

United Chinese Society
of Hawai‘i
2025 Quarter 4

@unitedchinesesocietyhi



Mission: To further friendly relations among the Chinese and various Chinese societies in the State of Hawai‘i to promote projects of benevolence, charity, and cultural awareness; and to promote the welfare of the Chinese community.

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Parasol

Aloha from Outgoing President Ivy Yeung

Dear UCS ‘Ohana,

As I close out my year, I’ve been thinking about the people who make UCS what it is. The quiet volunteers who never seek recognition, the mentors who remind us where we’ve come from, and the younger members who carry bold ideas for where we can go next — together they are the real heartbeat of this Society.



Serving in this role has been both humbling and energizing. I’ve seen how quickly we can rally when our community needs us, and how much joy we create simply by showing up for one another. Those moments — from long meetings to laughter around shared meals — will stay with me far longer than any agenda or program.

If I’ve learned one thing, it’s that continuity is not automatic; it’s a choice. Each of us decides whether to carry the torch, to pass it, or to let it flicker. My hope is that we continue choosing to keep the flame alive, not just for ourselves but for the generations who will one day look back at us as their foundation.

With deep gratitude for your trust, your support, and your friendship, I step forward knowing UCS is in strong hands — and will keep writing new chapters of resilience, pride, and connection.

Do Jie, Xie Xie and Mahalo Nui Loa,

Ivy Yeung

Greetings from Incoming President Robert Yu



I am honored to be selected to lead the United Chinese Society in 2026 and looking forward to working with our officers and trustees, society members, and our community to continue our mission to promote culture awareness, advocate for projects and programs for the benefit of the Chinese community and support our next generation of leaders.

Under the leadership of President Ivy Yeung, we enhanced member education and outreach programs and made improvements to member activities. We are also taking a more proactive approach to matters that are important to the community such as supporting the Downtown Business Improvement District. We will continue to advocate and support projects that are advantageous to the community.

Our “Nex Gen” program is a forum to engage young leaders in the business community and to prepare the next generation of leaders. This two-year-old program is led by Kendrick Chang and Jill Fukumoto. They have done an amazing job generating interest among our young professional members by creating interesting and relevant content. We will continue to support Kendrick and Jill in their efforts.

We are excited about 2026 as we continue to look for ways to fulfill our mission.

follow us on Instagram @unitedchinesesocietyhi



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🥮 Mid-Autumn Festival 🎃

On October 4, UCS joined the community for a full day of celebration at the Chinese Cultural Plaza, presented by Chinatown808. Under the leadership of co-chairs Wendy Mow and Edna Wong, our team hosted a children's fun booth, complete with a photo screen for families to capture memories. A special mahalo to Dr. Wendell Foo, who recruited medical school volunteers to provide free health exams — a meaningful way to combine cultural celebration with community care.



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UCS 2nd Leadership Summit

On October 11, UCS hosted its second Leadership Summit, bringing together almost 30 leaders from member societies, including presidents and vice presidents. Leonard Kam moderated the session, which featured insightful presentations on membership recruitment and retention by Liane Fu of Kung Sheong Doo and Kendrick Chang of Oo Syak Gee Lu.

The summit was a fantastic opportunity for leaders across our community to connect, discuss important issues, and strengthen collaboration for the future.



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In the Media: UCS President Featured in *Civil Beat*



UCS President Ivy Yeung was recently featured in Civil Beat Hawai‘i with her op-ed, “*Why Relationships, Not Events, Sustain Hawai‘i’s Cultural Societies.*” In it, she reflects on the importance of building genuine relationships and sustaining cultural organizations through care, continuity, and community.

Hawai‘i’s heritage-based cultural societies — such as Chinese organizations and similar community groups — have long been an essential part of our islands’ social fabric, helping preserve traditions, language, and identity.

Many of these organizations are looking for ways to engage younger members while continuing to honor long-standing traditions. A common solution is simple: “We need more events to attract young people.”

But from my experience leading one of Hawai‘i’s oldest heritage organizations, this approach often misses the point.

I’ve spent years leading and supporting Chinese cultural organizations. Watching members brainstorm ways to draw younger participants, I noticed a fundamental truth: younger people aren’t uninterested; they’re just pulled in too many directions. Careers, families, and social obligations fill their lives. Expecting them to attend society meetings or events without personal motivation is unrealistic.

Instead, the bridge generation — those in their 40s and 50s, often empty nesters — is key. They still relate to older members and traditions but also have time and desire to form meaningful connections. When these individuals feel a genuine sense of belonging, they invest energy, invite friends, and create networks that extend beyond formal events.

Younger generations will join when they see value beyond the activity itself. They want relationships that resonate with their identity and aspirations. These connections can take many forms — mentorship programs, collaborative cultural projects, or professional networking tied to heritage. The focus must shift from quantity of events to quality of engagement.

At the same time, older members must feel respected. Change can feel challenging, particularly when it asks organizations to adapt long-standing traditions. Framing initiatives as an expansion of legacy rather than a replacement helps foster collaboration. When elders see that their contributions are honored and leveraged to mentor the bridge generation, participation grows naturally.

I do not claim to have all the answers, but over my time working with Chinese cultural organizations through the United Chinese Society of Hawai‘i, I’ve seen that prioritizing relationships over calendar activity can make a meaningful difference. By focusing on connection across generations, cultural societies have a better chance of remaining vibrant, relevant, and resilient for years to come.

Disclaimer: The views expressed here are my own and do not represent the official position of the United Chinese Society of Hawai‘i.

Read the full article originally published November 4, 2025 at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/11/why-relationships-not-events-sustain-hawais-cultural-societies/>

Installation and Hall of Honor Banquet

On December 5, UCS held its Installation and Hall of Honor Banquet, a wonderful evening of celebration and community. We thanked outgoing President Ivy Yeung for her dedicated leadership, welcomed incoming President Robert Yu, and introduced the 2026 Officers and Trustees. The evening also honored Douglas Dai Lunn Chong, the 2025 Hall of Honor recipient, recognizing his significant contributions to our community. The program was emceed by Lisa Kam, and the event was a truly successful night celebrating UCS's past, present, and future. Mahalo to our sponsors!



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Member's Seminar: Insights on Taxation

On November 1, UCS hosted its final membership seminar of the year, featuring a presentation on taxation by Peter Ma. Their presentation provided informative insights on taxation topics of interest to our members, and we extend our sincere mahalo to him for sharing his expertise.

👉 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 👈



Above (L-R) (Photos 1-2) UCS joined the Tsung Tsin Mid-Autumn Festival Banquet on October 4, a festive evening hosted by President Michael Wong. (3-4) UCS took part in the parade celebrating the 114th Birthday of the Republic of China on October 5. (5-6 and 8 below) UCS continued the celebrations at the 114th ROC National Day Banquet on October 6.

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Above (L-R) (7) On October 10, UCS welcomed Inspector Zhuang Youlin and a delegation from the Guangdong Province Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese to our hall. (9-11) That same day, UCS joined CEO Darlene Nakayama at the Palolo Chinese Home Appreciation Event. (12) UCS joined President Douglas Chong at the Hoo Cho Sha Banquet on October 18, celebrating friendship and community ties. (13-15) UCS participated in the Community Engagement Fair held on October 29 at Kaiser High School, engaging with nearly 100 teachers from Kaiser and Niu Valley Middle School.



Above (L-R) (16) UCS celebrated with the Miss Chinatown Hawaii Court at their Coronation Ball on November 1. (17-18) On November 15, UCS proudly honored Past President Dr. Ming Chen, recipient of the Mandarin Award, at the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association's 100th Anniversary hosted by President Elvira Lo. (19-20) On November 29, Ivy and Tony joined HOH honoree Eddie Flores, Jr. for a tour of Chinatown. (21) UCS is honored to co-sponsor the Center for Chinese Studies in exploring our shared roots through Pākē 'Ohana: A Filmmaker's Journey of Discovery on December 4. (22) Celebrating Chinese Women's Club with President Sharlene Chun on December 6.

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(23) UCS was invited by the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association to honor ballet performer Chun Wai Chan on December 9. (24-26) The Kalani High School Chinese Club and Chinese language students visited the hall to learn more about Chinese culture and history on December 13.

UCS NexGen Continues Momentum



In February 2024, the United Chinese Society launched the NexGen Program to celebrate our cultural heritage and facilitate future leadership growth among our younger members (aka Millennial and Gen Z) who may eventually serve as leaders among our member societies and clubs.

Since the first brainstorm social gathering at UCS Hall, the NexGen Program has successfully hosted a half-dozen events ranging from intimate cultural learning socials (e.g., dumpling-making and poetry reading) and professional development (e.g., Speed Networking and Leadership Speaker

Series). These events provide a meaningful and constructive opportunity for our future leaders to connect with each other and to learn from our current leaders in the Chinese community. In 2026, the NexGen Program plans to host an event every quarter with the intent to continue foster collegial connections and community leadership learning opportunities for our future leaders. The NexGen events are open to members of all ages, as we continue to bridge cross-generational differences and perspectives. **Chair, Kendrick Chang**

Member Society Updates

A Better Chinatown Association

If you want your names on the arch, the donation deadline is 12/31. Happy Holidays. Eddie

I'm thrilled to share the exciting progress we've made on building the Chinatown Arch! Construction should begin in January, 2026. Our mission is to improve and revitalize Chinatown.

We installed banners and red lanterns at Kekaulike Mall last month. We contracted a couple of artists to paint murals on Chinese history in Chinatown.

We are ending our capital campaign on December 31st.. Please support this meaningful project please **Make a pledge or donation to A Better Chinatown Association.**

For information on A Better Chinatown Association, please check our website: www.honoluluchinatown.org Please feel free to call Eddie 808-372-4498

Thank you for your support and belief in our vision to better Chinatown.

Aloha,
Eddie Flores, Jr.
Chairman
A Better Chinatown Association
Email: eddie@llhawaii.com

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Sum Ming Ting Benevolent Association



The Sun Ming Ting Benevolent Association celebrated its annual Christmas party with over a hundred members and guests at Au's Garden Chinese restaurant on December 7. President Haven Young Rafto opened the ceremony with her team, VP Jarett Pang, Treasurer Terrence Young and Secretary Dr. Sandy Young.

Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW)



On November 9th at the Jade Dynasty Restaurant Mun Lun School held its Annual Alumni Fund Raiser dinner. The Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW) Hawaii Chapter presented a check for \$500 to the Dance and Music department of Mun Lun School. This Donation was given to the OCAW Hawaii Chapter from the Muriel (Mimi) Hom Opera International Foundation in Maryland. Mimi passed away peacefully this past July at the age of 98. Mimi Hom was devoted to what she loved Music. From her early years as a child prodigy on the piano to founding the Opera International in Maryland in 1994. Her music legacy continues across the country. It is from this Foundation that we generously received \$500 to perpetuate the Music and Dance department at Mun Lun School.



Muriel Lee Hom

March 9, 1927 - July 22, 2025

Sharlene Chun

President Organization of Chinese American Women Hawaii Chapter (OCAW)

Tsung Tsin Association of Hawai'i

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, the Tsung Tsin Association of Hawaii held its Installation & Christmas Party at the Association Hall, celebrating the official installation of the 2026 Officers and Board of Directors. The ceremony was officiated by Ivy Yeung, UCS President.

The Association extends its heartfelt appreciation to outgoing President Michael Wong for his dedicated leadership and service, and warmly welcomes incoming President Darryl Wong and his new team as they begin their term. Mahalo to all members and guests who joined in this meaningful and festive celebration.



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Chinese Women's Club of Honolulu

On Friday October 24, 2025 a group of Chinese Women's Club (CWC) ladies met at the Shriners Hospital on Punahoa St. for a photo op and tour of the Shriners Hospital facilities. CWC donated \$1,000 for a brick that lined the driveway to the entrance for the Shriners Hospital Fund Raiser. After the tour President Roberta Wong Leung treated the ladies to a delicious lunch in the Guest Cafeteria



The Chinese Women's Club (CWC) of Honolulu held its Installation and Christmas Party at Oahu Country Club on December 6th celebrating with 100 members and guests. Blessing the event were 3 Chinese Lions from the Asian Lion Dance Team. Two were Purple in color the other was Red. From the delicious buffet lunch to the entertainment of the Diamond Head Shooting Stars and lucky numbers everyone felt festive to begin the Holiday Season. With Calvin Say as the MC everything went smoothly. Representative Jenna Takenouchi Installed President Sharlene Y. Chun, 1st Vice President Jane T. Au, 2nd Vice President Joy Kimura (absent), Corresponding Secretary Gayanne Abafo, Recording Secretary Lillian Shaw (absent), Treasurer Jeanette Ching and Director's and other Officer's. Past President Roberta Wong Leung presented Sharlene Chun with the CWC Gavel. All guests left with the feelings of Christmas and beginning the Holiday Season and Blessings to come

Sharlene Chun



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Hawaii Chinese Civic Association (HCCA)

Honoring Heritage, Celebrating Community, & Looking Ahead

The Hawaii Chinese Civic Association (HCCA) is pleased to share highlights from a meaningful 100th year marked by cultural celebration, community connection, and the transition of leadership.

A significant milestone was HCCA's first Mandarin Jacket Display at Honolulu Hale, which brought Chinese heritage into one of Hawai'i's most visible civic spaces. Featuring beautifully preserved Mandarin jackets shared by members and supporters, the exhibit highlighted generations of craftsmanship, personal history, and cultural pride. The display reflected HCCA's commitment to preserving tradition while sharing it with the broader community.

This spirit of celebration continued with HCCA's Centennial Mandarin Ball, commemorating 100 years of service and leadership. The evening brought together members, past presidents, community leaders, and supporters for a vibrant celebration of culture and legacy. The program was enthusiastically emceed by Pamela Young, anchor and reporter of *Mixed Plate*, whose warmth and storytelling set the tone for the evening. A dynamic lion dance performance by the Gee Yung Lion Dance Association moved throughout the ballroom, energizing guests and honoring tradition. The evening also included the presentation of the Mandarin Award to Dr. Ming Chen and was supported by attendees such as Senator Karl Rhoads, reflecting the strong community relationships HCCA continues to foster. In addition to celebrating HCCA's centennial, the Mandarin Ball serves as a scholarship fundraising event, supporting educational opportunities for local high school students. Funds raised are typically awarded to three outstanding applicants to pursue college education in Hawai'i or at institutions across the nation, reinforcing HCCA's longstanding commitment to youth, education, and community investment.



The year also marked a transition of leadership, as Elvira Lo concluded her third term as President during HCCA's centennial year, and Terry Lo was welcomed as incoming President to lead the organization into its next chapter. This transition was recognized during a luncheon gathering that included an invocation by former Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona, acknowledgements of past presidents, organizational updates, and reflections on the year's accomplishments.

These milestones were made possible through the dedication of HCCA's officers, board members, committee chairs, volunteers, and community partners. Together, they reflect an organization grounded in heritage, strengthened by collaboration, and welcoming to those who wish to engage, serve, and celebrate Chinese culture in Hawai'i.

Lum Sai Ho Tong (LSHT)

Holiday Party: In the spirit of inter-society cooperation and of the holidays, Lum Sai Ho Tong partnered with two other societies to hold an historic joint Holiday Party. Under the leadership of Michele Choy (Ching Clan), members from Ching Clan, Kung Sheong Doo, and Lum Sai Ho Tong partied together, like a big extended family, on November 22 at the Ala Wai Golf Course L & L. Over 100 attendees were treated to a delicious buffet from L & L, games and prizes for the kids, door prizes galore, and of course, Santa himself. Adding to the excitement of the event were the 2025 Narcissus court and 2026 pageant contestants. For LSHT, whose events and activities centers around Tin Hau Temple, this event brought out members who normally don't participate in our temple celebrations. Much of the success of this event can be attributed to the organizational skills of Michele Choy and we would like to thank her for inviting us.



Temple Visit: On November 23, the 2026 Narcissus Pageant contestants came to Lum Sai Ho Tong/Tin Hau Temple to learn about benevolent societies and how religious thought from Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, shaped Chinese culture. They toured the temple and got to see many of the different deities and their significance. They also experienced temple rituals and the Taoist belief in fortune telling.



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In Memoriam

We honor the life and legacy of our former president Mr. Walter T.Y. Lau (1992) who passed away this year. His dedicated leadership and enduring contributions to the United Chinese Society of Hawai'i will always be remembered with deep gratitude and respect.

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All the Best for a Successful Year 2026

Congratulations
To
Douglas Chong, Hall of Honor Award,
from

Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence (Bo Hing Chan) Tseu
The Tseu Medical Institute

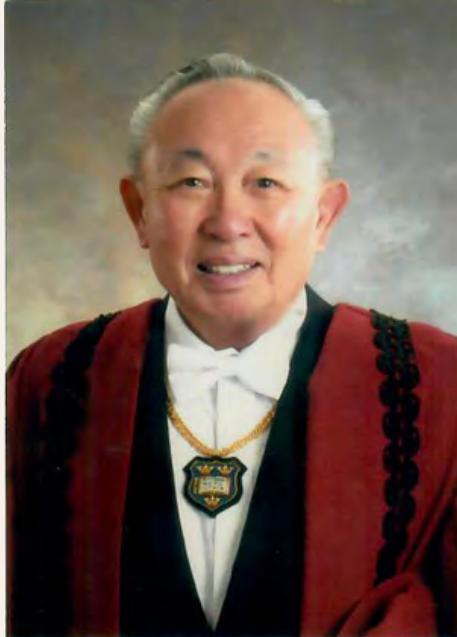


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University of Oxford, UK England



“Seeking cures through a World-Wide collaboration”



Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu
Chairman



Mrs. Bo Hing Chan Tseu



HAWAII CHINESE HISTORY CENTER

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HAWAII CHINESE HISTORY CENTER

111 North King Street #307, Honolulu Hawaii 96817

Phone: 808-521-5948 Hours: Wednesday 10 am – 12 noon

Hchc7189@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/site/hawaiichinesehistorycenter/>

The Hawaii Chinese History Center, a 501 C# non-profit organization was founded in 1970.

Its goals are:

- To stimulate interest and research among the Chinese in their own history, experiences and family genealogies in Hawaii
- To assist and guide researchers to make their experiences available to the larger community through research, writing and publishing
- To inventory, collect, record and preserve historical materials, documents and photographs related to the Chinese in Hawaii

Throughout our fifty five years, the Hawaii Chinese History Center has been a leader in the United States for 1) producing numerous publications on the Chinese in Hawaii and 2) guiding individuals and organizations in their efforts to research, write and publish their histories.



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Congratulations to
Douglas Dai Lunn Chong
2025 Hall of Honor Award Recipient
and to
The 2026 Officers and Trustees
of the United Chinese Society of Hawai'i.

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in revenue*

\$37B
in premium*

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employees
7,000+ Alliant | 5,500+ Confie

Ownership
52% Alliant Employees
48% Institutional Investors



Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office
San Francisco



A Warm Invitation from Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii

COME JOIN THE FIRST HONOLULU-HK FESTIVAL

Celebrating Culture, Community, and Collaboration

(Jan 31 – Mar 1, 2026)

Hong Kong Business Association of Hawaii (HKBAH) is about to turn 30, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate this milestone with everyone who's made our journey possible. As we reach this significant anniversary, we're looking back with gratitude and looking ahead with joy—ready to make new memories with all of you.

The first **Honolulu-Hong Kong Festival** is the cultural and food festival celebrations brought by HKBAH. It all comes together with the support of our Title Sponsor - **Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in San Francisco**, the **Hong Kong Tourism Board**, and the **Mayor's Office of City and County of Honolulu**, plus various local businesses and organizations. This landmark event is designed as a vibrant tapestry interweaving cultural celebration, community engagement, and collaborative spirit.

What the Festival Is All About

The **Honolulu-Hong Kong Festival** is founded on a simple but powerful belief: by sharing experiences across cultures, we build enduring bridges between communities. This celebration aims to highlight the harmonious blend of East and West, fostering mutual respect and understanding through engaging activities, performances, and interactive events.

Festival Highlights

From **January 31** to **March 1, 2026**, Honolulu will pulse with the colors, rhythms, and flavors of Hong Kong's enduring heritage. Our schedule of events is designed to offer something for everyone—whether you are seeking cultural enrichment, culinary adventure, business insight, or simply unforgettable moments with your community.



1. Temple Street Night Market Celebration - Saturday, January 31 (3:00 pm–9:00 pm) at Fort St Mall –Step into a mesmerizing recreation of Hong Kong's iconic night market. The lively atmosphere features lantern-lit walkways, a vibrant medley of stalls, and a continuous program of cultural performances. Attendees can browse unique food and merchandise booths, participate in hands-on cultural activities, and enjoy dedicated zones for both children and adults. It's a night where partnership and community spirit come alive beneath the stars - open to public and **free admission**.



2. HK Traditional Lifestyle Tour in Chinatown - Sundays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 (8:30 am–1:00 pm): Discover the hidden gems and rich narratives of Honolulu’s Chinatown each Sunday in February. Led by knowledgeable HKBAH members, these tours will transport participants into Hong Kong’s traditional lifestyle, including tai chi, feng shui, tea demonstrations and HK dim sum. Exploring time-honored customs, traditional markets, and the everyday rhythms that define its unique cultural landscape.



3. HK At Your Doorstep: Eat Your Way Month - February 1–28 (Daily): In February, embark on a month-long culinary journey with the “Hong Kong at Your Doorstep” promotion. Savor authentic HK, Asian, Pacific Rim, local and international dishes at participating local restaurants across Honolulu and Chinatown. Each meal is part of a larger celebration-diners can enter for a chance to win a memorable trip to Hong Kong, making every bite a possible ticket to adventure.



4. Export & Trade Day, Industry Talks & Networking - Friday, February 27 (12:30 pm–5:00 pm) at Foreign Trade Zone – No. 9 - Engage with leading business minds and innovators from Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and beyond. The day is packed with insightful industry talks, trade fair exhibitions, and networking sessions designed to

spark new collaborations and inspire business growth. Discover success stories, explore trends, and expand your professional horizons in a welcoming, forward-thinking environment.



5. HKBAH 30th Anniversary & Spring Gala - Sunday, March 1 (5:00 pm–9:30 pm) at Waialae Country Club - Bring the festival to a grand finale with the HKBAH 30th Anniversary Spring Gala. Celebrate three decades of the HKBAH's contributions to the community. This elegant evening features spectacular entertainment, buffet dining, and cultural festivities that capture the essence of Hong Kong's festive spirit and Hawaii's aloha tradition.

Ways to Get Involved

- **Brand Promotion:** Elevate your presence by hosting a booth. This is a fantastic way to introduce your organization to attendees, build relationships with peers, and engage directly with the community while sharing in the excitement of the festival.
- **Prize Giveaways:** Boost your visibility and goodwill by donating prizes for our energetic night market drawings. It's a wonderful way to create memorable experiences and spread joy throughout the event.
- **Sponsorship Packages:** We offer flexible sponsorship opportunities starting at \$250 and \$10,000. Each package is designed to maximize your impact and recognition. Please reach out to discuss options tailored to your goals and interests.
- **Being a Volunteer:** A meaningful way to contribute to our community.

We are eager to answer your questions, hear your insights, and work together in ways that best suit your vision and mission. Collaboration lies at the core of our festival, and we look forward to building an unforgettable experience with your valued support. Your participation will not only be greatly valued but will also help lay the foundation for a legacy of unity.

- Email: hkbahinfo@yahoo.com Phone: (808) 383-5008 (Barinna Poon)
- For Event Tickets Information, go to: www.honolulu-hkfestival.com

Let's Make History Together!

In closing, we express our heartfelt thanks for considering this invitation to join us- whether as a partner, or a sponsor, vendor, participant, or a volunteer. With your collaboration, we will create an event that celebrates friendship, inspires understanding, and opens doors to new possibilities for all. Together, let's make the first **Honolulu-Hong Kong Festival** a vibrant, welcoming, and enduring celebration.