

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: AUGUST 20, 2019
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO

President **Paul Saito** opened our meeting with smiles and laughter...hinting at the complications ahead of us. But shoots... we're Rotarians and ready for anything. **Karin Holma** inspired us by noting the difficulty of asking for help from others. A signal of vulnerability? NOT. We are here to help each other. **Scotty Anderson** smiled throughout his wife's inspiration, and he then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Kent Reinker** conducting our National Anthem, accompanied by PP **Carol Sakata**. President **Paul** introduced our visitors and led the singing of Happy Birthday to **Alice Tucker**, who doesn't look her age...nor act da'kine.

If you haven't signed up yet, beat the August 27th deadline for our "Pop-Up" meeting in the Card Room at Pacific Club, with speaker Burt Lum. Mahalo **Reese Liggett** for organizing what may become a regular meeting alternative. **Diana Sakurai** is organizing another Story Time for kids at KPT Sept. 7th, and **Rick Tabor** shared the *Generations* magazines featuring his articles.

Gwen Yamamoto Lau introduced the Hawaii Department of Transportation Communications Director, Tim Sakahara, who outlined what the department is exploring as a possible funding solution to anticipated declining gas taxes, which are now critical to paying for our roadways. It is called a Road Usage Charge ... a 36-month demonstration project initiating a per-mile road usage charge instead of relying on gasoline taxes to fund road upkeep. Sakahara noted the increase in fuel efficient/electric cars and the state's focus on 100 percent renewable energy by 2045 is 'fueling' the research and testing. Over the 3-year Road Usage Charge system, approximately 2,000 volunteers statewide will be recruited to test the various technologies and billing methods...offer feedback...and evaluate the idea before it goes to the Legislature. Sakahara said the DOT is not exploring the elimination of the 16 cents fuel tax in favor of road usage charge behind closed doors. "By 2035, the fuel tax will have to go up, so we need to find an alternative way to fund roads." Our members were offered a sign-up card to volunteer as a test participant, and include comments and feedback.

President Paul led us in singing *Hawaii Aloha* and gonged the bell to adjourn.

Aloha,
Linda Coble, Scribe

