

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU**  
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL REGENCY ROOM  
**DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**  
PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT BUB WO**

**President Bub Wo** called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. **Dave Rolf** gave an inspiration based on the account of local resident Paul Olivos celebrating his 100th birthday by parachuting out of an airplane, whose motto is “not a rocking chair” but “I’m going to do it”. **Glenda Anderson** led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Sum Howard the singing of “America the Beautiful”. Jim Harrow noted there were no club visitors, but a guest of member Jack Dwyer.

President Bub indicated there were no birthdays in the upcoming week, but three had club anniversaries, **Diana Sakurai** (3 years), **Paul Singer** (4 years) and **Paul Saito** (7 years). He recognized the nine people who help serve dinner Friday at IHS and those who attended **Fran Mossman’s** memorial services. **Amanda Ellis** came forward to talk about her recent trip to China, Taiwan and Korea. She noted the rapid economic rise in China, the continuing existence of laws forbidding women from certain professions in Taiwan (and 90% of the world) and alumni preparation in Korea for the upcoming 60th anniversary of the East-West Center. **President Bub** reminded members of the September 8 Weinberg work day at Helping Hands Hawaii. **Reese Liggett** announced that after 26 years in the Air Force and 28 at Chaney Brooks, he was leaving the field, allowing himself more time to help various organizations. After ten minutes of Fellowship, **Garrett Grace** came forward and announced he and his wife Linda were moving to the Sarasota-Tampa area of Florida. In his remarks he cited the honor of being Club President during the centennial year and how bittersweet it is to be leaving. **President Bub** thanked **Garrett** for his service to the Club, especially in that a demanding centennial year, and gave him the “Be the Inspiration” Rotary Pin.

Member **Dr. Eileen Hilton** introduced the speaker, Dr. Jerris Hedges, Dean of the John A. Burns Medical School, citing his degrees, positions prior to UH, and honors. Dr. Hedges began by discussing the physical/medical worker shortage in Hawaii. Anyone moving to Hawaii is faced with a challenge to find a primary care provider. Tracking records show that of the 9000 Hawaii physicians with an active license, only 3000 are seeing patients and a significant number of those are not working a 20 hour week. When comparing Hawaii’s needs with other states, Hawaii finds itself 700 physicians short, one-half in primary care. Many of those still active are in their fifties and sixties.

The medical school is working on the recruiting issue in two significant ways. One is pipeline programs reaching down to middle and high school students with various opportunities and experiences and teaching their teachers about various subjects/labs to attract students to medicine. Another is to help support the challenges those finishing medical school, enabling them to come back to Hawaii to practice. The annual in-state medical school tuition is \$37,000 per year, which only covers half of the actual cost. The small group team approach of JABSOM is now becoming popular at other medical schools

drawing from our pool of those interested in that approach. JABSOM admits 90% of its entry classes with local students, endeavoring to keep doctors home. However, they are in competition with med schools that can give large scholarships to families that have been paying private school tuition for years, K-12. Each year 20-30 students are lost to these large mainland scholarship offers. The average local med student comes from families in the lowest income quartile. The average national debt after graduation is \$200,000+. For Hawaii it is \$175,000, because many students live at home.

JABSOM has built unique programs, e.g. small group approach, approaching medicine holistically, emphasizing cultural competency, emphasizing social justice. The focus is on staying healthy in addition to only illness. A six week session is offered to the public about healthy aging twice a year, as part of the school's geriatrics program. More training is being done on the neighbor islands. One problem is that there is an insufficient number of residency positions in Hawaii for our graduates, making it necessary for many (two-thirds) to go to residencies on the mainland. They then have to be wooed back to the Islands. To help with that there is a loan repayment program for doctors returning to certain Oahu areas and rural neighbors. Scholarships are in place for front-end recruiting and scholarships/stipends for students who will go to neighbor island residencies. Dr. Hedges said today happens to be the first day opening of a much needed OB-GYN practice in Hilo.

People can help Hawaii's physician deficit with scholarship programs like the one recently set up by Hawaii Pacific Health and The Queen's Medical Center, with Weinman matching funds that will pay 4 year tuitions for the top one-third of the incoming class. This allows the scholarship funds planned for them to go to the next third of the incoming class, all in an effort to make med school more of an option for more Hawaii students. Dr. Hedges invited club members to the medical school *mele* on September 29, which raises funds to support their homeless outreach program. Dr. Hedges closed his presentation with a Q & A.

**President Bub** thanked him on behalf of the club and noted they both signed a book for Palolo Elementary School, *Splat the Cat: The Big Helper*. He closed the meeting with a medical related Voltaire quote and Chinese proverb. The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

**Nancy White**, Scribe