

**President Paul Saito** called the June 9, 2020, ZOOM meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 12:01 PM. He welcomed visitors and named the meeting participants. **Lyla Berg** gave the inspiration which likened our responses to the current health and political issues to spilling the contents of a cup of coffee when jostled. The feelings and responses in our personal cups are what spill out in difficult times, and we should hope those are positive. **Lee LaBrash** led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Kent Reinker** the singing of "God Bless America". **President Paul** introduced the visitors who included Past District Governor Del Green, Assistant District Governor Scott Wishart, and Meredith Mawhar. He also announced the birthdays of the week (**JP Cercillieux, Mitch D'Olier, Bill Brizee, Jessica Rich, John Henry Felix** and **Bob Sigall**) and the sole club anniversary (**Bob Sigall**).

Announcements: The Rat Pack event at the Centennial Park has been postponed to a tentative June 27 date. **Rick Tabor** described the efforts of the District 5000 Kupuna Kokua Committee, that include calling lonely seniors, delivering meals and boxes of food to those kupuna in need. Those interested in a Sunday 1 PM training session to help with seniors should contact him. **Rich Proctor** and **James Pierce** developed a survey having to do with how the club is doing and possible club activities. Rich said members would receive a link to the survey and strongly encouraged all to participate. It is important for club planning. **James Pierce** announced that the Rotaract Club of Honolulu now includes young professionals as well as college students. Several of the Rotaract members are looking for mentoring from Rotarians. Anyone interested should contact James. **Jerry Clay** volunteered on the spot. **President Paul** spoke about the many changes ahead due to Covid, the economy, Black Lives Matter and how they might impact our club. He indicated the Board has been discussing that most probably there will not be a return to what we know as normalcy and how to keep the club running in view of all the probable changes.

**Alice Tucker** gave a brief introduction to writer, editor, former school teacher Chad Blair, the speaker for the day. Chad indicated he had been asked to talk about the mayoral race, the impact of Covid-19, and the opening of the economy. He first mentioned the surprising announcement of Mufi Hanneman's mayoral candidacy and the possible impact on the race, which includes many candidates. A recent poll indicted the strongest candidates to be Rick Blangiardi, Keith Amemiya, Colleen Hanabusa and Kymberly Pine. 42% of the respondents did not know who they will support and the highest percentage received for a candidate was 22% for Blangiardi. Chad believes the campaign will center on business experience versus governing experience and that keys to the election will be strength and ethics. He commented on how wide open the city government is at this moment with five city council seats and the city prosecutor position all up for election. Most likely the positions for mayor and city prosecutor will involve run-off elections. He believes the entire election season will be dominated by the Trump-Biden campaigns. He also believes that for the local elections manpower support will have a greater impact than union endorsements. He gave other comments and opinions in response to questions from members. Speaking briefly about Covid-19, he cited the numbers of cases and deaths both internationally and in the U.S. Despite the new hot spots in several states, there is a tension between those

who believe the Covid-19 impact is exaggerated and want government and business to open up and those who believe the pandemic should be more cautiously approached. He personally is pessimistic about the outlook in view of the virus. He introduced the third topic (economy) with news that the country has officially been in a recession since February. While some local business is opening up and the interisland quarantine will end next Friday, the outside of state quarantine will not end until July. How to manage the resulting financial impact and the federal Covid monies is at issue. The legislators plan to be back for another session this month to work on the issues. Impacting economic reentry efforts is the current tension between the governor's staff and part of the legislature. Chad believes the budget problems will have to look at the "sacred cows", like no raises, unfunded liability, and furloughs. Throughout the talk members asked several questions.

**President Paul** thanked Chad for speaking and told him of the book with his name inscribed that will be given to Palolo Elementary School. Paul relayed **Carolann Biederman's** announcement that the June 23rd meeting will be the annual Service Above Self meeting. Next week's meeting will focus on the peace program with school video winners. **Bub Wo** led the singing of "*Hawaii Aloha*" and announced that members plan to make a singing video of the song. Those interested in participating should contact **Lyla Berg** or Martha.

**President Paul** adjourned the meeting at 1:03 PM.

**Nancy White**, Scribe