

I am scribing the meeting notes from home via Zoom. The opportunity to join our RCOH meeting, when being there in person is not possible, is a great opportunity to stay connected to our Rotary Ohana. All I missed were the hugs.

**President Lyla Berg** called the meeting to order and asked **PP Rich Proctor** to inspire us. Just back from Bali, where several of our members were helping young students fix up their facility and nourish their sustainable garden and assist with computer learning. Rich shared that the students' enthusiasm was most inspiring...how happy they were with so little. And he encouraged us all to be happy with less. **Rich** then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Kent Reinker** led us in singing his 'updated' version of Merry Minuet. **Lyla** noted Imagine is our Rotary theme, and she thanked Kent for uniquely putting us on that path.

Following fellowship both around the tables and via Zoom, our speaker took the stage. **Herb Lee, Jr.**, is President and CEO of the Pacific American Foundation, and this Native Hawaiian has worked to preserve and repair the endangered 400+ year old Waikalua Loko Fishpond and turn it into a remarkable Kaneohe *classroom*.

**Herb** first walked the pond wall in the mid 90's...it was a dump...and he felt a heavenly message from his Grandmother, "We have to do something with this place." In 1995 he founded the Waikalua Fishpond Preservation Society to protect and steward the area, and three years later, **Herb** engaged the students at Castle High School to give back to the cultural resource via science, food sustainability, language, math, the arts and other educational vehicles to create a hub of learning opportunities and community change. In 2022, 120,000 students and teachers trained there...learning how to feed Kaneohe with food from the sea and preserve this cultural resource via a 20-year plan. 'Ohana Community Workdays now lure families and others to visit the ponds to highlight the value of belonging, responsibility and Aloha. **Herb** ended by noting they now own the pond, and it will remain as a monitored ancient, sustainable Hawaiian fishpond in perpetuity.

**President Lyla** applauded the inclusion of island students in making a needed difference, and she reminded us of how from 1998-2019, Rotarians statewide engaged students and staffed polling sites through out the Kids Voting Hawaii project, which was launched by our club. Foundation Chair, **Joanna Amberger**, was on the Bali trip with our fellow Rotarians, and she too, noticed how important the collective action of our RCOH projects and support worldwide make a significant difference. If you have not yet made your Foundation of the Rotary Club of Honolulu pledge, please do so by the end of this month. **Lyla** also noted that firefighters will be working at Palama Settlement this weekend, and we are welcome to pitch in. She asked us to stay tuned for upcoming RCOH holiday event notices, and adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted with Aloha,  
**PP Linda Coble**, meeting Scribe