

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DECEMBER 4, 2018
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT BUB WO

Our Rotary meeting was held at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in the Monarch Room. It was good to be back at our home base. **President Bub** brought the meeting to order and **Glenda Anderson** gave the inspiration. **Sax Barrett** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Sum Howard** led us in the singing of God Bless America. **Steve Nikkola** introduced and welcomed all of the visitors to the Rotary Club of Honolulu. **President Bub** also announced the Rotarian birthdays and anniversaries.

Jeff Martin who was sponsored by **Nancy Pace** and **Bob Robinson** was inducted as a new member to the club. **Jack Roney**, sponsored by **Bub Wo** and **Steve Nikkola**, was also presented as a new member. Both new members will be wonderful additions to our club.

Diane Sakurai announced that Saturday, December 15 is an opportunity to participate in story time, a craft, and Christmas cookies with the children. **Glenda Anderson** announced a reminder about the speechmaker contest and requested that everyone encourage students (or their parents) that they may know to participate in this great event.

Terry George introduced the speakers, Kamuela Enos and Claire Sullivan, from MA'O Organic Farms.

Kamuela comes from a family of cultural educators. He spoke from a power point that offered excellent details regarding what is happening with Hawaiian families and young people here on Oahu. Kamuela informed the audience about the average household low income, high mortality rate and the fact that native Hawaiians are dropping out of school at an alarming rate. Their farm is quite extraordinary as it reaches out to young indigenous people and helps them through college. It is a relatively new economic model, which calls for work hours on the farm and offers young people leadership skills and tuition for college. To date, 500 young people have gone through the program. One of the students participated in this program and now she leads others through it. She studied at UH Manoa and got a degree in Hawaiian studies. She is just one of their success stories.

The students start every day with a chant in a circle. They learn about the love for the land and the role that nature and the sunrise play in all of this. They are educated about the land and the philosophy of their cultural ancestors. The aina and its significance play an important role for the Hawaiians. Through this program they are hoping to make more of an impact on the community and reeducate people. Part of the philosophy of MA'O is to harvest and deliver the food the same day, ensuring that grocers and consumers are getting the freshest food possible. This is particularly important because the farm's location is in Wai'anae and there is a

significant lack of good nutrition in this area. Many of the students in the program are from this area as well. The farm is hoping to impact the community in an important way. They want Hawaiians to reconnect with the life of their cultural heritage and the gifts of their ancestors. It is essential to take care of the aina and take only what is needed just as the ancestors did. Therefore, modern economics has been applied by MA'O Farms to help teach others how to cultivate the land.

To date, over 300 students have participated in the internship program offered by MA'O Farms and received degrees. 38% earned associate degrees in 5.3 semesters. Twenty-nine have even earned Master degrees. Kamuela's hope is that native Hawaiians will become self-sufficient in their own valley, reconsider their ancestry but will understand the need to consider modern problems and apply a solution. He wants to create a sense of kuleana- responsibility. When you work or hana, it goes hand in hand with family and being accountable to others. Ohana-family is an important concept. Your family is who you share your work with. As a spokesman for MA'O Farms, Kamuela wants indigenous Hawaiians to get back to the concept of work and family and move away from the idea of welfare.

MA'O is the largest organic farm in Hawaii, which is not for profit and sending students to college. The students work 20 hours a week and in return they get full tuition and \$500.00 a month. They keep the students in cohorts, which has also proven successful. The students are in college Tuesday and Thursday and work Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the farm. The program is having a long-term impact and is quite entrepreneurial in concept. The produce is available at farmers markets around the island.

The speakers from MA'O Farms were well received by the Rotarians and they stayed after to answer many more questions from the audience.

President Bub offered an inspiring Chinese proverb and he adjourned the meeting.

The December 11th meeting will be dedicated to the topic of Centennial Park.

Respectfully,
Ann Stamp Miller, Scribe