

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: MARCH 12, 2019
PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT BUB WO**

Beautiful Hawaii day. Upbeat vibes as we entered the Monarch Room. The idea of giving us “assigned seating” at different tables was a good one, and everyone dutifully went to their assigned table. Let’s do it more often.

President Bub Wo gonged us to order, and in honor of upcoming St. Patrick’s Day **Steve Nikkola**, whose background is half-Finnish and half-Irish gave us a lovely Irish blessing. **José Fajardo** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and **Sum Howard** and **Craig Robinson** led us in a hearty rendition of God Bless America. **Dawn Marie** introduced our visiting Rotarians and other guests, each of whom introduced him/herself briefly.

President Bub announced this week’s birthday boys and girls (**Rick Towill**—3/13, **Lyla Berg**—3/15 and **Rich Proctor**—3/18), and he noted the club anniversaries of **Gary Farkas** (6 years) and **Mitch D’Olier** (34 years).

Diana Sakurai announced that another Story Time was coming up this Saturday, March 16, but, happily, the volunteer slots are all filled for this round. Great news! **James Pierce** announced that the next IHS Dinner Serving at the Women’s Shelter on Friday, March 29, is also “over-committed” with volunteers for this time around. This is also splendid news, and shows that our members are eager to participate in these short-term heartwarming projects.

Brian Dunkel subbed for **Reese Liggett** in announcing a RAT Pack project at Pearl Haven, the nascent shelter for abused and trafficked teenage girls, on March 23. Please sign up to help this very worthwhile new venue.

Don Anderson recognized members who have completed additional John Warren Fellowships. This foundation was established to explicitly finance club projects. The members and the number of \$1,000 gifts they have provided are:

Chris Hochuli	2
Dee Helber	3
Jan Harada	4
Constance Tice	4
Rich Proctor	5
Rick Towill	5
Aaron Wallen	5
Phil Whitney	10
Bub Wo	13

Heartiest congratulations to all of you

After some fellowship time **Gwen Yamamoto Lau** introduced today’s speaker, Georja Skinner, Chief Officer of the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism of

the State of Hawaii. (Try putting that on a business card!) Georja was a dynamic speaker and is passionate about her work. However, trying to convey the energy and excitement she showed toward her work and its potential would be impossible. I'll do my best to give you some of the highlights.

The state's Creative Industries Division is one of 25 states' similar divisions, and Hawaii's was one of the first offices. Creative Industries include such areas as film and television, music, digital media products (such as games and mobile applications), animation and design/fashion. These industries employ 54,000 jobs in 3,823 businesses in our state. This represents 6.2% of the state's total civilian jobs. Their gross domestic product is \$3.6 billion (with a B) or 4.1% of the total GDP for the state.

The C.I.D. shows Hawaii's youth what they need to know about the business end of creative endeavors; without business sense no creative endeavor will survive. With professional help in their creative areas, Hawaii's young entrepreneurs have been able to accomplish exciting things like inclusion at leading international film festivals, films for TV, musical backgrounds, TV show scripts, fashion shows, and making a formidable presence in the creative world.

You really had to be there!

Exciting speaker, upbeat aura, great fellowship. A formula for a successful Rotary meeting, of which this was certainly one.

Alice Tucker, Scribe