

Rotary Club of Honolulu **President Gwen Yamamoto Lau's** welcome, smile, bell, and Johnny Carson's theme music brought us to order at noon for our August 17th zoom meeting. We were eager to hear from 3 remarkable members how their work and personal experiences have managed through the continuing COVID crisis. That subject somewhat leaked into our breakout sessions and emerged in **Jim Harrow's** inspiration. Leading us off, Jim focused on R. Buckminster Fuller's vision of doing more with less, and harvesting and sustaining our resources. Jim shared how Buckminster's belief the balance of the world consisted of the balance of water, wind, and sun, via technology, ingenuity, sustainability...all while benefiting humanity. **Jessica Lani Rich's** Pledge of Allegiance and **Lyla Berg's** rendition of Hawaii Pono'I fit right in.

**President Gwen** welcomed our on-line Rotarian guests, and **Brian Dunkel** peeked out from behind his virtual maestro curtain to discuss all of our opportunities to participate with the Youth Services Committees. He noted that RYLA planning is underway, and there's much ahead with HRYF, INTERACT, ROTARACT, and the 4-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST. **Sam Haas** is asking for hosts to oversee our PAUL HARRIS events, which will be the week of 9/27. Got a place? Lunalilo Home will be the place to be this weekend. Please contact **Reese Liggett** if you can volunteer to enhance the environment at the senior facility with the RATPACK. And **Lyla Berg** encouraged us to stay on zoom after next Tuesday's Rotary meeting, to learn how we can prepare for the popular 4 WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST and engage our potential Interact, Rotaract and other students in participating in that and other PEACE MAKERS events.

Congratulations to **Peg Jackson**, who **President Gwen** announced as our Rotary Club of Honolulu ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH. She was the only one in a chair the past two weekends, while all the volunteers she successfully and energetically recruited and organized, weeded and spruced up our beautiful Centennial Park in Waikiki. YEY PARK CARE CHAIR PEG !!! **President Gwen** then sent us off to 'breakout rooms' to discuss ways we have coped over these past critical months...an appropriate segue into our program.

**President-Elect Lyla Berg** facilitated an inspiring discussion with RCOH **Past Presidents Terry George and Bub Wo**, and **Rob Van Tassell**, a member since arriving in Hawaii in 2019 to lead Catholic Charities. And they reflected on everything from uncertainty...to perseverance...to thriving in the midst of the ever evolving COVID-19 realities, impacts on personal and working lives and Hawaii's future. Rather than HINDSIGHT, the conversation leaned toward FORESIGHT. Harold K.L. Castle Foundation's **Terry George** shared how kind, yet courageous decisions, agility, and especially improved communications have worked to relieve the sense of uncertainty. Terry notes schools and partners are using what they've learned and will continue to take care through the process. **Rob Van Tassell** reflected on how he was introduced to the Aloha Spirit, and the value of commitment to partnering and learning together while directing Catholic Charities. Intake and referrals have adjusted via collaborations and finding the positive paths through darker tunnels that may lie ahead. **Bub Wo** is facing his fourth generation with his family business C.S. Wo & Sons, Ltd. and is aware of the furniture and bedding store's 110 years of value to employees and the community. Businesses in Hawaii were in a compliant place before COVID...then dips in customers and supplies were affecting the company and employees beyond expectation. Bub said "it forced us to take a pause...reflect...and go forward", and added COVID has showed how businesses can step up, let go of what was, and move on. Mahalo Lyla for leading the conversation, that ironically linked back to R. Buckminster Fuller's values of learning how to do more with less.

**President Gwen** adjourned with meeting with our singing of Hawaii Aloha and the invitation to next Tuesday's Rotary zoom meeting featuring three more of our inspirational members. Scribed with Aloha, **PP Linda Coble**

