folks just demolish things that are clearly reusable," Vittum says. "They're stuck in this frame of mind about how to remove unwanted material. We're trying to break through that."

Part of Re-use Hawaii's mission is deconstructing houses that would otherwise be demolished by hand.

"Say there's a 1,500-square-foot house—single house