

Rotary Club of Honolulu
MINUTES
March 22, 2022, Zoom Meeting

President Gwen Yamamoto Lau called the March 22, 2022, meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 12 noon. After her words of welcome, **Past President Rich Proctor** gave the Inspiration, citing the Seven Cardinal Rules of the Contemplative Monk.

- Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present.
- What people think of you is none of your business.
- Time heals almost everything. Give it time.
- No one is in charge of your happiness, except you.
- Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- Stop thinking too much. It's alright not to know the answers. They will come to you when you least expect it.
- Smile. You don't own all the world's problem

Gigi Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Lyla Berg** the singing of "God Bless America".

President Gwen introduced the visitors, Kevin Parle from Bristol, England, Hideo Yamamoto from Kyoto, Japan, and prospective member Travis Saito.

President Gwen called upon **Joanna Amberger**, President of the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to call to order the Annual Meeting of the Foundation. She did so at 12:05 p.m. Referring to the email listing of the trustees put forth to join the Board of Trustees, **Kent Reinker, Liz Howard, and Bob Sigall**, she asked for any discussion of the nominees. Hearing none and not requiring a motion because of Trustee action, she asked for vocal acceptance. Many members responded positively. There were no responses when asked if there were "no" votes or abstentions. The second order of business from the Board of Trustees dealt with the changes in the by-laws, also sent to members via email. **Joanna** thanked the committee who diligently worked on updating the by-laws, who included **Tracy Wiltgen, Paul Saito, and Nancy Pace**. The vocal vote approved the new by-laws with no objections or abstentions. The Annual Meeting of the Foundation was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Rich Proctor announced the Spring Membership Pau Hana social next week, March 29, at the Hi Brau Room from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per member and free for prospective guests. Please let Martha know if you are attending. There will be no regular meeting at noon.

Peg Jackson announced a committee is working on the details of an Earth Day clean-up event on April 23rd, and that there will be group weeding of the park from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 8th and 8 to 10 a.m. on April 30th.

President Gwen sent members into Breakout Rooms to discuss and describe examples of non-blood "family members" in our lives.

Maja Grajski introduced the speaker, Delia Ulima, leader of EPIC 'Ohana, an organization of "Conveners and Collaborators" based on *ho'oponopono* and mediation, that works on behalf of families with foster children and the foster children themselves. She opened with a description of her own childhood, one of six children to a single mother after the death of her father. Despite the obstacles it was a family of support and love which is often missing for foster children. Hawaii's foster children are predominantly Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Delia showed a video of a former foster child, now 29, who described what the organization did for her and her success story. The video speaker said the only certainty in foster care is uncertainty. She described how the organization helped her realize that childhood trauma need not be permanent and led her to living a successful life and to helping others who started out like her by currently serving on the board of High-Hopes. Delia quoted data that included: at any moment in Hawaii there are about 1,500 foster children; about 100 age out each year; new Hawaii laws help support and manage those who age out for 3 more years; 81% of the boys who age out are arrested within 3 years; 77% of the girls are pregnant by age 27; nationally only 6% earn a 2-year degree and 3% a 4-year degree. She named the resources that support foster children on the different islands, organizations which always need volunteers and respite care givers. The meeting opened to Q & A. There was good discussion and shared information which Delia closed with the statement "what young people need more than anything else are relationships that are stable."

President Gwen thanked Delia Ulima, announced next week's Pau Hana event, and the singing of "*Hawaii Aloha*".

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Nancy White, Scribe