

## Minutes of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Meeting

June 8, 2021

Hybrid Meeting (In person and via Zoom), Pacific Club

**President Rich Proctor** welcomed Club members and called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**Brian Dunkel** served as the Virtual Meeting Maestro. **Kevin Hall** gave us the Inspiration. Kevin's story was a personal and moving message involving a serious medical incident that he suffered in April 2020 just as COVID-19 began to spread. It took Kevin several months to recover and he is grateful to the fantastic support he received during this time. Kevin's inspiring message and gentle reminder to us all is to take care of yourself and have a positive attitude even during very difficult times. Thank you Kevin for sharing your story.

After the inspiration, **Carolann Biederman** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Kent Reinker** led us in Hawaii Pono. **President Rich** then welcomed our visitors.

**President Rich** announced upcoming birthdays, including **Mitch D'Olier**, whose birthday is on June 10, **Bill Brizee**, whose birthday is on June 11, **Jessica Rich**, whose birthday is also on June 11, and **John Henry Felix**, whose birthday is on June 14. Happy Birthday all.

**President Rich** also recognized a Club Anniversary for **Bob Sigall**, who has been a member for 16 years. Happy Anniversary Bob!

**President Rich** recognized Rotarians of the Month, **Erin Auerbach** and **Kent Reinker**. Congratulations Erin and Kent, and thank you for all you do.

Member **Tom Coyne** announced a program in which a company with which he works is willing to donate 50,000+ FREE hand sanitizers. Contact Tom for more information.

Member **Joanna Amberger** provided us with a great update to our Service Above Self Campaign. Joanna reported that we are 77% to our goal of \$100,000. Joanna complimented the success to date, and requested those who have not committed yet to give what you can.

Club Members then went into breakout rooms to discuss the topic, "What is your big plan for the next 12 months?"

**Past-President Rick Towill** then introduced our guest speaker, Hi'ilei Kawelo. Hi'ilei is the founder and Executive Director of Paepae o He'eia. Paepae o He'eia is a private non-profit organization dedicated to caring for He'eia Fishpond. He'eia Fishpond is the ancient Hawaiian fishpond located in He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu.

Hi'ilei began by discussing the history of fishponds in Hawai'i and on O'ahu. The fishponds were created over 800 years ago as an efficient way to feed large amounts of people. At one

time there were 98 fishponds on O'ahu and 72 on Moloka'i, among others. Over time, the fishponds located in Kane'ohe in particular began to be filled in, as developers began developing and space was needed to put excavated material.

Paepae o He'eia was started in 2001. It is celebrating 20 years this year. Its goal is the restoration of the He'eia Fishpond. In 2015, it completed a major project when it repaired and closed a large hole in the wall of the Fishpond, which had occurred in 1965 as a result of a severe flood. The repair of the large hole meant that the Fishpond was now operational and that Paepae o He'eia could now turn its attention to starting fish production, which it has been doing. In addition to working on fish production, Paepae o He'eia, through its staff and volunteers, works continually to maintain and care for He'eia Fishpond. Hi'ilei outlined several ways volunteers could assist. Paepae o He'eia can be contacted at [admin@paepaoheeia.org](mailto:admin@paepaoheeia.org). The website is [www.paepaoheeia.org](http://www.paepaoheeia.org).

At the conclusion of Hi'ilei's talk, **President Rich** presented the book, "The Heart and the Bottle," to be signed by Hi'ilei and President Rich and donated to a local elementary school.

Our next meeting is on June 15, at which our guest speaker will be Suzanne Young, the CEO of the Honolulu Board of Realtors. The meeting will be via Zoom.

At **President Rich's** invitation, all members then recited the Rotary Four Way Pledge

The meeting concluded with the singing of Hawaii Aloha via video.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Aloha,  
Scribe, **Karin L. Holma**