



# PALOLO CHINESE HOME

APRIL 2024



## A ROARING CELEBRATION!



**WE** USHERED IN THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON on Saturday, February 17, 2024, to celebrate Chinese New Year. The occasion marked the first time in three years that the Home's beloved New Year event was able to return as a public celebration, with the community invited to attend the festivities for free with our residents and special guests.

Firecrackers followed by lion dances from the **Gee Yung Martial Arts Dragon & Lion Dance Sports Association** started the festivities with a bang, chasing away negative energies. Attendees then enjoyed a New Year's blessing by **Jay Jarman**, the founder of Common Grace, warm welcome remarks, including those from **Eddie Flores, Jr.**, a longtime supporter of the Home, a mini bazaar led by **Palolo Chinese Home Women's Auxiliary** as they celebrate 60 years, and a tai chi demonstration that inspired participation from all.

An array of entertainment was also offered—from graceful hula to traditional Chinese songs—and guest speaker **Gerry Yahata** offered motivational insights. Among the many talents shared throughout the day, a new senior resident of the Home provided musical accompaniment on ukulele! As the event concluded, a takeaway bento of L&L Hawaiian Barbecue was made available for purchase.

Mahalo to everyone who joined us—from members of the PCH Board of Directors, longstanding supporters and donors to the Home, families who have entrusted their loved ones to our care, and the community at large.

Here's to a year filled with good health, prosperity, and happiness. Kung Hei Fat Choi! 恭喜发财





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**Darlene H. Nakayama, NHA**

501 (c)3 Nonprofit  
Federal ID #99-0073521

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

**DARLENE NAKAYAMA**

Palolo Chinese Home (PCH) was blessed to welcome **Gerry Yahata** as our keynote speaker at our recent Chinese New Year’s celebration. Gerry enlightened us with the concepts of “Kintsugi” and “Ichigo Ichie,” illustrating how these concepts can help us live a better life. Kintsugi gives hope that life can be improved, while Ichigo Ichie provides the opportunity for this improvement.

PCH residents and families are often faced with the challenge of rebuilding and restoring their lives changed by illness or the natural course of aging. These concepts shared by Gerry are also fittingly reflected in our daily work at the Home, as we strive to help seniors and their families be well, healthy, and as independent as one can be.

Life is certainly precious. Recently, PCH lost someone very dear, Peter C. K. Fong. Peter served as PCH’s President and Chairperson of our board of directors for 2 years and a board member for 6 years. Peter supported PCH’s mission to “educate, support, and care for seniors and their families, by providing a continuum of quality care, in a culturally sensitive family setting.” He worked hard to ensure that those working for PCH supported this mission too. Although this news brings sadness, it also inspires and reminds us of all that Peter championed.

Fortunately, Peter had been collaborating closely with the board, particularly with PCH’s Vice President, **Elvira Lo**, who has now been elected as PCH’s new President



and board Chairperson. Taking over her previous role as Vice President is **Sandra Souza**. Both Elvira and Sandra are dedicated members of the board, committed to upholding the Home’s mission of providing exceptional care to Hawai’i’s seniors. Additionally, let’s extend a warm welcome to two new members of PCH’s Board of Directors: **Rodney Uchida**, a retired attorney, and **Dr. Kin Ming Ching**, a retired optometrist. Congratulations to Elvira, Sandra, Rodney, and Dr. Ching on their new roles.

Thank you, Gerry, for reminding us that although life can be hard, it can also be viewed as a time for growth and building a better life. May everyone have a sense of peace and opportunity as we come upon a new season—emerging even stronger and more enriched.

Aloha!

**Darlene H. Nakayama, CEO**



*Elvira Lo*



*Sandra Souza*



*Rodney Uchida*



*Dr. Kin Ming Ching*







## GETTING IN TUNE WITH A NEW HOME

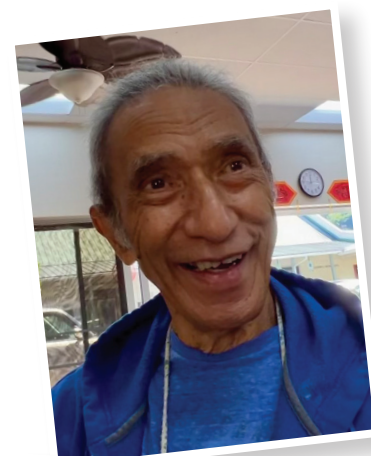
### RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: WALTER KAWA'A

Raised in Moloka'i's Halawa Valley, Walter spent his childhood on his family's taro (or "kalo" in Hawaiian) farm. His father, referred to as the "Kalo King of Halawa Valley" in a local paper, cultivated the most taro patches in the area as well as admiration and respect within the community.

Music became the soundtrack of Walter's upbringing. From singing at home to serenading the community at school and church, music and song filled every corner. "The Halawa Valley people, we were the best singers on the island," he recalls, "learning Hawaiian songs passed down from the elders."

Transitioning to a care facility marked a new chapter in Walter's life, where he found delight in the kindness of the caregivers at Palolo Chinese Home. "I call the nurses here angels. Everybody is so loving." Their compassion made his unfamiliar surroundings feel warm and welcoming. He also notes that he "slept like a baby" on his very first night, praising the attention to detail in his accommodations—from hearty meals to a comfortable bed—that made him feel right at home.

Music continues to be a source of joy for Walter, and now for others at PCH! Whether strumming his ukulele in the activity hall or serenading fellow residents, Walter's rendition of "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley is a favorite amongst residents and staff. Recently, Walter performed at the Home's Chinese New Year event. He shares with a smile on his face, "It makes me feel good that they enjoy the music."



## REMEMBERING A LIFE AND LEGACY

**Peter C. K. Fong's** life embodied the transformative power of service. More than just titles, his six years as a board member at Palolo Chinese Home, culminating in his role as Board of Directors President and Chairperson, reflected a passionate commitment to the mission of PCH and the well-being of kupuna.

An Attorney and Partner at Fong & Fong, Attorneys-at-Law, and a per diem Judge for the State of Hawaii, Peter also brought his invaluable legal acumen to his support of the Home. His expertise navigated the complex regulatory landscape, ensuring the Home's compliance with legal requirements. Without his guidance, PCH might have faced insurmountable challenges.

It wasn't all work and no play, though, with Peter. In addition to actively championing the Home's annual golf tournament fundraiser, he always saw to it that everyone had fun—both throughout the event planning and on the course. His delight in snacking and sharing treats was also well known. His brother, Dr. Andrew Fong, recalls Peter's particular fondness for partaking in "Tomoe Ame" Japanese rice candies.

Beyond PCH, Peter's diverse career and community service included leadership roles as President/CEO of Chun Kim Chow, Ltd., President of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and Chairman of the Board at Maryknoll School. His legacy is a constant reminder of the extraordinary difference a single individual can make within a community. He will be deeply missed.





**PALOLO CHINESE HOME**  
Better Care. Better Lives

2459 10th Avenue . Honolulu, Hawaii  
96816-3051 Phone: (808) 748-4904 .  
Fax: (808) 748-4916  
E-Mail: [info@palolohome.org](mailto:info@palolohome.org)  
Website: [www.palolohome.org](http://www.palolohome.org)  
Federal Tax ID# 99-0073521

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*The blessing of “long life” is universally celebrated. At Palolo Chinese Home, the Chinese character for longevity (shou) has long been used as our symbol. By adding two brush strokes, the artist, the late Clarence Lee, incorporated the Chinese character for people or mankind (ren), and the result is an image of a roof embracing long life — our wish for you. The unbroken circle signifies our mission of continuous care and respect for our kupuna (elders).*

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## 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DYNASTY INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 • ALA WAI MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

The 32nd Annual Dynasty Invitational Golf Tournament is in full swing! Join us for a day of friendly competition and fellowship in support of the Home as we hit the green on Friday, May 10, 2024, at the Ala Wai Municipal Golf Course.

As the cost of taking care of seniors increases, and more seniors need care at home or in Palolo Chinese Home, the help of our participants and sponsors becomes even more crucial. We are thankful for all those who have supported us over the years and played a role in the tournament’s continued success, as well as our new friends who are helping to champion the event for the first time. We are also delighted to welcome **Hilton Raethel**, President and CEO of Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) as our distinguished 2024 Tournament Chairperson!



Shares Hilton, “I am very pleased to have been asked to serve as the Honorary Golf Tournament Chair in support of the Palolo Chinese Home, its rich history, and its service to the people of Hawaii. Taking care of the elderly, our Kupuna, is a sacred responsibility, and Palolo Chinese Home provides us with a great role model of what we can and should do.”

Proceeds from this year’s event will focus on helping those in need of post-acute care.

To learn more about sponsorship, registration, and donor opportunities, please contact **Carlynn Yoshina** at (808)-748-4904 or email [golf@palolohome.org](mailto:golf@palolohome.org).

