

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU

November 12, 2024

Hybrid Lunch Meeting Minutes

Outrigger Canoe Club

Guest Speaker: Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice, Mark E. Recktenwald

President Tom Coyne called the November 12, 2024, meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at noon. **Bob Sumpf** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Lee LaBash** led the singing of "America the Beautiful." **Bob Sigall** gave inspiration, which told the story of Hawaii being the first state to have a successful race relations case which was in 1900. **President Coyne** introduced the guests, who included members from other Rotary clubs in Hawaii and Germany, prospective members and visiting former members.

The Announcements began with **congratulations to Rich Proctor** who has been selected to serve as **District Governor for 2027-2028**. Our club is sponsoring Foster Family Christmas gift certificate donations (\$25.00 each). Checks, cash or credit card information can be given to Lee LaBrash. **Sam Haas** announced the Paul Harris locations for next week (Pearl Harbor VIP Tour, UH Cancer Center, and Westpac Wealth Partners). There will be no regular meeting at the Outrigger on this date, November 19th. There is also no meeting on November 26, 2024. The next regular meeting will be December 3rd, and it will be at the Pacific Club. **Nancy Youngren** reported on the RYSE project, which is coming to the end. She thanked the 28 volunteers who came out to work last Saturday and indicated volunteers are still needed for this coming Thursday and Saturday. **Cliff Purkiser** announced the Christmas party which will be at the Pacific Club on December 23rd. Volunteers to help decorate and set up are needed. **Lucci Pinoliad** encouraged people to join the work trip to the Philippines March 17-21, 2025. The project is to work on an elementary school.

After fellowship time, **Judy Lind** introduced the meeting speaker, **Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald**. His extensive legal background may be found in our club's emailed newsletters. He described the various Hawaii courts (e.g. trial, circuit, family, district) and the various treatment courts. A

model program—a girls' court— has been highly successful in turning girls on the edge around to lead productive lives. This model is now being used to develop a women's court. Other successful treatment courts include a drug court and veterans' court. He stressed the importance of jurors and of teaching the public about the courts and their function. This latter has resulted in the court members' case discussions/arguments being shown on YouTube and O'lelo. Another effort to educate about the courts involves lawyers holding educational conferences at various high schools to which surrounding elementary school students are invited. He stressed the importance of the court getting out into the public to educate what it is they do and are. One (of many) big problem being tackled is student truancy. A special truancy court determines reasons for individual student's truancy and often successfully gives help to get them back to school. He described and expressed the importance of judicial independence. Hawaii is fortunate to have a strong constitution and a court system that is generally respected. A Q & A followed the Justice's talk.

After thanking our speaker, **President Coyne** led the group in the *Four-Way Test* and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy White