





President  
Robert Yu

I am honored to serve as president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. On behalf of the members of the Chamber, I would like to thank outgoing president **Betty Brow**. Under her leadership and direction, the Chamber made great strides in a number of areas that benefitted our membership and the community. Throughout her term, Betty has represented the Chamber and the Chinese community with style and grace.

In the coming year, the executive board and I will continue to execute the Chamber's mission. We will focus on expanding and adding value to our membership, developing programs to foster business relationships, getting involved in the community, and further promoting economic and cultural relationships with Chinese communities here and abroad.

But to do this, we need your help. To our members, to our friends in the 100-plus Chinese societies and associations, I invite all of you to join in and partner with us to expand business opportunities and to help perpetuate the Chinese culture. Let's work together to support each other and promote a positive presence through commercial, charitable, cultural, and educational activities that benefit all.

I look forward to working with you in this endeavor over the next year.

C H A M B E R N E W S & A C T I V I T I E S

## 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress

On May 21, Gov. **Neil Abercrombie** announced that the International Union for Conservation of Nature had selected Honolulu as host city for its September, 2016, World Conservation Congress. It's estimated that some 8,000 delegates from 160 nations will come for the meetings, and could spend around \$37.7 million and pay \$3.6 million in tax revenues. Founded in 1948, this is the first time that the IUCN has ever held its congress in the U.S. In 2012, then-Lieutenant Governor **Brian Schatz** traveled to Jeju, South Korea, to make a presentation at the last World Conservation Congress on holding the 2016 congress in Hawaii. Then in February, 2013, as Hawaii's senior senator and chair of the Water and Power subcommittee of the Senate committee on the Energy and Natural Resources committee, he lobbied Secretary of State **John Kerry** and other State Department officials to support Hawaii's bid. Seven large conservation groups, led by the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation, supported Hawaii's bid. An IUCN selection committee visited Hawaii for a week last year and narrowed eight possible sites down to Honolulu and Istanbul, Turkey.

## 66th Narcissus Queen Search

The search for contestants for the 66th annual Narcissus Pageant is on. Qualifications for contestants are: Must have a minimum of 25% Chinese ethnicity; Single (never been married or given birth to a child); Must be 19 to 26 years of age on pageant date (January 10, 2015); and A resident of Hawaii for at least twelve months prior to pageant. If you know of any young women meeting those qualifications and is interested in competing in the Pageant, please have them contact the Chamber office at 533-3181 or [info@chinesechamber.com](mailto:info@chinesechamber.com).



### Installation Dinner

Above: Outstanding Narcissus Festival Volunteer – **Gayle Lau**; Lifetime Achievement Award – **Kwock Nam Lau**; Outstanding Business Person – **John Hui**; and Outstanding Chamber Volunteer – **Danny Auyoung**.





Betty Brow receives Overseas Chinese Association Paradigm Award from Vice Minister Tan Tianxing, OCAO of the State Council, PRC, at the 7th conference for Friendship of Overseas Chinese Associations.

## Minimum Wage Law Signed

On Friday, May 23, Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed Senate bill No. 2609, “relating to minimum wage.” Act 82 will incrementally increase the state minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next four years. The minimum wage will increase from \$7.25 to \$7.75 on January 1, 2015, \$8.50 on January 1, 2016, \$9.25 on January 1, 2017, and reach \$10.10 on January 1, 2018. Also affected is the so-called tip credit (now 25-cents, rising to 50-cents in 2015) applicable to the pay of tipped workers, who earn at least \$7.00 an hour above the minimum wage. According to a May 24 story by **Derrick DePledge**, in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, “Governor signs off on rise in wage,” only 2.2% of Hawaii workers earn the minimum wage, but 6.2% of workers hold multiple jobs, trying to make ends meet.

“Food and restaurant interests” (presumably the Hawaii Restaurant Association) opposed the measure, citing arguments of job losses, fewer seasonal job hires, increases food prices, and reduced hours or worker benefits. The governor responded that the same arguments have been heard time and again over the years, and while the minimum wage may be a survival wage elsewhere, Hawaii is so expensive that it’s “not a survival wage ... in Hawaii.” (At the current \$7.25 minimum wage, working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, garners a grand total of \$15,080.00, and the federal poverty line for a family of three, say a parent and two children, in Hawaii is \$22,760!).

According to the Center for American Progress, raising the minimum wage nationally to \$10.10 an hour would benefit people of color a total of \$16.8 billion: Hispanic (\$8.5 billion), black (\$5.2 billion), and Asian (\$2.4 billion). (For those who don’t know, for decades, the U.S. has been a consumer economy with nearly 70% of GDP accounted for by consumers, so if consumers can’t afford to spend, it adversely affects the economy). Meanwhile, cities and towns are not waiting for federal or state action. On November 26, 2012, a minimum wage ordinance was passed by the San Jose, California, city council, mandating a \$10.00 per hour minimum wage, effective March 1, 2013, with annual cost-of-living increases. According to various press reports from the *San Jose Mercury*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and others, the increase has been successful, with increases in the number of businesses and employment. Meanwhile, there is a “15 Now” movement across the country, and earlier this week, Seattle passed a \$15.00 minimum wage ordinance, phased in over three to seven years, depending on business size. (That would generate annual earnings of \$31,200, \$8,440.00 above the Hawaii poverty line, increasing the amount available for the worker’s food, shelter, transportation, and medical.)



## ACA Update

**Stephen Nii**, owner of Nii Superette in Waipahu, wrote an op-ed in the Tuesday, May 27 *Star-Advertiser*, “Small business owners can benefit from the Connector.” Mr. Nii provides health care insurance for 15 full- and part-time employees. He specifically mentioned the ease and ability to comparison shop, even with the problematic Hawaii Health Connector Web site. When Mr. Nii e-mailed for help, he got a response the next day, and Oahu program specialist **Puanani Crabbe** visited his business to give in-person, hands-on assistance in selecting and applying for affordable health insurance coverage. So if you are a small business owner (less than 25 “full-time equivalent” employees, averaging pay of about \$50,000.00 per year or less), you may want to check on the Small Business Health Options Plan (SHOP) and the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit, either online ([www.hawaiihealthconnector.com](http://www.hawaiihealthconnector.com)) or by calling 1-877-628-5076.

## Condolences and Sympathies

**Edward Au** passed away on Saturday, May 10. He served as 1987-88 Chamber president and was an emeritus director. Eddie joined the Chamber in May, 1978. Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 13, at the Nuuanu Mortuary. Visitation is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Chamber plans a group tribute at 10:00 a.m. If you can make it, please call the Chamber office at 533-3181. Our deepest condolences to his family.




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**Stanford Yuen** has been selected as the United Chinese Society's 2014 Model Father of the Year. He will be honored at the UCS Model Mother and Father banquet at the Empress Restaurant on Sunday, June 22.

A story by **Gordon Pang**, in the Thursday, May 29, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, "Bill would ban foam takeout boxes," covered a bill introduced by Councilman **Stanley Chang**. Under current law, food vendors can use foam (expanded polystyrene) containers that do not contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Under Bill 40, as introduced, however, all food containers must be compostable.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2	Mon	<b>2014 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour departure</b>
June 14	Sat	<b>2014 Narcissus Queen Goodwill Tour return</b>
June 15	Sun	<b>Father's Day</b>
June 17	Tue	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
June 24	Tue	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
July 4	Fri	<b>Independence Day</b>

L & L president and CEO **Eddie Flores, Jr.** was quoted in the article, stating that compostable containers cost about 40 cents compared to 13 cents for foam containers. In addition, durable containers are needed for items with a lot of gravy like *loco moco* or L & L's signature chicken *katsu* in curry sauce. A question that was neither asked nor answered was whether the supposedly biodegradable compostable containers actually decompose when buried deep in a landfill. (As many members may know, Stanley is one of six candidates in the August 9 Democratic primary for the Congressional District 1 (CD 1) nomination. On April 25, in "Wild 2014 Hawaii Election Predictions," *Honolulu* magazine's **Loren Moreno** wrote that UH Manoa political science professor **Colin Moore** picked Stanley to "pull a Tulsi," seemingly coming out of nowhere to win the nomination).

PacRim Marketing Group founder, president, and CEO **Dave Erdman** is on the cover of the May issue of *Hawaii Business*. He was recently selected as the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Hawaii Region 2014 Small Business Person of the Year. Dave and his family traveled to Washington, D.C. for National Small Business Week, May 12-16. Coincidentally, the *Star-Advertiser's* "Name in the News" on May 30 was SBA district director **Jane Sawyer**. (Long-time Chamber members may remember that in 2002, Ba-Le Inc. owner **Thanh Quoc Lam** was selected first as the SBA's regional Entrepreneur of the Year and then SBA's national Small Business Person of the Year).

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## LANTERN ADVERTISING RATES

Chamber members wishing to publicize their services or goods to our 300-plus members should be aware of the following rates: \$150.00 full-page, \$75.00 half-page, \$40.00 quarter-page, and \$25.00 for business card-size ads. To run your ad, contact the Chamber at 533-3181.

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