



夏威夷中華總商會

THE
CHINESE
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF HAWAII

Sister Summit

“Hawaii’s Sister Summit 2002: Your Gateway to International Business Opportunities” will take place



at the Hawaii Convention Center, Monday, July 8-Wednesday, 10.

Representatives of Hawaii’s sister city and state/regions – seventy-one in various parts of the world – will meet to focus on business development opportunities through partnerships, joint ventures, and strategic alliances. Over two hundred top decision-makers are expected to attend, and it’s not necessary for you to leave the islands to participate!

The event is being jointly hosted by the State of Hawaii and the four counties. The goal of the conference is to provide a setting for delegates to meet, explore business opportunities, learn about new projects, and finalize agreements. Areas of special focus include technology; tourism and resort development; energy and the environment; and agriculture and aquaculture. According to the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), strong responses have been received from several cities and provinces in China and the Philippines. Hawaii companies are invited to participate and to showcase their products or services.

Conference registration fee is \$135.00, which includes two lunches, two breakfasts, and a welcoming reception. A key component of the conference is an exhibition of both Hawaii and “sister” products and services. Exhibitor registration fee is \$150.00, which includes one participant registration. Space for the exhibition is limited, so sign up as soon as possible if you’re interested. Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 3; to be included in the conference directory, please register by Friday, June 28. Further conference information (as well as registration) is available online from DBEDT at <http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/sistersummit> or by calling **Richard Bahar** at 587-2769.

Narcissus Contestants

The Chamber is currently looking for contestants to compete in the 2003 Narcissus Pageant. Contestants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 on January 11 (Pageant night), at least 50 percent Chinese with a Chinese surname, single and never married, and a resident of Hawaii for at least six months. Going back to at least 1974, prospective contestants should be aware that most of the queens and the members of the court have been older and presumably more mature. Deadline for applying is Wednesday, July 31.





Reuben S. F. Wong

As many of you know, I am now in China, leading the annual Narcissus Goodwill Tour.

For those of you who were unable to attend the installation banquet last month at the Honolulu Country Club, I would like to share an abbreviated version of my inaugural speech with you:

It has been said that 2001 marked the start of the “Asian Century.” China’s recent admission to membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as its successful bid to host the 2008 Olympics make it clear that the Asian Century is well on its way.

In Hawaii, the Chinese community has an opportunity to serve as a bridge between East and West. This is due to our upbringing as Americans as well as Chinese. We are therefore uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge due to our geographic location (the first stop on American soil on trips by President **Jiang Zemin** several years ago and last month by his apparent successor, Vice President **Hu Jintao**); the importance our political and economic leaders attribute to Hawaii’s relationship with China; and the development of a more cohesive Hawaii Chinese community.

Our forefathers, upon arriving in Hawaii, soon formed mutual assistance societies along geographic and familial lines. Today, however, over one hundred local Chinese societies are more like separate villages. If we are to serve as a bridge between East and West, we must strengthen our local Chinese community from within to embrace the challenges of a new era.

My administration will embark upon a four-point plan to address the challenges of a new era. The program consists of the following: increasing membership benefits; improving communications using the Internet; establishing a Council of Presidents; and sharing of talents and expertise.

First, with respect to membership benefits, my goal is to increase the benefits received by members for their annual dues. I have already asked Second Vice President **Ming Chen** to develop a partnership relationship with the Hawaii Dental Service so that Chamber members can obtain affordable group dental insurance. We will also provide members with an incentive to participate in Chamber events by subsidizing a portion of the cost as we did for the installation banquet.

Second, technology allows us to communicate more efficiently and reliably than ever before. Already planned is a revamped Chamber Internet Website to increase networking between the Chamber and other Chinese societies. It will also feature a master calendar, which will enable coordination of activities and programs as well as linking community projects and volunteers. In this way, events will be better attended and better supported.

Third, as I have already mentioned, the first Chinese immigrants to what was referred to as “Sandalwood Moun-tain” formed closely-knit societies. The years and economic success have loosened bonds that once held our Chinese community so closely together. To meet the challenges and opportunities of the Asian Century, we must come back together.

At an informal meeting early in May, the leaders of twenty-three Chinese organizations came together to exchange views on matters of common concern to the Chinese community. Facing aging memberships and declining membership among the young, they shared a mutual goal in perpetuating their organizations as well as increasing the level of cooper-

ation between the societies. They also yearned to speak out with a collective voice so that the ideas and concerns of the Chinese community would be heard by the larger community. As a result of that meeting, the Chamber will bring the leaders of the Chinese community in a forum to be called the “Council of Presidents.” It will draw upon the experience and talents of every willing contributor in our community because no one has a monopoly on brains. We need to maximize our strengths by joining the many Chinese societies into a solid Chinese community.

Finally, sharing talents and expertise. Every person and society has unique expertise. Let us enrich our community by sharing our gifts – that expertise – with one another. For example, the See Dai Doo Society has fostered a talent for Chinese music, and See Dai Doo invited Chamber members to a *karaoke* session on June 7.

Another example is the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii is conducting a business book drive for the Zhongshan Library. Details can be found in another article in this issue of *The Lantern*. Suffice it to say that we hope to deliver at least one hundred books on American business, accounting, economics, and law to the Zhongshan Library.

To conclude, I believe that we must work together if we are to adequately meet the challenges and opportunities in the Asian Century. In so doing, we will become the bridge spanning the Pacific to the distant shores of China and the rest of Asia. And so I call upon all Chamber members as well as my friends and colleagues in the Chinese community – those of us whose duty it is to strive for a goal larger than ourselves – to build this bridge together. As this is the Year of the Horse, I call on you to join together as we gallop together to build a stronger Chinese community.

BUSINESS BOOK DRIVE FOR ZHONGSHAN LIBRARY



by "Dick" Oshima

The State of Hawaii DBEDT, in partnership with the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants, is conducting a business book drive to gather new and used business books to donate to the Zhongshan Library in Guangdong Province. This goodwill gesture will go a long way towards cementing our long-term relationship with Guangdong Province.

We have made arrangements to have the books shipped to China through the tremendous efforts of **Brian Suzuki** of Hawaii Air Cargo. Time is of the essence, so please spread the word and ask everyone you know to search their bookshelves for books that they would like to donate. The age of the books is not a concern. Business books are never outdated. Books should be dropped off with DBEDT at its offices in the old Armed Services YMCA/Hemmeter Building on Richards Street. Please call 587-2766 and arrange for someone to meet you to collect the books as you drive by. Drop offs can be made during the week of June 24. Neighbor Island donors can make arrangements to deliver their books to the UH Chancellor's office or to the DBEDT, 250 South Hotel Street, Honolulu 96813. Please call (808) 587-2766 for more information.

An announcement of the number of books collected will be made to the representatives from Guangdong Province and the City of Guangzhou during the Sister Summit (see separate article in this issue) on July 8-9.

GOVERNOR'S EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

Nominees are being sought for the 2002 Governor's Exporter of the Year award. Winners in the following categories will be considered for the top award: high technology, professional services, manufactured products, fresh commodities, export trading company, and new exporter. In addition there will be an Outstanding Contributor to Exporting award presented to an individual and/or organization that has been instrumental in promoting Hawaii exports.

Category and the overall winners will be chosen based on such considerations as sustained profitability, sustained sales growth, expansion of company; outstanding, aggressive, and creative marketing; the successful introduction of a new export-product and/or the development of a new market outside Hawaii for an existing product not previously exported. Exports should constitute at least 20% of the nominee's total products and/or services sales and/or exceeds the industry's average percentage. Nominees must be registered to do business in the state of Hawaii and be in good standing. Nominees must also have a sponsoring organization such as a financial institution or business/industry association in order to submit an application.

For more information, contact DBEDT at 587-2584 (telephone), 587-3388 (fax) or exporte@dbedt.hawaii.gov (e-mail). Deadline for submittal of completed nomination forms is Wednesday, July 31.

Dragon Boat Paddlers Wanted

by Winfred Pong

It's that time of the year when the Chamber is assembling a team of paddlers to the annual Dragon Boat Festival in August. Sixteen paddlers—Chamber members, family and friends of either sex and any age—are being sought. Prior paddling experience is helpful, but not a requirement. At the same time, with sixteen paddlers, some practice is needed to synchronize the strokes. Practices will begin in July, and are held on Saturday mornings. The Dragon Boat Festival will be held on Saturday, August 3, and Sunday, August 4, at Ala Moana Park. The Chamber's team will compete on Saturday, August 3. If you're interested in paddling or just want more information, call **Winfred Pong** at 551-1948. Each paddler will receive a Dragon Boat Festival t-shirt, and there will be a picnic lunch served. Last year, the Chamber team won third place in Chinese society division. Even if you cannot (or will not paddle), come on out on August 3 to cheer the Chamber team on. Let's get together for a day of fun at the beach and see if our intrepid team can do even better than it did last year.

Installation Dinner

On Thursday, May 30, over three hundred Chamber members and friends gathered at the Honolulu Country Club for the installation dinner. It was a chance to see old friends again and to make new ones since some of the Chamber members who had joined in the last year were present. The evening's program was kept moving along by master of ceremonies **Delwyn Wong**, who happens to be Reuben's son. **Francis Mau** gave the invocation, which was followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner. As part of the formal program, **Thanh Quoc Lam**, who had gone to Washington to be recognized as Hawaii's Small Business Person of the Year and was surprised to be named the SBA's 2002 National Small Business Person of the Year, was recognized for his achievements. Outgoing President **Ban Chan** gave a succinct address before the 2002-2003 Chamber officers were installed by Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice **Ronald Moon**. After the symbolic transfer of the president's gavel and presentation of a gift to Ban, **Kenneth Chong** introduced the Chamber's newly installed President, **Reuben S. F. Wong**. An abbreviated version of Reuben's inaugural speech is included as this month's President's Message. After a *hula* performance by **Tina Ling**, President-Elect **Terrill Chock** made some closing remarks. And with that, the evening drew to a close.



Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Installation Dinner at Honolulu Country Club, on Thursday, May 30, 2002



CHAMBER'S VISITORS

March 29-30, 2002

- Mr. Li Yiping Deputy Consul General
The Consulate General of People's Republic of
China and delegation of 2

June 4-5, 2002

- Mr. Gao Zhansheng, Deputy Director General
Department of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan
Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
delegation of 3

June 12-14, 2002

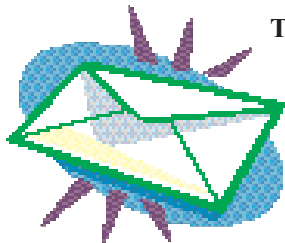
- Yang Jie Mian, Director General
Shanghai International Research Institute and
delegation of 7



PRESIDENTS' MEETING

On Saturday, May 4, President-Elect **Reuben Wong** hosted a luncheon at the Oahu Country Club for leaders of twenty-two Chinese societies as well as eight directors of the Chinese Chamber. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how the Chamber could be of service to the Chinese societies as well as Hawaii's entire Chinese community. Subjects discussed included concerns about the perpetuation of the respective societies; increasing our Chinese community's political influence; promoting our cultural traditions and practices; and the Chamber's obtaining a facility that would be presentable to visitors.

Those present wanted to have follow-up sessions to pursue those issues and other matters that would have practical application for the Chinese societies. Plans for future meetings are currently being made.



Ted Sturdivant and his businesses (publishing Asian-language Hawaii guidebooks and operating an Asian-language Website marketing Hawaii) were mentioned in the May 28 *Advertiser* article on the Sisters Conference.

On Tuesday, June 11, the 50,000 square foot Filipino Community Center or “FilCom” was unveiled in Waipahu. The complex has commercial space, and will offer a variety of services. Chamber board member **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, played a prominent part in the decade-long effort. He was mentioned in an editorial in the June 10 *Star-Bulletin*. According to the advertising supplement in the *Advertiser*, Eddie was the prime mover in building and raising \$14.5 million for the FilCom Center. The multi-story facility includes meeting and function rooms, a technology center, and a grand ballroom. It is available for banquets, weddings, professional meetings, and business-related functions.

Hong Kong China Hawaii Chamber of Commerce president and executive director **Johnson Choi** is currently leading a business/trade delegation to Beijing and Shanghai, June 20-30.

Karaoke Session

On Friday, June 7, the See Dai Doo Society held a karaoke session. There were about sixty people—about half of them Chamber members, family, and friends – who met for the fun at the See Dai Doo Society hall. Most of the songs were from the “big band” era and the 50s as well as quite a few Chinese songs. President **Reuben Wong** and his wife, **Vera**, sang a duet, **Ken** and **Lishan Chong** sang a song in Chinese, and **Terrill Chock**, **Winfred Pong**, and **Ceci** and **Myron Freeman** were also there.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 25 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- July 4 • Thur **Independence Day**
- July 23 • Tue **Executive Board Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon
- July 30 • Tue **Board of Directors Meeting**
Wo Fat Restaurant - 12:00 noon

N E W M E M B E R S

At its May 28 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the application of Alan Ho, President and CEO of Seafood Village (sponsored by Anthony Chang).

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