

Minutes of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Meeting

September 14, 2021

Via Zoom

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

Brian Dunkel served as the Virtual Meeting Maestro. **Erin Auerbach** (for **Ben Eger**) gave us a great Inspiration on “No matter how much the world tries to hold you back, believe that you can break free and that particularly as Rotary members, we have the opportunity to break free.”

After **Erin’s** inspiration, **Scotty Anderson** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Kent Reinker** led us in the National Anthem.

Past President Rich introduced our visitors: Hideo Yamanaka (Kyoto RC), Katherine Wellington, Ted Faigle, Gene Grounds, Kevin Parle (Bristol UK RC), and Wayne Parsons.

Joanna Amberger recognized the multiple fellows for the Paul Harris, John Warren, and Maile Hale Foundations: Paul Harris recognitions—**Bob Sumpf, Judy Lind, Phil Wright, Rob Hale, Eileen Hilton, Don Anderson,** and **Richard Hunter**. Maile Hale Fellows: **Liz Howard, HaiCha Lambert, Bob Sigall, Bob Sumpf, Nancy White, Nancy Grekin, Sarah Nordwall, Mel Kaneshige, Eileen Hilton, Phil Wright, Rob Hale, Don Anderson,** and **John Cavanah**. John Warren Fellows: **Haumea Ho, Kent Reinker, Bob Sumpf, HaiCha Lambert, Judy Lind, Tracey Wiltgen, Linda Coble, Eileen Hilton, Rob Hale, Al Linton, Terry George, Hiroko Dewitz, Phil Wright, Ernest Hui,** and **Don Anderson**. Awesome!

Scotty Anderson announced the Historian Committee. Please volunteer to assist in determining how the voluminous paper records of the Rotary Club of Honolulu should be preserved. Contact **Scotty Anderson**.

Past President Rich announced Park Care Workdays – September 24, 4-6 pm; September 25, 8-10 am. Please come help if you can. You can sign up to volunteer on the Centennial Park website.

Past President Rich announced a RYLA meeting at 1:00 pm today, chaired by **Rick Tabor**.

The members then went into Breakout rooms to discuss the first concert ever attended.

Donalyn Dela Cruz introduced our guest speaker, Colleen Hanabusa, the chair of the Board of Directors for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (“HART”), which is responsible for the Honolulu rail project. Colleen spoke on “Having the Heart for HART.”

Colleen started by discussing the problems HART is facing, which she attributes to lack of institutional knowledge. She described the history of the finances for HART. In 2005, the Hawai'i Legislature passed the legislation allowing for a GET surcharge of 0.5% to be charged. This was the start of revenue generation for the rail project. The surcharge went into effect in 2007. Until 2011, the City and County of Honolulu was in charge of the rail project. HART came into existence on July 1, 2011. In December 2012, the funding grant agreement between the federal government and the City and County went into effect, beginning federal funding of the project. As part of the agreement, there is a "risk refresh" every two years, which is an assessment of whether the project is on time and on budget and whether there are enough funds to complete the project. In 2014, the project was estimated to cost \$7.1 billion. In 2016, it was estimated to cost \$10 billion. The scope of the project was also reduced such that the rail will run to Middle Street, and not to Ala Moana or Waikiki as previously planned.

Currently, there are estimates that the project will be short \$3.5 billion. Colleen does not agree that this is the case. The passage of the legislation in 2021 to allow the City and County to access the 3% TAT may fund such shortfall, if the City Council and Mayor approve. Further, the federal government agreed to fund \$1.5 billion and has only funded approximately 50% to date; the federal government has not funded about \$800 million. Also, the rail is about 75% completed. Colleen opined that there is no need for a contingency of \$1.6 billion when the project is 75% completed.

Colleen discussed the purpose of the rail, which is more about lifestyle than transportation. She then answered several questions from Club Members.

Our next meeting is on September 21, at which our guest speaker will be Catherine Payne, Chair of the Hawaii State Board of Education. The meeting will be via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

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