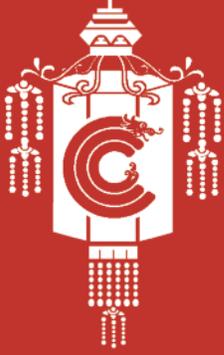


# LANTERN

November, 2015



夏威夷中華總商會



Congratulations to Warren Luke, Chairman and CEO of Hawaii National Bank, and PBN's Business Leadership Hawaii 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. The Business Leadership Hawaii dinner awards banquet was held by Pacific Business News and its sponsors on Thursday, November 12 at the Sheraton Waikiki.

## MEDICARE/ACA DEADLINES

Deadlines for Medicare open enrollment and ACA (a.k.a. the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare") sign-up can be confusing. (Presumably if single-payer, "Medicare for All" had been adopted in 2010 instead, there would only be a one-time enrollment at birth, similar to the one-time sign-up now for Medicare at age 65). Open enrollment for Medicare, which covers enrollee action, such as signing up or changing healthcare insurer or signing up for Medicare Part D (prescription drugs), ends on Monday, December 7. If you haven't done so, you may want to get answers and check on the dates with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Reach-Out/Find-tools-to-help-you-help-others/Medicare-Open-Enrollment.html>

With respect to the ACA, there are different upcoming dates to be aware of. Information on "Important dates for 2016 enrollment" can be found at <https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-guide/dates-and-deadlines/>. The first dates to be aware of are November 1 to December 15 for ACA coverage beginning on January 1, 2016. January 15 and January 31 are the deadlines for ACA coverage beginning February 1 and March 1, respectively. After January 31, enrollments for 2016 will be closed, except for those who qualify for the "Special Enrollment Period," which is explained at the above-mentioned Web page. And for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, there is NO limited enrollment period.

## Chamber Christmas Party

This year, the Chamber Christmas Party will be on Monday, December 14, and will be held at the Pearl Country Club. It cost \$50.00 per person. Don't miss the chance to win door prizes! Contact the Chamber office at 533-3181 to reserve your space or for more information.

## Limited Time L & L Offer

For "a limited time," L & L Hawaiian Barbecue is offering a FREE Year of the Monkey calendar with any purchase, according to an insert in the November 15 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. There are 39 Oahu L & L locations listed, along with seven on Maui, ten on the Big Island, and four on Kauai. (And according to the insert, "over 190 locations worldwide."). Presumably, L & L will again soon be offering its seemingly annual dark blue t-shirts, linked to the upcoming Chinese New Year – the Year of the Monkey (this time a Red Fire Monkey) will start on Monday, February 8, 2016.

## 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 533-3181/533-3886.



President  
Eddie Flores, Jr.

Deputy Consul General **Wang Lei** and Chief of Overseas Chinese Affairs Office **Wan Xuezheng** recently paid a courtesy visit to the Chamber office. **Mona Choy-Beddow, Joseph Hu, Jeffrey Lau, Tina Au, Vernon Ching,** and **Walter Chang** were there to greet him. We were invited to a dinner at The Mandalay Chinese restaurant, along with the officers of the United Chinese Society. We talked about past and future cooperation to promote culture and trade with China.

The Chamber kicked off the first Moon Festival in recent memory on September 25. The weather did not cooperate on Friday evening, but it did not dampen a great turn-out. **Leonard Kam** and **Gifford Chang** were very experienced in setting up and organizing the volunteers. **Rena Hwang** started the program by introducing yours truly; **Reuben Wong** came on stage to explain the transition

from Splendor of China to the Moon Festival; and TECO Director General **Wallace Chow** gave a short speech. **Michele Choy** arranged a great slate of entertainment. The Chamber booth was very popular selling moon cakes and having children's games. There were many other activities, such as fortune telling, moon cake tasting, singing, and dancing. **Frances Goo** organized the first ever lantern parade around the Cultural Plaza; the parade was well received by an enthusiastic crowd.

The next day, we had a moon cake eating contest organized by **Tina Au**. We had ten men and ten women who took on the challenge. The crowd was enthusiastic and we all had fun. Despite rain most of the day, we had a steady crowd, and I noticed many new faces. The Chamber's booth sold moon cakes and made lanterns for the children.

I would like to thank everyone who made the first Moon Festival a success, especially **Leonard Kam, Gifford Chang,** and **Mona Choy-Beddow,** who chaired the event.

To give you an exclusive update, we have a head start for 2016 Moon Festival. I called **Dennis Francis** of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, and he agreed to again be the title sponsor for next year's Moon Festival. He committed to a \$15,000 package, similar to this year. L & L Hawaiian Barbecue will be a \$10,000 title sponsor as it was this year.

Between September 1 and 4, the Chamber assisted the Chinese Consulate General Visa Group from Los Angeles to renew Chinese passports for Chinese citizens in Hawaii. *Mahalo* to the Chamber staff and the many Chamber volunteers who made this a successful annual endeavor.

A Dalian government delegation, led by Vice Mayor Madame **Zhu Chengqing**, visited Hawaii on October 8. The Chamber hosted a dinner for the delegation.

**Alan Ho** led a delegation, which included Mayor **Kirk Caldwell**, Emeritus Speaker of the House **Calvin Say**, and me to visit Taiwan and China. We began the journey in Taipei. We met with many government officials and inspected several transit systems. We flew to Hong Kong, and Alan hosted a sumptuous dinner for us in his restaurant before we traveled on to Shenzhen. We were able to visit several factories and transit systems there. When we arrived in Zhongshan, the Mayor hosted us with a lunch. We also visited the residence of Dr. **Sun Yat-Sen** and several other historical sites before we returned home. It was a very productive trip for Mayor Caldwell to learn about transit systems in China and Taiwan.

Finally, on October 22, **Doug Ho** conducted a seminar on "Where is the Gold Market Heading?" in the Chamber conference room. Doug was very generous in giving away 25 books on the Damon Estate coin collection and also donated a coin worth over \$250 as a door prize. We had over 30 people in attendance.

Aloha, Eddie

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

### Charitable Giving

Veterans Day having come and gone and with Thanksgiving fast approaching, solicitations for donations to charitable organizations will soon be filling your mailbox. In order to avoid scams or fake organizations with attractive names, there are charity watchdogs that you can consult online to see where your dollars are (or are not) going before you make a donation. The December issue of *Consumer Reports* lists Charity Navigator ([charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)), Charity Watch ([charity-watch.org](http://charity-watch.org)), and the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance ([give.org](http://give.org)) as reference sources while GuideStar ([guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org)) has nonprofit reports and Form 990s. These organizations evaluate charities, including looking at how much of donations actually reach the causes you want to support.



The tri Chamber meeting with Nextera Energy President Eric Gleason at the Plaza Club on November 10, 2015.

## GOLD SEMINAR

On Thursday, October 22, a couple dozen Chamber members and friends gathered at the Chamber for a FREE presentation on “Where is the Gold Market Heading?” The presentation ran from 6:00 to about 7:30 p.m. Longtime Chamber director and president-owner of Classic Coins Hawaii, Inc., **Douglas Ho**, focused on gold coins as an investment. The major coins for this purpose are the Canadian maple leaf, the PRC’s panda, the U.S. golden eagle, and the South African Krugerrand. One interesting slide (covering from around 2000-2011) showed recent gold coin prices, which resembled the stock market’s performance during the dot.com/Y2K boom. Doug pointed out that the Chinese panda coins, which were first introduced in 1982, do not have a minting date on them. At the same time, the designs changed each year through 2000, with a freeze on the design in 2001, which was quickly rescinded in 2003 due to public outcry. So once again, there is a different panda design each year. Doug also pointed out that earlier panda coins were not appreciated and people would melt them down to make jewelry. That may be partly why in recent years, even he has had a problem getting panda coins with certain dates for his clients.

At the start of the presentation, Doug donated twenty-five (25) copies of *Damon Estate Collection of Rare Coins, Medals and Bank Notes*, valued at \$50.00 each, as gifts to the first twenty-five attendees on a first-come, first-served basis. Then as the evening concluded, there was a door prize drawing for a gold coin, valued at \$250.00, which was won by former Chamber president **Alvin Wong**.

## CHINATOWN

### Affordable Senior Housing

According to **Gordon Pang**’s November 10 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* article, “City reaches deal to develop senior housing,” a development agreement has been signed with Michaels Development Co. to build two mid-rise towers on River Street. There will be a minimum of 151 rental units for seniors 62 years and older, with an annual income not exceeding 80% of Oahu’s area median income (AMI) or \$53,700 for a single person in 2015. Most of the units will be one-bedroom, aimed at those making 60% of AMI or \$40,260 for a single person. The project includes an elevator core serving both towers, a parking garage, a recreation deck, retail space, and a community center requested by Chinatown leaders. While some residents’ concerns had been addressed, **Wesley Fong**, president of the Chinatown Community Center Association, said that the association and other Chinatown groups were not consulted before the plan was unveiled at a Downtown Neighborhood Board meeting the week before. Some “concessions” have been made to concerns of immediate next door neighbor Lum Sai Ho Tong. The development agreement is now awaiting City Council approval.



Fabulous afternoon at Pearl Harbor with Stanford Yuen.



## VETERAN’S DAY

The armistice that ended over four years of bloodshed in World War I went into effect on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. November 11 was initially commemorated as Armistice Day, but on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a former five-star General of the Army, signed legislation that changed the name to Veteran’s Day. Nationally, a number of restaurant chains again honored veterans (and active duty military personnel) with deals on meals: Denny’s (grand slam breakfast until noon), Hooters (up to \$10.99 off the bill), Chili’s (special menu of selected entrees), and California Pizza Kitchen (special menu of selected pizza, pasta or salad). Perhaps the most enticing deal was from BLT Steak Waikiki, which offered 50% off the entire bill for “parties of two or less” and 25% off for parties of three or more. So for Chamber members who are veterans, before Veterans’ Day next year, check *USA Today*, *Military Times* or just Google “veterans day freebies.” For year-around discounts, check Military.com’s Discounts Center, which includes deals on travel, apparel and accessories, golf, auto, electronics, and lodging, among other categories. Remember that less than 6 percent of WWII veterans (including long-time Chamber director **Daniel Lau**) are still alive, and in his November 14 weekly address, President **Barack Obama** honored America’s veterans, noting that “Less than one percent of Americans are serving in uniform.”

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**Christina O'Connor's** "Entrepreneurs" column on "'Triple Threat' Performer Trains Others" in the November 4 *Midweek* included a photograph of 2015 Narcissus Queen **Erica Wong**. Presumably, it was taken some time last year since it was captioned "Pageant contestant Erica Wong training in [**Patricia**] **Haft's** studio."

Long-time Chamber board member **Linda Auyoung Louie**, who often is behind the camera taking photos of others, was herself photographed in the Fall 2015 *Punahou Bulletin*. The ever-smiling Linda, who was co-chair for her 45th class reunion in June, was standing next to her classmate, Punahou President **James "Jim" Scott**.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 10	Tue	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Chamber Office – 6:00 p.m.
Nov 11	Wed	<b>Veterans Day</b>
Nov 13	Fri	<b>Tri-Chamber Pearl Harbor Boat Tour</b> Pearl Harbor – 3:00 p.m.
Nov 24	Tue	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Empress Restaurant – 12:00 p.m.
Nov 24	Tue	<b>Tri-Chamber Activity: Skincare &amp; Make-up Class</b> Nordstrom's Shiseido Make-up Counter – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Nov 26	Thu	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
Dec 6	Sun	<b>Chamber's Annual Visitation</b> Palolo Chinese Home – 11:30 a.m.
Dec 14	Mon	<b>Membership Christmas Party</b> Pearl Country Club – 5:30 p.m.
Dec 25	Fri	<b>Christmas Day</b>

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* presented "A Night on the Jersey Boardwalk" on October 10 at the Hawaii Convention Center. It was a gala to raise unrestricted funds for the Child and Family Service. Chamber President-Elect **Mona Choy-Beddow** was awarded "The Outstanding Leader Award" at the Organization of Women Leaders' annual general meeting on November 2, 2015 at the Halekulani Hotel. Chamber director **Russell Lau** and his wife, **Connie**, were photographed at the event, appropriately dressed for a "gala" while quite a few of the other people were either dressed for entertaining the crowd or preferred not to get dressed up. The *Laus'* photo appeared in the November 11 *Midweek* "Pa'ina." On the facing page, **Tim Law** was photographed at the Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii's *karaoke* fund-raiser dinner, "Song of Love," held at **Alan Ho's** Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant.



Correction and addition: **Ningjin Miao Pei** got married on Sunday, October 11. (An incorrect date a few days later was reported last month). And former Chamber president **Jeff Lau** did the honors, escorting Ningjin down the aisle. Again, best wishes, Ningjin, and congratulations, Derek.

## NEW MEMBERS

At its October 27 meeting, the Chamber board approved the applications for **Tommy Chau**, an analyst with Bank of Hawaii (recommended by **Mona Choy-Beddow** and **Leslie Ching**); **Yao-Yu "Tommy" Lee**, acupuncturist and owner of **T. Y. Lee Oriental Medical Center** (recommended by **Winnie Chan**); Dr. **Su Jun Lim-Highbie**, technology licensing associate at the University of Hawaii Manoa (recommended by Dr. **Chian Leng Chia**); and **David Louie**, attorney and former Hawaii Attorney General (recommended by **Vernon Ching**). Welcome to the Chamber and we look forward to meeting you at the next membership event.

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