

I am sure it was a challenge for our Rotary Club of Honolulu **President Lyla Berg** to call our members to order for the 3/14 meeting. There were so many wonderful guests on site to hear from our speaker, members including **Alice Tucker**...off zoom and in person... getting hugs and exchanging updates, and all of us exploring the revised Outrigger CC lanai seating and speaking area.

By noon, the poi pounder got our attention, and **President Lyla** began the meeting by inviting **Kent Reinker** to lead us in "Hawai'i Pono'i", and **Ben Eger** to share the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as an American citizen. **President Lyla** offered an inspirational request for us to recall those for whom we are grateful to know, and she noted the passing of longtime Rotarian and insurance expert **John Cavahagh**, for whom we gave a moment of silence.

Axel Clauss, The Mayor of Coswig, Germany since 2017, was our speaker...and how that evolved is so unique. Coswig, located in the heart of Germany, was the home of Henry Berger. Berger studied music, performed and taught music there until King Kamehameha asked him to share his talent in Hawaii. In 1872, Berger developed and led the Royal Hawaiian band for 43 years...performed 30,000 concerts...and as current Royal Hawaiian Band Master **Clark Bright** shared during the meeting, "We owe everything to Henry Berger. Queen Liliuokalani dubbed him the Father of Hawaiian Music."

Ironically, Berger's home remains located next door to Mayor Axel's office. One day the Mayor read **Bob Sigall's** Star Advertiser column on Henry Berger...and contacted Bob. He said he would be visiting Honolulu in March, and Bob set him up as today's speaker and facilitated the discussion! Axel wants to establish a sister-city relationship between Coswig and Honolulu. After the energy in the room and hearts...I can envision a future Sister-Club and Sister City relationship with Coswig, Germany, and Mayor Axel Clauss. We ought to corroborate on the creation of a Henry Berger statue in Germany. And I hope Axel will be back in town for our Rotary Beer Fest event April 29th...wearing a Rotary pin.

A rousing "Hawaii Aloha" concluded our meeting, after **President Lyla** quoted Queen Liliuokalani: "Never cease to act because you fear you may fail."

With Aloha,

Linda Coble, Scribe