

# HUI LIMA KOKUA HAWAII CLUB NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2016

Website: [www.huilimakokua.com](http://www.huilimakokua.com). Gung Hee Fat Choy! (Happy Lunar New Year!)

**Next Potluck Luncheon.** The February Hawaii Club potluck luncheon has been cancelled, because **Kaimana Pendergrass** has invited all of the Hawaii Club members to attend her 75<sup>th</sup> and **Noelani Gregory's** 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the **Mulcahy Center**, Our Lady of Assumption Church, starting at 12 noon. Come and enjoy the ono kau kau, music, and hula dances and wish both **Kaimana** and **Noelani** a "Happy Birthday." **Please RSVP by Feb 6, to (805) 320-6853 or (805) 643-0039.** Sorry no smoking or alcohol allowed.

**Past Potluck Luncheon.** At last month's Potluck Luncheon we enjoyed different ono dishes and casino games conducted by **Ron Wong**. Winners took home prizes and one member was talking about maybe trying his luck in Las Vegas after learning how to play different games. The big monetary winners for the scratchers part of the program were **Leandra Castroni** - \$8 and her husband **Mario** - \$4. Total payout for scratcher winners was \$16.

**Membership.** (a) Don't forget to pay your dues for this fiscal year. There are still a few members who have not renewed their membership. See **Ron Wong** if you are not sure if you paid. (b) We welcome all new members who can share the "Aloha" spirit. Bring friends and relatives. (c) Members will be treated to a bus trip to Chumash Casino sometime in the near future, but not before April 2016. More details will be provided in next month's newsletter. (d) Proposed changes to the By Laws will be discussed and voted upon during the March luncheon-meeting, so stay tuned.

**Hawaii News.** (a) The bench players for the University of Hawaii men's basketball team have quickly been gaining attention from fans and national media alike for their choreographed celebrations during games that include everything from fake field goals to "court surfing". "We were thinking how can we get the whole team involved," said Rainbow Warriors guard, **Niko Filipovich**. Not only have they been providing in game entertainment for the fans they also provide an added energy boost for their teammates in the game. As of this writing, the team has compiled a 15-2 record so far. If anyone is interested, the team will be playing against UCSB on February 4, and against CSUN on February 16. (b) In last month's newsletter I mentioned that **June Jones** did not get hired as the UH Football Head Coach. I was surprised to read that **Jones** has been hired as the offensive coordinator for the Kapolei high School Football team. It will be interesting to follow that football team. Obviously **Jones** is not doing it for the money. (c) WalletHub ranked Honolulu dead last in monthly median starting salaries when adjusted for cost of living, among the 150 largest job markets in the United States. The news comes as little surprise to young adults who try to make ends meet. Honolulu is ranked third from the bottom for housing affordability.

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### **Mike's Ramblin' Corner**

**Aloha Friday in DC?** It's Aloha Friday, and **U.S. Rep. Mark Takai** wants to be able to don an Aloha shirt on the floor of the House of Representatives. **Takai**, D-Hawaii, has asked Speaker of

the House **Paul Ryan** to allow Aloha wear to be worn on the floor. The Hawaii congressman said his office has observed “Aloha Fridays” since he came into office in 2014. However House rules require that full business attire be worn on the Floor when votes occur.

**Chinese New Year.** According to the Chinese zodiac, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey. The Chinese New Year starts on February 8, 2016. “Gung Hee Fat Choy” y’all. In many Asian cultures, 12 animals have been chosen to represent 12 years in the zodiac cycle. Depending on a person’s birth year, it is believed that they take on the traits of the animal for which that year is named. For example, people born in the year of the Monkey (1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, and 2004) are said to be quick, charming, smart, and competitive much like simians in the world. Animals following the Monkey are: Rooster, Dog, Boar, Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, and Sheep.

**Underfunded Pension Fund.** The state of Hawaii continues to underfund pensions and has one of the poorest funded pensions in the nation. The state can only currently pay about 60% of its retirees and the pension hole will grow by another \$200 million next year according to the Employee’s Retirement System. Earlier this year, the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii said at least 134 retirees continued to receive pension payments worth more than \$500,000 in public pension money after they died.

**Soccer in Hawaii.** Hawaii suffered “a black eye” when the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team canceled a “friendly match” with Trinidad and Tobago on the day of the event. The U.S. team claimed that the field at Aloha Stadium was in poor condition. About 15,000 disappointed fans, many who already flew in from other islands, were understandably upset by the decision.

### **Top Hawaii Stories in 2015.**

(a) Thirty Meter Telescope. There will be no construction of one of the world’s largest telescopes atop Mauna Kea, at least for now. A ruling by the state Supreme Court on Dec. 2 that the state Board of Land and Natural Resources shouldn’t have approved a permit to build the Thirty Meter Telescope before a contested case hearing was held has put the future of the proposed \$1.4 billion next-generation telescope in limbo.

(b) Homelessness on the Rise. An islandwide homeless count in early 2015 tallied 1,021 homeless individuals without shelter, with an additional 220 being housed either in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. That number represents almost a 43 percent increase from 2014’s count of 658 unsheltered individuals and 211 others in temporary housing. Statewide figures show Hawaii is the state with the most homeless per capita.

(c) Hot Classroom. The year 2015 has been especially hot around the world. Global warming is getting worse. In Hawaii over 90 percent of the classrooms do not have air condition. One school day a science teacher at Kalaheo High School in Kailua got a reading of 108 degrees in his classroom. Many educators are calling on the state to establish “heat days” - like snow days - and cancel school when it’s too stifling to learn.

**Today’s quiz:** If you start off with one penny and you keep doubling the amount you have everyday, i.e., you have 2 pennies the next day, 4 pennies the next, 8 pennies the next, etc. How much money will you have at the end of the month? Would you believe - **Over \$5 million!!**