

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2019
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO

President Paul Saito called the meeting to order shortly after noon. After his welcome, **Dawn Marie** gave an inspiration about how to stay calm and positive in our hectic world and lives. **Dee Helber** led the Pledge to the Flag and **Al Linton** the singing of "America the Beautiful" to the accompaniment of **Craig Robinson**. **Lee LaBrash** welcomed the visitors, who included Rotarians from Japan and Vermont and two guests of members who are considering membership.

Announcements included the member birthdays for the week (see the *Tradewind*) and the club anniversaries, (**Richard Hunter**, 18 years and **Tammy Evrard**, 5 years.) **President Paul** encouraged people to sign up for the Pop-Up meeting November 26 at 100 Sails Restaurant. He also announced the passing of the *Pig for Polio*, a contribution opportunity that ends at the end of the month. **Rick Tabor** described the needs for the RYLA camp which include nominees (9th-11th graders with leadership potential), cash donations to underwrite the four attendees our club supports, donations of food and snacks, and helpers to chaperone at the camp and/or on the busses. The camp is February 14- 16.

Karin Holma presented white badges to four members who completed their Hui requirements: **Joanna Amberger**, **Taro Fujisawa**, **Michael Marsh** and **Reed Myers**. She indicated **Donalyn Dela Cruz** also earned her white badge, but was unable to attend.

Tom Coyne announced another beer fest that will be January 25 at the Convention Center, and will need a few more volunteers to serve.

After a brief time for fellowship, **President Paul** turned the mic over to **Reese Liggett** for speaker introductions. **Reese's** comments about Marti Townsend, Director of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, included her academic credentials. She attended William S. Richardson School of Law after graduation from Boston University and Moanalua High School. **Reese** called Marti the Swiss army knife of environmental advocates for all the environmental issues she so capably addresses. With energy, youthfulness and considerable knowledge, Ms. Townsend briefly referred to the range of environmental issues the Sierra Club is dealing with before moving on to the focus of her talk, the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage tanks. The ninety year old tanks hold 250 million gallons of jet fuel located 100 feet above Oahu's main drinking water source. The tanks have a long history of leaking, a total of 25,000 gallons known to date, none of which can be traced or reclaimed. However, water tests now show the presence of petroleum-based chemicals in Oahu's ground water. Sierra Club is advocating relocation of the tanks to a site closer to their usage (Pearl Harbor). The Club has asked the Department of Health to regulate the tank sanitation with little success, as the Department is now automatically renewing the Navy's tank permits without requiring new test data. The tanks have single-wall construction that limits solutions other than moving to a new location. There are several new improvement plans in progress, with the most reasonable location to be under the Navy golf course, where the tanks would not be above the island's water supply, could use the piping from the old tanks to Pearl Harbor

and be close to the site of its use. Cost of moving the tanks is estimated to be \$5 billion. The Red Hill tanks and those at the Kauai Pacific Missile Range are the only two remaining of the many tank locations during WWII. Ms. Townsend opened the session to a long and informative Q & A.

President Saito thanked Ms. Townsend and presented the book *I Am Enough* for her to sign before donation to Palolo Elementary School. He reminded attendees that next week's meeting will be in the Monarch Room and will showcase the Four-Way Test speech finalists. The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy White, Scribe